INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY I – SOCY1001.01 (SPRING SEMESTER, 2016)
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS, 12:00 – 1:15 PM, STOKES, ROOM 211S

INSTRUCTOR

Andrew Jorgenson, Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies
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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00 – 5:00 PM

SUMMARY

The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students at an introductory level with the field of sociology. Students will be introduced to several common sociological theories, introductory social science research methods (in applied contexts), and various substantive areas within the discipline.

REQUIREMENTS AND GrADING

• There will be four in-class exams throughout the semester, and I will drop your lowest exam score. Each of your three highest exam scores is worth 25% of your final grade. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer questions.
• You will conduct a norm violation experiment and complete a short report on the exercise. This is worth 5% of your final grade. Details for this assignment will be provided later in the semester.
• You will keep a diary of your consumption and trash habits for one week and complete a short report on the exercise. This is worth 10% of your final grade. Details for this assignment will be provided later in the semester.
• Attendance and general participation in class discussions is worth 10% of your final grade.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The majority of required readings consist of chapters in the following textbook, available at the campus bookstore (I don’t have extra copies to loan out):


(If you need support to buy textbooks, please contact the Montserrat Coalition—go to Brock House at 78 College Road, call 617-552-8865, or e-mail Paula Dias at paula.dias@bc.edu)

A few additional assigned readings, all TBA, will be available in pdf via the courses Canvas webpage.

INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCE CORE

Perennial Questions: How does human society shape my lived experiences and opportunities? How are societies structured? How do societies and their social institutions change? What unites and divides people?

Historical Perspective: While the course will mostly focus on contemporary social processes and conditions, the importance of history will remain constant throughout the semester.
Writing Component: There will be various opportunities to practice writing in class (required assignments and short-answer exam questions). These are great opportunities to further develop your critical thinking and written communication skills.

Creating a Personal Philosophy: A fundamental set of questions in this course, which will push you to further develop your personal philosophy, are how does society shape my life, how do I as an individual contribute to the structure of society, and how can I help improve society in a way to become more equitable for current and future generations?

Cultural Diversity: We will focus on how differences such as race, ethnicity, class, gender, and geography shape our collective and individual positions within society as well as our lived experiences.

Methodology: Throughout the semester we will discuss the plurality of research methods used by sociologists and the role that research plays in advancing sociology as a social science.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

Boston College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and integrated access for students with disabilities to all available academic, social, and recreational programs and activities. Appropriate support and referral services are provided by the Disability Services Office, which serves students with hearing, visual, mobility, medical, and psychiatric disabilities. If you are a student with a documented disability seeking reasonable accommodations in this course, please contact Kathy Duggan, (617) 552-8093, dugganka@bc.edu, at the Connors Family Learning Center regarding learning disabilities and ADHD, or Paulette Durrett, (617) 552-3470, paulette.durrett@bc.edu, in the Disability Services Office regarding all other types of disabilities, including temporary disabilities. Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations. If you are unsure whether or not Disability Services are appropriate for your needs, please make an appointment with Disability Services for a consultation.

BC STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

“The pursuit of knowledge can proceed only when scholars take responsibility and receive credit for their work. Recognition of individual contributions to knowledge and of the intellectual property of others builds trust within the university and encourages the sharing of ideas that is essential to scholarship. Similarly, the educational process requires that individuals present their own ideas and insights for evaluation, critique, and eventual reformulation. Presentation of others’ work as one's own is not only intellectual dishonesty, but also undermines the educational process.” Please review the standards on academic integrity at the website: https://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/integrity.html

TOPIC AND READING SCHEDULE

Week 1

Tuesday, January 19
• Course Introductions

Thursday, January 21
• Read Chapter 1 in Our Social World – Sociology: A Unique Way to View the World
Week 2

Tuesday, January 26
• Read Chapter 2 in Our Social World – Examining the Social World: How Do We Know?

Thursday, January 28
• Read Chapter 3 in Our Social World – Society and Culture: Hardware and Software of Our Social World

Week 3

Tuesday, February 2
• Read Chapter 4 in Our Social World – Socialization: Becoming Human and Humane

Thursday, February 4
• Review and Catch Up!

Week 4

Tuesday, February 9
• Exam 1

Thursday, February 11
• Read Chapter 5 in Our Social World – Interaction, Groups, and Organizations: Connections that Work

Week 5

Tuesday, February 16
• Read Chapter 6 in Our Social World – Deviance and Social Control: Sickos, Weirdos, Freaks, and Folks Like Us

Thursday, February 18
• In-Class Discussion of Norm Violation Experiment, Assignment Due at the Beginning of Class

Week 6

Tuesday, February 23
• Read Chapter 7 of Our Social World – Stratification: Rich and Famous—or Rags and Famine?

Thursday, February 25
• Read Chapter 8 of *Our Social World* – Race and Ethnic Group Stratification: Beyond “Us” and “Them”

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**Week 7**

Tuesday, March 1
• In-Class Film and Discussion

Thursday, March 3
• Review and Catch Up!

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**Week 8**

Tuesday, March 15
• **Exam 2**

Thursday, March 17
• Read Chapter 9 in *Our Social World* – Gender Stratification: She/He—Who Goes First?

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**Week 9**

Tuesday, March 22
• Read Chapter 10 in *Our Social World* – Family: Partner Taking, People Making, and Contract Breaking

**Thursday, March 24 (Easter Holiday, No Class!)**

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**Week 10**

Tuesday, March 29
• Read Chapter 11 in *Our Social World* – Education: What Are We Learning?

Thursday, March 31
• Read Chapter 12 in *Our Social World* – Religion: The Social Meaning of Sacred Meaning

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**Week 11**

Tuesday, April 5
• Review and Catch Up!
Thursday, April 7
• **Exam 3**

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**Week 12**

Tuesday, April 12
• Read Chapter 13 in *Our Social World* – Politics and Economics: Probing Power, Dissecting Distribution

Thursday, April 14
• Read Chapter 14 in *Our Social World* – Health Care: An Anatomy of Health and Illness

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**Week 13**

Tuesday, April 19
• Read Chapter 15 in *Our Social World* – Population and Urbanization: Living on Planet Earth

Thursday, April 21
• In-Class Film and Discussion

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**Week 14**

Tuesday, April 26
• Readings TBA and Available on Canvas – Environmental Sociology

Thursday, April 28
• In-Class Discussion of Consumption and Trash Diary, **Assignment Due at the Beginning of Class**

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**Week 15**

Tuesday, May 3
• Read Chapter 16 in *Our Social World* – The Process of Change: We Can Make a Difference!

Thursday, May 5
• Review and Catch Up!

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**Week 16**

Tuesday, May 10
• **Exam 4**