

SPRING 2007  
SOCIOLOGY 001-05

# Introductory Sociology

🌿 Instructor:	Masa Higo
🌿 Class Room:	Campion Hall 204
🌿 Class Hours:	MWF 9-9:50am
🌿 Office Hours:	MWF 10:30-11:30 and/or by appointment
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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This *Introductory Sociology* course is offered as a core course that is available to students at all levels. As indicated in the title, this course is offered to introduce students to the basics of sociology as a distinctive field in social sciences. This core course generally assumes that students have little, if any, previous experience taking sociology-related courses in any formal or systematic manner.

### ***What is Sociology?***

Generally, sociology is defined as a systematic inquiry of social interactions. Interactions between individuals, groups, and larger organizations, across time and space, are the basis of production, reproduction, and transformation of society to which a large number of individuals belong. Interaction between an individual and a larger society is also one of the most essential foci in sociological inquiries. 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 into it. In this introductory course, you will be exposed to a general overview of various major issues, themes and controversies dealt with in sociology in order to acquire 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.

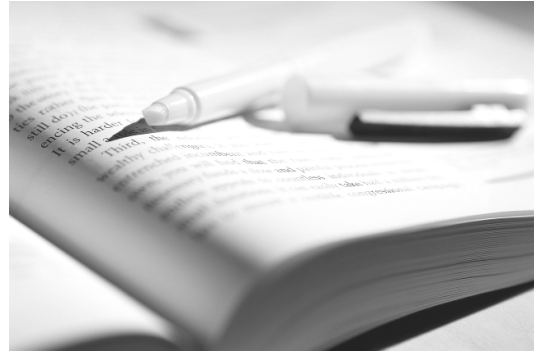
### ***Main Course Materials***

Main material of this course includes: 1) required textbooks, 2) lectures, 3) video presentations, and 4) in-class discussions. Students are required to read assigned parts of textbooks during assigned periods 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 necessarily covered by the readings. Video presentations are provided for the same purposes as those of lectures in visually conceivable manners. In-class discussions are integrated into this course not only to deepen your understanding of themes in question via exchanging your ideas in class, but also to explore and develop your own sociological perspectives.

### ***What does it mean by being a Core Course?***

Because this is a core course – a course that fulfills one of the university's core requirements in the social sciences – it contains elements common to all university core courses. As well as tackling many theoretical and methodological perspectives, this course will attempt to provide you with entrances to being more engaged critical and analytical thinkers in everyday life. This goal will be achieved by addressing the following five issues:

1. *Perennial Questions* – A series of vital questions. In this course we will examine several vital questions, including: What makes society work? How does society evolve? What is truth within and outside our society?
2. *Cultural Diversity* – When examining societies, race and ethnicity must be examined also. This course will examine how ethnicity is dealt with in American culture and other cultures. In addition we will examine how the American social structure approaches ethnic issues.
3. *Historical Perspective* – Many historical theoretical perspectives will be examined. In addition, in order to understand the field of sociology, history of our paradigms must be examined as well as a history of the field of sociology.
4. *Methodology* – As alluded to previously the way in which sociology as a discipline and sociologists as social scientists are able to report on and study societies must be examined as well as the findings themselves. As part of its aim to make you a critical thinker and an examiner of everyday life, this course will challenge all approaches to obtaining sociological “knowledge” in order for students to better understand our society and other societies.
5. *Creating a Personal Philosophy* – This course—in its attempt to help students think more critically about everyday life, the social structures, and social change—will help students uncover what their own, unique approach to life is. More specifically, each student will, in effect, create his or her own sociological perspective.



## PURPOSES & GOALS

This *Introductory Sociology* course aims to provide students with a systematic introduction to the major topics in sociology. Representative topics are culture, religion, education, family, race, gender, symbolic interactions, and social structure. 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 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 Essays:

Throughout the semester, 13 opportunities will be provided to work on *In-Class Essays*. Of the 13 opportunities, you may choose 10 essays to fill out and hand in. In other words, you may choose not to work on 3 essays throughout the semester such as when you miss a class. You will not have a chance to work on any missed essay unless you prove a legitimate excuse for absence (e.g., a doctor's appointment). Please note that you can not hand in more than 10 essays; if you do, extra essay(s) will not be counted. Each essay is worth 2 points at maximum (it will be graded either 0, 1, or 2 point, depending on the quality of your writing). In this *In-Class Essay* part, you may achieve 20 points at total. Each essay 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. Please be prepared for an essay by regularly reviewing your lecture notes and reading assigned parts of textbooks.

### 2. Class Participation:

Your "class participation" will be evaluated on the following three grounds: class attendance, contributions to your group discussions, and contributions to in-class discussions. 1) Your class attendance is important; your attendance will be checked in each class. Equally important is actively participating in actual learning practices in class. "Class participation" in this sense consists of two components: 2) actively participating in regularly assigned group discussions, and 3) actively participating in the learning process in the entire class by sharing with the rest of the class your questions, suggestions and feedback to given material (required readings, lectures, video presentations and in-class discussions). These forms of participation will be highly regarded since participation will effectively enhance other students' learning outcomes as well as yours. You may therefore achieve 20 points at maximum by performing excellently in "class participation." 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.

### 3. Mid-Term Exam:

The mid-term exam is scheduled to be conducted on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March (Wednesday) at the regular class place and time (Campion 204 at 9:00am). The exam will include all the material (required readings, lectures, video presentations and in-class discussions) provided from the 1<sup>st</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> week. The specific format and a study guide for the exam will be announced on **the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March (Friday)**. The class on **the 12<sup>th</sup> of March (Monday)** will be dedicated to provide and review a study guide for the exam. You may achieve 30 points at maximum on the mid-term exam.

### 4. Final Exam:

The final exam is scheduled to be conducted on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May (Tuesday) at 9:00 am in the regular classroom (Campion 204). The specific format and a study guide will be announced on **the 30<sup>th</sup> of April (Monday)**, however, we will not spend a class to review the study guide in class for the final exam. The content of the final exam will be cumulative – it will include all the material (required readings, lectures, video presentations and class discussions) provided throughout the semester. As on the mid-term exam, you can achieve 30 points at maximum on the final exam.

### 5. Term Paper & In-Class Paper Presentation

Students will be required to submit a term-paper and provide an oral presentation of the paper in class during the period from **the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April (Monday) through the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May (Monday)**. Approximately 6 to 8 students will present their term papers in class each day during this period. You may achieve up to 10 points for your term paper, and up to 5 points for your in-class presentation. The specific format for writing the paper and guidance for presentation will be announced on **the 28<sup>th</sup> of March (Wednesday)**. **The deadline for submitting the term-paper is the 27<sup>th</sup> of April (Friday) regardless of the date of your oral presentation.**

**EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS**

Each student is responsible for preparing herself (himself) for class by closely reading all the assigned materials specified beforehand in the syllabus. Please be aware of all dates, deadlines, and assignments and adhere to them at your own responsibility. Students 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. Personal chats and use of cellular phones during class are prohibited. Penalties for absence may only be compensated by showing the lecturer a legitimate proof of absence (e.g., a doctor’s appointment).

**COURSE GRADING SYSTEM**

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

	Course Requirement	Point at max
1.	In-Class Essay	20
2.	Class Participation	20
3.	Mid-term Exam	30
4.	Final Exam	30
5.	Term-Paper	10
6.	Term-Paper Presentation	5
Total		115

Your total sum of points will be translated into a letter grade as shown in the table below:

Total Point	Letter Grade
95 and above	A
94 – 90	A-
89 – 85	B+
84 – 80	B
79 – 75	B-
74 – 70	C+
69 – 65	C
64 – 60	C-
59 – 55	D+
54 – 50	D
49 – 45	D-
44 and below	F

Note:  
If you achieve full points in each of the six components, then your total sum point for the entire course will be 115 points. The extra “15 points” (out of 100 points) needs to be understood as a “built-in extra credit” component – therefore, no extra-credit work opportunity will be provided later in the semester. 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. Term paper presentation and class participation are 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 TEXTBOOKS**

1. Kendall, Diana (2006). *Sociology in Our Times*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Thomson & Wadsworth.
2. Howard Eve, L. (2006). *Classic Readings in Sociology*. The Wardsworth Sociology Reader Series. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Thomson & Wadsworth.



➡ These two books are available at BC bookstore.

## COURSE SCHEDULES & READING ASSIGNMENTS

### The 1<sup>st</sup> Week:

January 17 (Wednesday)

Topic/Theme: *Introduction to "Introductory Sociology"*

Assigned Readings: None

January 19 (Friday)

Topic/Theme: *Preliminary Lecture: What Is Sociology?*

Assigned Readings: None



### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Week:

January 22 (Monday)

Topic/Theme: *Sociological Imagination: Beginning with C.W. Mills*

Assigned Readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 2-10 and *Classic Readings in Sociology* pp. 1-5.

January 24 (Wednesday)

Topic/Theme: *Historical Contexts of Sociology*

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

Assigned Readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 10-13.

January 26 (Friday)

Topic/Theme: *Founders of Sociology: Classical Contributions, Part 1.*

Assigned Readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 13-21 and *Classic Readings in Sociology* pp. 39-40

### The 3<sup>rd</sup> Week:

January 29 (Monday)

Topic/Theme: *Founders of Sociology: Classical Contributions, Part 2.*

Assigned Readings: *Classic Readings in Sociology* pp. 10-17.

January 31 (Wednesday)

Topic/Theme: *Founders of Sociology: Classical Contributions, Part 3.*

Assigned Readings: *Classic Readings in Sociology* pp. 84-89.

February 2 (Friday)

Topic/Theme: *Contemporary Sociological Perspectives, Part 1*

Assigned Readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 23-27 and *Classic Readings in Sociology* pp. 23-24.

### The 4<sup>th</sup> Week:

February 5<sup>th</sup> (Monday)

Topic/Theme: *Contemporary Sociological Perspectives, Part 2*

Assigned Readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 27-31 and *Classic Readings in Sociology* pp. 33-38.

February 7<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

Topic/Theme: *Socialization*

Assigned Readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 106-135 and *Classic Readings in Sociology* pp. 25-32.

February 9<sup>th</sup> (Friday)

Topic/Theme: *Socialization, Part 2*

Assigned Readings:

**The 5<sup>th</sup> Week:**

February 12<sup>th</sup> (Monday)

Topic/Theme: *Social Structure and Interactions in Everyday Life, Part 1*

Assigned Readings:

February 14<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

Topic/Theme: *Social Structure and Interactions in Everyday Life, Part 2*

Assigned Readings:

February 16<sup>th</sup> (Friday)

Topic/Theme: *Groups and Organization, Part 1*

Assigned Readings:

**The 6<sup>th</sup> Week:**

February 19<sup>th</sup> (Monday)

Topic/Theme: *Groups and Organization, Part 2*

Assigned Readings:

February 21<sup>st</sup> (Wednesday)

Topic/Theme: *Groups and Organization, Part 3*

Assigned Readings:

February 23<sup>rd</sup> (Friday)

Topic/Theme: *Deviance and Crime*

Assigned readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 174-188 and *Classic Readings in Sociology* pp. 67-75.

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Week:**

February 26<sup>th</sup> (Monday)

Topic/Theme: *Social Stratification: A Global Perspective & Theories*

Assigned Readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 212-240.

212-240

February 28<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

Topic/Theme: *Social Stratification: Social Class in the US I*

Assigned Readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 248-253.

March 2<sup>nd</sup> (Friday)

Topic/Theme: *Social Stratification: Social Class in the US II*

Assigned Readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 257-264 and *Classic Readings in Sociology* pp. 48-54.

\*\*\*\*\* Spring Break \*\*\*\*\*

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Week:**

March 12 (Monday)

Topic/Theme: Race and Ethnicity I

Assigned readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 276-291.

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

March 14 (Wednesday)

Topic/Theme: Race and Ethnicity II

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

Assigned readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 174-188 and *Classic Readings in Sociology* pp. 54-56.

March 16 (Friday)

Topic/Theme: Race and Ethnicity III

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

No assigned reading.

### **The 9<sup>th</sup> Week:**

March 19 (Monday)

Topic/Theme: Sex and Gender: Socialization

Assigned readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 310-331 and *Classic Readings in Sociology* pp. 59-67.

March 21 (Wednesday)

Topic/Theme: Sex and Gender: Inequalities in Consumer Society

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

Assigned readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 331-341

March 23 (Friday)

Topic/Theme: Preparing for the Mid-term Exam

No assigned reading

### **The 10<sup>th</sup> Week:**

March 26 (Monday)

The Mid-Term Examination

March 28 (Wednesday)

Topic/Theme: The Sociological Research Process

Assigned readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 21-35.

March 30 (Friday)

Topic/Theme: Education & Society

Assigned readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 376-393 and *Classic Readings in Sociology* pp. 83-91..

### **The 11<sup>th</sup> Week:**

April 2<sup>nd</sup> (Monday)

Topic/Theme: Education: A Cross-Cultural Perspective

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

No assigned reading.

April 4<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

Topic/Theme: Religion & Society

Assigned readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 393-405.

\*\*\*\*\* Easter Weekend \*\*\*\*\*

**The 12<sup>th</sup> Week:**

April 11<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

Topic/Theme: Politics and the Economy I

Assigned readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 409-426 and *Classic Readings in Sociology* pp. 76-83.

April 13<sup>th</sup> (Friday)

Topic/Theme: Politics and the Economy II

Assigned readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 480-492.

**The 12<sup>3h</sup> Week:**

April 16<sup>th</sup> (Monday)

Topic/Theme: Population and Urbanization: Migration and Population Changes

Assigned readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 174-188 and *Classic Readings in Sociology* pp. 67-75.

April 18<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

Topic/Theme: Population and Urbanization: Growth of Cities and Inequalities

Assigned readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 492-507.

April 20<sup>th</sup> (Friday)

Topic/Theme: Collective Behavior and Social Movements

Assigned readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 512-539.

**The 14<sup>th</sup> Week:**

April 23<sup>rd</sup> (Monday)

Topic/Theme: Health & Illness in Society

Video Presentation #10: *Dying To Be Thin*

Assigned readings: *Sociology in Our Times* pp. 446-456.

April 25<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

Topic/Theme: Term-Paper Presentation I

No assigned reading.

April 27<sup>th</sup> (Friday)

Topic/Theme: Term-Paper Presentation II

No assigned reading.

**The 15<sup>th</sup> Week:**

April 30<sup>th</sup> (Monday)

Topic/Theme: Term-Paper Presentation III

No assigned reading.

May 2<sup>nd</sup> (Wednesday) Final Exam Schedule—Spring Semester 2007

MWF9 = May 8, 2007 Tuesday 9:00am