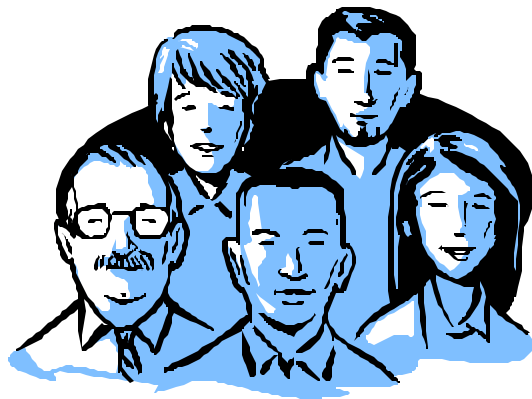


INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

Instructor: Masa J. Higo, MA
Class Room: Campion 204
Class Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:00 am to 9:50 am
Office Hours: Mon, Wed & Fri 10:30 am to 11:30 am and/or by appointment
Office Location: McGuinn 410A
Office Phone: 617-552-4148
e-mail: higo@bc.edu



❖ COURSE DESCRIPTION

This *Introductory Sociology* course is offered as a core course that is available to all levels. As the title indicates, this course is designed to introduce you to the basics of sociology as a distinctive field of study, generally assuming that you have little, if any, experience in taking a sociology-related course previously in any formal or systematic manner.

Sociology can be generally understood as a systematic inquiry of social phenomena produced, reproduced and transformed, across time and space, through interactions between individuals, groups of individuals and even larger organizations to which a large number of individuals belong. However, a precise definition of the approach, method and scope of a sociological inquiry indeed varies to a great degree, depending upon one's perspective and the purpose for his or her inquiry in it. In this introductory course, you will learn a general overview of various major issues, themes and controversies dealt with in sociology for the purpose of acquiring as many important concepts, theories and insights as possible for you to craft your own approaches to particular social issues that you may observe or experience in your present and future social life.

The main material of this course includes: 1) required textbooks, 2) lectures, 3) video presentations and 4) class discussions. Students are required to read assigned parts of textbooks during assigned period of time. Lectures are delivered in order to facilitate your understanding of the required readings and to bring up some sociological issues that are very important for you to be familiar with but which are not covered by the readings. Video presentations are provided for the same purposes as those of lectures in visually conceivable manners. Class participation is integrated into this course not only to deepen your understanding of themes in question via exchanging your ideas with other students, but also to explore and develop your own sociological perspectives.

❖ **PURPOSES & GOALS**

This course aims to provide students with a systematic introduction to the major elements in sociology, such as culture, social interaction, social structure, class stratification, race, gender, education, religion, formal organization and persisting social institutions, etc. The main purpose of this course is to assist students in developing conceptual tools for systematically analyzing and critically interpreting past and present social issues from various major sociological perspectives. The following five goals shall be achieved upon completing this course:

1. Students will be familiar with general sociological concepts and theories to produce persuasive explanations for the causes and processes of various social phenomena.
2. Students will be acquainted with important sociological literature, e.g., main themes of major classic and contemporary sociological works, contended schools of thought (perspectives), and their relevance to the immediate social issues.
3. Students will be familiar with basic knowledge of the structure and process of major sociological research methods as a foundation for future research activities.
4. Students will develop an ability to conceptually relate learned sociological concepts and theories to various social problems not only from an everyday-life perspective but also from cross-cultural and global perspectives.

❖ **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

In this course, you are responsible for completing the following five requirements:

1. In-Class Essay

Throughout the semester, 13 opportunities will be provided to work on in-class essays. Of the 13 opportunities, you can fill out and hand in 10 essays (you may work on more than 10, however you cannot achieve more than 20 points). You can earn 2 points in each essay. The in-class essays will ask you to demonstrate and exercise basic knowledge that you are expected to gain out of lectures, assigned readings and/or video presentations of the week. The specific dates and essay topics will not be announced beforehand. Therefore please be prepared for an essay by regularly reviewing your lecture notes and reading assigned parts of textbooks.

2. Mid-Term Exam

The mid-term exam is scheduled to be conducted on the 7th of November (Monday) in the regular class room and time (Campion 204 at 9:00am). The exam will include all the material (required readings, lectures, video presentations and class discussions) provided from the 1st through the 9th week. The specific format and a study guide for the exam will be announced on the 24th of October (Monday). The class on the 4th of November (Friday) will be dedicated to provide and review a study guide for the exam. You can achieve 30 points at maximum on the mid-term exam.

3. Final Exam

The final exam is scheduled to be conducted on the 19th of December (Monday) at 12:30pm in the regular classroom (Campion 204). While its specific format and a study guide will be announced on the 25th of November (Friday), the final exam will include all the material (required readings, lectures, video presentations and class discussions) provided throughout the semester. The 9th of December (Friday) will be dedicated to provide and review a study guide for the exam. As on the mid-term exam, you can achieve 30 points at maximum on the final exam.

4. Term Paper

A term paper will be required to be submitted and presented in class during the period between the 30th of November (Wednesday) through the 7th of December (Wednesday). You may achieve 15 points in the “term-paper” part, in which 10 points can be achieved at maximum for submitting the paper and another 5 points for presenting it. The specific format for writing the paper and guidance for presentation will be announced on the 23rd of September (Friday). The deadline for submitting the term-paper is the 25th of November (Friday).

5. Class Participation

The “class participation” part is made up of the degree of your 1) class attendance, 2) contribution to group discussions and 3) contribution to in-class discussions. Your class attendance is important, yet more crucial is actively participating in regularly assigned group discussions. “Contribution to in-class discussions” refers to your questions, suggestions and feedback to given material (required readings, lectures, video presentations and in- class discussions). This participation will be highly regarded since participation will contribute to an active learning process for yourself and other students. You may therefore achieve 20 points at maximum. For those students who don’t feel comfortable with speaking up during class, feel free to express your thoughts, ideas and feedback via email and/or letters to the lecturer.

❖ EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

You are responsible for being prepared for the class by reading all of the assigned materials beforehand specified in the syllabus. Please be aware of all dates, deadlines, and assignments and adhere to them at your own responsibility. You are also responsible for being clearly aware of the BC academic integrity policy that will not tolerate academic dishonesty including cheating, abetting, fabrication and plagiarism.

❖ COURSE GRADES CRITERIA

Your overall course grade will be determined by the total sum of the points you achieve out of the following five components:

1. In-Class Essay	(20 points at maximum, 13 essays, 2 points each)
2. Mid-term Exam	(30 points at maximum)
3. Final Exam	(30 points at maximum)
4. Term-Paper	(15 points at maximum)
5. Class Participation	(20 points at maximum)
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Total	115 points

Your total sum of points will represent the following letter course grade:

A	= 95 or above
A-	= 90 - 94
B+	= 85 - 89
B	= 80 - 84
B-	= 75 - 79
C+	= 70 - 74
C	= 65 - 69
C-	= 60 - 64
D+	= 55 - 59
D	= 50 - 54
D-	= 45 - 49

F = 44 or below

If you achieve full points in each of the five components, then your total sum point for the entire course will be 115 points. The first four components (in-class essay, mid-term exam, final exam and term paper) will ask you to demonstrate your learning results mainly in a written manner. Class participation is integrated in case you are not able to fully exercise what you have learned in a written manner as such. Therefore, please be ready to make a high achievement in the "class participation" part as a safety net.

❖ **ASSIGNED COURSE TEXTS**

Kendall, Diana. (2005). *Sociology in Our Times: The Essentials*, Fifth Edition. Thomson & Wadsworth.

Howard Eve, L. (2005). *Classic Readings in Sociology*. The Wadsworth Sociology Reader Series. Third Edition. Thomson & Wadsworth.

Bauman, Zygmunt (1988). *Freedom*. University of Minnesota Press.

☞ All three books will be available at BC bookstore.

❖ **COURSE SCHEDULE**

➤ The 1st Week (September 7th & 9th)

The 7th – Introduction to *Introductory Sociology*

Introduction to the course and brief lecture on the history, characteristics and uses of sociology.
No assigned readings.

The 9th – Sociological Imagination: Beginning with C.W. Mills

Assigned reading:

"The Promise of Sociology" (by C.W. Mills), pp. 1-6, in Howard *Classic Readings in Sociology*

➤ The 2nd Week (September 12th, 14th & 16th)

The 12th - Sociological Perspectives and Theories

Assigned readings:

Chapter 1, pp. 1-8, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*

"Introduction", pp.1-8, in Bauman's *Freedom*

The 14th - Foundations & History of Sociology I

Video Presentation #1: *The Western Tradition (Lecture #41 Industrial Revolution)*

Assigned readings:

Chapter 1, pp. 8-15, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*

"Manifesto of the Communist Party" (by Karl Marx), pp. 12-19, in Howard's *Classic Readings in Sociology*

The 16th - Foundations & History of Sociology II

Assigned readings:

Chapter 1, pp. 15-21, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*

"Manifest and Latent Functions" (by Robert Merton), pp. 26-28, in Howard's *Classic Readings in Sociology*

"The Presentation of Self" (by Erving Goffman), pp. 41-48, in Howard's *Classic Readings in Sociology*

➤ The 3rd Week (September 19th, 21st & 23rd)

The 19th - Culture: Foundations

- Assigned reading:
Chapter 2, pp. 40-65, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*
- The 21st - Culture: The Sociological Analyses
Assigned reading:
Chapter 2, pp. 65-72, In Kendall *Sociology in Our Times*
- The 23rd - Culture: Cultural Criticism
Video Presentation #2: *bell hooks on Video: Cultural Criticism & Transformation*
No assigned reading
- The 4th Week (September 26th, 28th & 30th)
- The 26th - Socialization
Assigned Readings:
Chapter 3, pp. 76-83 & pp. 87-91, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*
"The Self" (by George Herbert Mead), pp. 33-40, in Howard's *Classic Readings in Sociology*
- The 28th – Socialization & Social Institutions
Video Presentation #3: *Stuart Hall: Representation and the Media*
Assigned Reading:
Chapter 3, pp. 91-103, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*
- The 30th – Social Structure and Everyday-Life Interaction I
Assigned Readings:
Chapter 4, pp. 108-123, In Kendall *Sociology in Our Times*
- The 5th Week (October 3rd, 5th & 7th)
- The 3rd - Social Structure and Everyday-Life Interaction II
Assigned Readings:
Chapter 4, pp. 123-125 & pp. 136-138, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*
- The 5th - Groups and Organizations I
Assigned reading:
Chapter 5, pp. 142-156, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*
- The 7th - Groups and Organizations II
Video Presentation #4: *Groupthink*
No assigned reading
- The 6th Week (October 12th & 14th)
- The 12th - Groups and Organizations III
Assigned readings:
Chapter 5, pp. 156-169, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*
"Panopticon, or Freedom as Social Relation", pp. 9-27. In Bauman's *Freedom*
- The 14th - Deviance and Crime
Assigned readings:
Chapter 6, pp. 174-188, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*
"On Being Sane in Insane Places" (by D.L. Rosenhan), pp. 67-75, Howard's *Classic Readings in Sociology*
- The 7th Week (October 17th, 19th & 21st)
- The 17th - Social Stratification: A Global Perspective & Theories
Assigned reading:
Chapter 7, pp. 212-240, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*
- The 19th - Social Stratification: Social Class in the US I
Assigned readings:

Chapter 8, pp. 248-253 & pp. 264-270, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*

The 21st - Social Stratification: Social Class in the US II

Video Presentation #5: *People Like Us: Social Class in America*

Assigned readings:

Chapter 8, pp. 257-264, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*

"The Use of Poverty: The Poor Pay All" (by Herbert J. Gans), pp. 48-54, in Howard's *Classic Readings in Sociology*

➤ The 8th Week (October 24th, 26th & 28th)

The 24th - Race and Ethnicity I

Assigned reading:

Chapter 9, pp. 276-291, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*

☞ Announcement of the format for the mid-term exam & providing the study guide

The 26th - Race and Ethnicity II

Video Presentation #6: Oprah's *The Color of Fear*

Assigned reading:

"The Souls of Black Folk" (by W.E.B. DuBois), pp. 54-59, in Howard's *Classic Readings in Sociology*

The 28th - Race and Ethnicity III

Video Presentation #7: *Struggle & Success: The African American Experience in Japan*

No assigned reading.

➤ The 9th Week (October 31st, November 2nd & 4th)

The 31st - Sex and Gender: Socialization

Assigned readings:

Chapter 10, pp. 310-331, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*

"The Future of Marriage" (by Jessie Bernard), pp. 59-67, in Howard's *Classic Readings in Sociology*

The 2nd - Sex and Gender: Inequalities in Consumer Society

Video Presentation #8: *Killing Us Softly 3: Advertising's image of women*

Assigned reading:

Chapter 10, pp. 331-341, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*

The 4th - Preparing for the Mid-term Exam

No assigned reading

➤ The 10th Week (November 7th, 9th & 11th)

The 7th - The Mid-Term Examination

The 9th – The Sociological Research Process

Assigned reading:

Chapter 1, pp. 21-35, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*

The 11th - Education & Society

Assigned readings:

Chapter 12, pp. 376-393, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*

"Savage Inequalities" (by Jonathan Kozol), pp. 83-91, in Howard's *Classic Readings in Sociology*

➤ The 11th Week (November 14th, 16th & 18th)

The 14th – Education: A Cross-Cultural Perspective

Video Presentation #9: *Children Without Childhood: Japan: the Taboo of Failure*

No assigned reading.

The 16th – Religion & Society

Assigned reading:

Chapter 12, pp. 393-405, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*

- The 18th – Politics and the Economy I
Assigned readings:
Chapter 13, pp. 409-426, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*
"The Power Elite" (by C.W. Mills), pp. 76-83, in Howard's *Classic Readings in Sociology*
- The 12th Week (November 21st, 23rd & 25th)
- The 21st – Politics and the Economy II
Assigned readings:
Chapter 13, pp. 426-441, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*
"Savage Inequalities" (by Jonathan Kozol), pp. 83-91, in Howard's *Classic Readings in Sociology*
- The 23rd – Population and Urbanization: Migration and Population Changes
Assigned reading:
Chapter 15, pp. 480-492, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*
- The 25th – Population and Urbanization: Growth of Cities and Inequalities
Assigned readings:
Chapter 15, pp. 492-507, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*
"The Metropolis and Mental Life" (by Georg Simmel), pp. 409-424, in *The Sociology of Georg Simmel*
(A copy of this article will be provided on the 21st of November)
☞ Announcement of the format for the final term exam & providing the study guide
- The 13th Week (November 28th, 30th & December 2nd)
- The 28th - Collective Behavior and Social Movements
Assigned reading:
Chapter 16, pp. 512 - 539, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*
- The 30th - Health & Illness in Society
Video Presentation #10: *Dying To Be Thin*
Assigned reading:
Chapter 14, pp. 446-456, In Kendall's *Sociology in Our Times*
- The 2nd -Term-Paper Presentation I
- The 14th Week (December 5th, 7th & 9th)
- The 7th - Term-Paper Presentation II
- The 8^h – Term-Paper Presentation III
- The 9th – Reviewing the course and preparing for the Final Examination
No assigned reading.