

Sociology 211 Social Enterprise (Introduction to Sociology)

Fall 2023

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214 Ingraham Hall

Lecturer: Mikki Ruo-Fan Liu

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:55-10:45 am

Office: 2422 Sewell Social Science

Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

This course offers an overview of sociology. As a first-level university course, its goal is to help students understand the social and human relations that constitute contemporary societies. We will cover a range of sociological concepts, theories, and methods, offering a critical lens to explore social phenomena, institutions, and dynamics of change. Throughout the course, we will address two main questions: 1) What is sociology and how is sociological imagination executed? 2) How do sociologists employ the sociological imagination to various aspects of social life, such as families, schools, institutions, and issues related to race, gender, and class? We will focus on the influence of culture, socialization, social structure, stratification, social institutions, and socio/cultural change upon people's attitudes and behaviors.

Course Objectives

- Understand and apply the sociological imagination and foundational concepts to real-world contexts.
- Explain the interconnectedness of basic sociological concepts, including culture, socialization, social structure, institutions, social change and different factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, class, and region.
- Enhance critical thinking skills by incorporating insights from sociology and sociological perspectives.

Course Structure

You are expected to attend class and participate. I have designed the lectures so that they partially reference the readings but also introduce new material. Because this class is so short, we are covering a lot of material in a short time. It is thus imperative that you stay on top of readings and pay attention during lectures.

Lecture Etiquette

Laptops and tablets are permitted as note-taking resources. Online shopping, Facebook, or even doing work for other classes are not permitted as they distract those around you.

Cell phones are not permitted in class. I can see when you use your cell phone in your lap or on top of your laptop keyboard. It is both rude and distracting for others. I reserve the right to dock your participation points if I see you using a cell phone in lecture, with no prior warning.

I usually respond emails per day within 24 hours, excluding weekends. If you did not get my responses, please be patient. If anything, emergent, please put “emergent” into your email title and I will respond as soon as possible.

Grading & Assignments

Item	Percent
Exams (Exam1 & Exam2)	35
Attendance & Participation	25
Mini-ethnography	25
Mini-ethnography Presentation	10
Invited Talk Essay	5

Exams: We will have two exams to test how well you learn from the course. The exam will be a closed book with multiple choice and open-ended questions on sociological concepts, knowledge of subfields, and material from the assigned readings. You will need to read the readings and come to lectures to answer the exam well. I will provide guidance and instructions prior to our first exam.

Attendance & Participation: You will be asked to write your feedback on lectures once a week as a record of your attendance. I value active participation in the course, such as asking questions, giving feedback, etc. Participation will be based on how actively you participate in lectures or write your feedback.

Mini-Ethnography: Midway through the semester, we will decide on five sites where you will conduct your mini-ethnography. You will spend an hour or an afternoon conducting ethnography in these sites, writing your notes, and providing your sociological analyses based on your observations. More details will be provided on the assignment page.

Slide presentation: Based on your mini-ethnography, visualize your findings, research question, and analysis in a one-page slide and upload your slide to Canvas as a visual poster. Focus on what surprises you about the fieldwork and how you apply sociological concepts to explain your observations.

Invited Talk Essay: At the end of the semester, I will invite three of my colleagues to give a talk about their current research projects. You will be asked to write a brief essay of 500 words, selecting one of the talks you prefer. Include your responses, any remaining questions, and how the talk provides insight into your understanding of the topic. The essay will be graded as complete or incomplete.

Grades will be assigned in accordance with the UW undergraduate grade policy, using the following point distribution:

A: 93-100

AB: 87-92.99

B: 83-86.99

BC: 77-82.99

C: 70-76.99

D: 60-69.99

F: 0-59.99

Overview of Topics

Week	Date	Topic	Due
1	9/6	No Class, read the syllabus	
	9/8	Course Introduction	
2	9/11	The Sociological Imagination	
	9/13	Theories Sociologists Use	
	9/15	Divisions within Sociology	
3	9/18	Research Methods	
	9/20	Research Methods: Using Methods to Answer Questions	
	9/22	Research Methods: Finding Your Own Methods	
4	9/25	Individual and Society	
	9/27	Individual and Society: Self-performing	
	9/29	Culture and Media	
5	10/1	Socialization	
	10/4	Socialization: Families	
	10/6	Socialization: Schools and Peers	
6	10/9	Education	
	10/11	Education	
	10/13	Education	
7	10/16	Overview of What We Learned and Explain Incoming Mid-term	
	10/18	Exam 1	Exam 1
	10/20	Discussion Lecture: Picking Sites for Mini-ethnography	
8	10/23	Groups and Networks	
	10/25	Groups and Networks	
	10/27	Social Control and Deviance	
9	10/30	Stratification	
	11/1	Class and Labor Market	
	11/3	Class and Labor Market	
10	11/6	Race	
	11/8	Race	
	11/10	Race	
11	11/13	Gender	
	11/15	Intersectionality	
	11/17	Globalization	
12	11/20	No class, Workday	Mini-ethnography and presentation are due by

			midnight at 12:00 pm
	11/22	No class, Thanksgiving	
	11/24	No class, Thanksgiving	
13	11/27	Sociology of Sports	
	11/29	Exam2	Exam2
	12/1	Presenting ethnographic results from mini-ethnography assignments	
14	12/4	Guest Lecture: Policing	
	12/6	Guest Lecture: Politics and Trusts	
	12/8	Guest Lecture: Immigration	
15	12/11	Summing Up What We Learned and How to Move Forward	Snacks will be provided.
	12/13	No class	Invited Talk Essay Due

Textbook:

*Dalton Conley, *You may ask yourself: an Introduction to thinking like a sociologist*, Edition 6th, New York University Press.

*Note: I assign 6th edition because this is the cheapest one to reduce the cost of buying textbooks. It is fine if you have other editions.

Unit I: Sociological Imagination

Week1, Introduction to the Course

Week2(9/11, 13, 15): The Sociological Imagination

Chapter 1, "An Introduction to the Introduction to Sociology," in *You May Ask Yourself* by Dalton Conley. [Hereafter referred to as *You May Ask Yourself textbook*]

Week3(9/18, 20, 22): Research Methods

Chapter 2, "Methods" in *You May Ask Yourself*

Week4(9/25, 27, 29): Individual and Society & Culture and Media

Erving Goffman, "The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life."

Chapter3, "Culture and Media" in *You May Ask Yourself*

Week5(10/1, 4, 6): Socialization

Chapter 4, "Socialization and the Construction of Reality" in *You May Ask Yourself*

Lareau, Annette. 2011. *Unequal childhoods: class, race, and family life*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Ch1, Ch2

Week6(10/9, 11, 13): Education

Armstrong, Elizabeth A., and Laura T. Hamilton. 2013. *Paying for the Party: how college maintains inequality*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. Ch2, Ch6, Ch7.

Week7 (10/16, 18, 20): No reading

Week8 (10/23, 25, 27): Groups and Networks & Social Control and Deviance

Chapter 5, "Groups and Networks" in *You May Ask Yourself*

Chapter 6, "Social Control and Deviance" in *You May Ask Yourself*.

Week9(10/30, 11/1, 3): Stratification & Labor Market

"Stratification" in *You May Ask Yourself*

Rivera, Lauren A. 2012. "Hiring as Cultural Matching." *American Sociological Review* 77(6):999-1022.

Week10(11/6, 8, 10): Race

Chapter, "Race" in *You May Ask Yourself*

Casselmann, Ben. 2014. "The Census Is Still Trying To Find The Best Way To Track Race In America." FiveThirtyEight. Retrieved August 16, 2016

(<http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/the-census-is-still-trying-to-find-the-best-way-to-track-race-in-america/>).

Week11(11/13, 15, 17): Gender and Intersectionality & Globalization

Chapter, "Gender" in *You May Ask Yourself*

Collins, P. H. 2015. "Introduction of Intersectionality"

Study of Globalization Takes Researchers to Java:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/17/business/worldbusiness/study-of-globalization-takes-researchers-to-java.html>.

Week12: Thanksgiving, no classes.

Week13(11/27): Sociology of Sports

Douglas Hartman, "The Sanctity of Sunday Football: Why Men Love Sports"

Week14(12/4, 6, 8): Listen to How Real Sociologists Conduct Research in Real Worlds

Topics TBD (Immigration, Politics, and Policing)