

**West Virginia University  
Division of Sociology/Anthropology**

**101 - Introduction to Sociology  
Spring 2008**

**Course:** Soc/A 101-002  
**Instructor:** Nancy Feather  
**Email:** nlfeather@mix.wvu.edu

**Days:** MWF  
**Time:** 10:30-11:20  
**Location-** G 24 Eisland

**General Course Description**

Sociology is the study of the development, organization, and functioning of society. Introduction to Sociology is designed to help students become aware of how life is affected by social influences. The development of the sociological imagination or the awareness of the relationship between an individual and the broader society will, hopefully, lead to a greater understanding of the world in which we live.

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"You must understand the whole of life, not just one little part of it. That is why you must read, that is why you must look at the skies, that is why you must sing, and dance, and write poems, and suffer, and understand, for all that is life."

J. Krishnamurti

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**Course Objectives**

The course begins with learning of the Sociological Perspective and how it is used to gain a clearer understanding of the underlying forces at work within society. The three major theoretical perspectives in Sociology will be presented along with information concerning a variety of different Sociological interests including, but not limited to, culture, socialization, social groups, inequality, deviance, the family, sex and gender, social movements, and health and medicine.

**Expected Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students should:

- be able to identify the major theoretical perspectives in Sociology
- understand how culture shapes our society
- realize the importance and power of groups and how the collective attitudes of groups determine the values and norms in a society
- become familiar with the means of socialization

- become able to explain the concepts and issues related to deviance and social control
- to identify and better understand the inequalities found in society
- understand how societal institutions affect our lives
- have a clearer understanding of sexuality and the issues and controversies associated with sexuality
- become familiar with the issues surrounding health and medicine in the U.S.
- become familiar with the transitions and changes the elderly population face
- gain a clearer understanding of the patterns, transitions, problems, and the stages of family life in U.S.

My office is located in Knapp Hall, Room 200. You may also reach me by email- **nlfeather@mix.wvu.edu** If you need to speak with me, you may phone 293-5801 x3223, though, I must admit that the best bet is to reach me by email. Office hours will be on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:00 and Fridays between 1:30-3:00. If you are unable to meet during scheduled office hours, other times may be arranged.

**Required Text-** Kendall, D. (2006). Sociology in our Times. United States: Thomson Wadsworth.

### **Grading**

There will be a total of 500 points for the course. Grades will be based on the following point scale:

A= 450-500  
 B= 399-449  
 C= 348-398  
 D= 297-347  
 F= 296 and below

### **Exams**

There will be **3 exams, each worth 100 points. The final exam will be worth 150 points for a combined total of 450 possible exam points. You will need 4 scantrons for the course (Scantron 30423).** The exams will consist of multiple choice and/or true/false questions.

### **Assignments**

There will be **2 assignments** given during the semester which will be worth 15 points each for a total of **30 possible points.** The instructions for the assignments will be sent by mass email and will also be explained in class prior to the due date, and because of that, I will not answer emails asking what the assignments are. You will need the workbook that comes with your text for part of these assignments.

### **Attendance**

You are expected to attend class, and you will benefit from doing so. **Attendance** will be taken randomly throughout the semester and will be worth a **possible 20 points.**

Attendance point totals will be added in with all other points from throughout the semester to determine your final grade.

You are young adults, and many of you now are making your own life choices. You may choose to waste your money (or someone else's money) and your time by not taking advantage of the learning opportunities before you. That would be a shame and could be a costly (in more ways than one) mistake. That said, if you choose to be in this class, there are certain behavioral expectations.

- Please do not carry on private conversations with each other while lectures are being presented, during videos, or while someone else is speaking. Besides being rude, it is sometimes difficult for students to hear in such large lecture halls.
- If you need to converse at length or would like to read the newspaper, by all means do what you need to do, but please leave the auditorium to do so.
- **Respect is to be shown to any person who chooses to comment or share their point of view, regardless if you like what they have to say or not.**
- If you are going to sleep in class, be aware that the seats are very uncomfortable, and it is probably safe to say that you would rest more comfortably in the familiar surroundings of your own room and in your own bed.

### **Make-up Policy**

It is understood that there are situations that sometimes arise that prevent or make it almost impossible for students to take scheduled exams. If such a situation arises, you must get in touch with one of the graduate assistants to schedule a make-up exam. According to University policy "Students absent from regularly scheduled examinations because of authorized University activities will have the opportunity to take them at an alternate time."

Students needing to take a make-up exam must make arrangements and take the exam **WITHIN ONE WEEK AFTER MISSING THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED EXAM.** Students will only be allowed to **MAKE UP ONE EXAM PER SEMESTER** unless extenuating circumstances arise. Even then, whether or not to permit more than one make-up exam will be left to the discretion of the professor.

Sociology make-ups are given on Friday afternoons. The Division of Sociology/Anthropology is found on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Knapp Hall. Make-up exams DO NOT BEGIN until 2:30, and you must be finished by 4:30. Bring your scantron, pencil and, most importantly, your student ID.

### **Graduate Assistant contact information**

Knapp Hall- SB 17 phone 293-5801 x3219

**Elizabeth Walling---** [ewalling@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:ewalling@mix.wvu.edu)  
**Jennifer Mitchell---** [jmitche6@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:jmitche6@mix.wvu.edu)

**If you need to schedule a make-up exam, email one of the graduate assistants to do so.**

Also, if you cannot access your grade on ecampus, if one of your grades is not showing up, or if there is a discrepancy with grades, contact one of the graduate assistants. If, after contacting them, they are unable to help you or you feel it is an issue that you need to discuss with me, then, please feel free to contact me.

### **E-mail Address**

You are required to use the University's MIX system for this class. That system provides you with an e-mail address that you should check periodically. E-mail sent to your MIX address may be forwarded to another e-mail address, like an AOL one, if you prefer to use a private address.

There are times that I send out mass emails to the entire class, so be sure to check your mix account periodically.

The MIX system can be accessed through the WVU web site or directly at <http://www.mix.wvu.edu/> Through the page that pops up from the MIX screen, you'll find information about login procedures.

### **Tentative Class Schedule**

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|------------|---|
| January 14 | <b>Introduction</b><br><b>Chapter 1- <u>The Sociological Perspective</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Sociological imagination</li></ul>                             |
| January 16 | <b>Chapter 1- continued</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Sociologists</li><li>▪ Major sociological theories</li></ul>  |
| January 18 | <b>Chapter 1- continued</b>   |
| January 21 | <b>Martin Luther King's Birthday Recess- no class</b>   |
| January 23 | <b>Chapter 2- <u>Sociological Research Methods</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Finding the truth</li><li>▪ Research methods</li><li>▪ Sociological ethics</li></ul> |
| January 25 | <b>Chapter 2- continued</b>   |
| January 28 | <b>Chapter 3- <u>Culture</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Components of culture</li><li>▪ Diversity</li><li>▪ Theoretical analysis of culture</li></ul>              |

- January 30 **Chapter 3- continued**
- February 1 **Chapter 3- continued**  
**Chapter 4- Socialization**
  - Social isolation
  - How are we socialized?
- February 4 **Chapter 4-continued**
- February 6 **Chapter 4-continued**  
**Review for Exam 1**
- February 8 **EXAM 1- Chapters 1,2,3,4**
- February 11 **Chapter 5- Society, Social Structure, and Interaction**
  - Status
  - Roles
  - Stability and changes in societies
  - Presenting ourselves
  - Humor and nonverbal communication
- February 13 **Chapter 5- continued**
- February 15 **Chapter 5- continued**  
**Chapter 6- Groups and Organizations**
  - Social groups
  - Organizations
- February 18 **Chapter 6- continued**
- February 20 **Chapter 7- Deviance and Crime**
  - Deviance and social diversity
  - Crime
  - Criminal Justice system
- February 22 **Chapter 7- continued**
- February 25 **Chapter 7- continued**  
**Chapter 20- Collective Behavior, Social Movements, and Social Change**
  - Crowd behavior
  - Mass behavior
  - Social movements
- February 27 **Chapter 20- continued**

**Review for Exam 2**

- February 29 **EXAM 2- Chapters 5,6,7,20**
- March 3 **Chapter 8- Class and Stratification in the United States**
- Dimensions of social inequality
  - Social classes in the U.S.
  - How class effects lives
  - Poverty
- March 5 **Chapter 8- continued**
- March 7 **Chapter 9- Global Stratification**
- High, medium, and low income countries
  - Slavery
  - Global wealth and poverty
- March 10 **Chapter 9- continued**
- March 12 **Chapter 9- continued**
- March 14 **Chapter 10- Race and Ethnicity**
- Prejudice, discrimination
  - Majority and minority
  - Racial and ethnic groups
- March 17 **Chapter 10- continued**
- March 19 **Chapter 10- continued**
- March 21 **Friday Before Easter (Recess)**
- March 22-30 **\*\*\*\*\*Spring Break\*\*\*\*\***
- March 31 **Chapter 11- Sex and Gender**
- Gender inequality
  - Gender and socialization
  - Gender and social stratification
- April 2 **Chapter 11- continued**  
**Review for exam**
- April 4 **EXAM 3- Chapters 8,9,10,11**
- April 7 **Chapter 12- Aging and Inequality Based on Age**
- Graying of America

- Biology of aging
- Transitions of aging
- Theoretical analysis of aging
- Death and dying

April 9      **Chapter 12- continued**

April 11     **Chapter 12- continued**

April 14     **Chapter 15- Families and Intimate Relationships**

- Basic concepts of the family
- Theoretical perspectives concerning the family
- Transitions and problems in family life
- Alternative family forms

April 16     **Chapter 15- continued**

April 18     **Chapter 15- continued**

April 21     **Education**

April 23     **Education- continued**

April 25     **Chapter 18- Health, Health Care, and Disability**

- Health and society
- Health in the U.S.
- The medical establishment

April 28     Chapter 18- continued

April 30     **Chapter 18-continued**  
**Review for final**

May 2        Semester wrap-up

**May 6- 11:00-1:00 ----- FINAL EXAM**

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**Have a fun and safe summer break!!!!**  
**Make smart choices!!!!**

**Social Justice**

West Virginia University is committed to social justice. WVU does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. The instructor of this course concurs with West Virginia University's commitment and expects to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication and mutual respect. Any suggestions as to how to further such an environment will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

WVU recognizes the diversity of its students, many of whom must be absent from class to participate in religious observances. Students must notify their instructors by the end of the third class meeting regarding religious observances that will affect their attendance. Further, students must abide by the attendance policy of their instructors as stated on their syllabi. Faculty will make reasonable accommodation for tests or field trips that a student misses as a result of religious observance.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

### **Conditions for an Incomplete Grade**

Students are expected to complete course work in the semester in which the course is taken. From time to time events that are clearly beyond the control of the student may prevent the timely completion of a course. Should you find yourself facing such circumstances, you may wish to discuss this with me and see if an incomplete should be given until the late work can be completed. Faculty are not required to give an incomplete and would not be expected to do so when there are not compelling reasons to justify the request.