Boston College Mission Statement
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description
Sociological theory explores many complex questions that people have pondered for centuries, including the nature of human interdependence and how it evolves, inequality and why it is tolerated, social change and how it occurs, and social order and how it is maintained. This course introduces students to the major thinkers, classic texts, and relevant theoretical questions that have been and continue to be central perspectives within sociology. Through examining both classic and contemporary schools of sociological thought, we explore the basis for many of the core questions, debates, and methodological approaches within the discipline of sociology. Attention is paid to social and intellectual contexts, conceptual frameworks and methods, and contributions to contemporary social analysis. Throughout the course, we will also consider the application of theory and how these emergent ideas are relevant for contemporary society and current sociological research.

Course Objectives
- Gain a broader understanding and appreciation of sociological theory
- Learn about fundamental concepts and areas of study in the field of sociology
- Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view
- Learn how to apply abstract theoretical ideas to concrete social phenomena
- Demonstrate an understanding of how sociologists theorize race, gender, and other social categories across different cultural settings
- Demonstrate ethical appreciation of the importance of working collectively with peers to accomplish a shared goal by completing collaborative projects with classmates

Grading
Attendance & Participation 10%
Weekly Exercises 15%
Take Home Midterm  15%
Fieldwork Project  20%
Final Presentation  15%
Final Essay  25%

WCAS Grading System
The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (0.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (0.00), failure; I (0.00), incomplete; F (0.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (0.00), official withdrawal from course. The graduate grading system is A (4.00), A- (3.67), Excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), good; B- (2.67), C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit; F (0.00), failure.

Grade Reports. All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known the HELP Desk located in the Campus Technology Resource Center (CTRC) in O’Neill Library will issue a new one. The CTRC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.

Required Readings

All other course material will be posted on Blackboard.

Recommended Readings

Important Policies
http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html

Written Work
Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using ASA format. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation,
and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed [http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html].

Scholarship and Academic Integrity
It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.

Request for Accommodations
If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or AHD) or Dean Paulette Durrett, (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for students with disabilities, (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations. For further information, you can locate the disability resources on the web at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html.

Attendance
Class attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate's notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due. Furthermore, many instructors give points for participation in class. If you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Additional assignments, penalties and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class.

Consistent with our commitment of creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. It is the responsibility of students to review course syllabi as soon as they are distributed and to consult the faculty member promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. If asked, the student should provide accurate information about the obligations entailed in the observance of that particular holiday. However, it is the responsibility of the student to complete any and all class requirements for days that are missed due to conflicts due to religious holidays.

There may be circumstances that necessitate a departure from this policy. Feel free to contact the WCAS at 617-552-3900 for consultation.

Deadlines
Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the specified dates. Late assignments
will be graded accordingly. Please see instructor immediately if any problems arrive.

Course Assignments

1. **Attendance and Participation (10%)**: Regular attendance and active participation in class are each vital to your successful learning. They will also make the course more interesting for all of us. Please plan to attend every class and to be on time.

2. **Weekly Exercise (15%)**: Every week students will be asked to do one short out of class activity that encourages engagement with course materials and the application of sociological theories to the empirical world. These will include short reflection papers, close readings of assigned text, analysis of current events, and in-class quizzes.

3. **Take Home Midterm (15%)**: Students will have one week to complete an open book Take Home Midterm.

4. **Fieldwork Project (20%)**: For this assignment, you will choose one public social setting where you will conduct a set of observations. Before choosing your setting, you will be asked to develop one or two questions to guide your observations. Once you have developed your questions and selected your setting, you will spend five hours taking detailed field notes of the interactions you observe there. These will be used for analysis in your final essay.

5. **Final Presentations (15%)**: At the end of the semester you will be asked to prepare a brief 10 minutes presentation on findings from your fieldwork project.

6. **Final Essay (25%)**: In your final essay, you will be asked to develop an original argument based on careful analysis of your field notes. Your paper should draw on at least two theorists we have studied in class.

**Detailed instructions for each assignment will be provided in supplementary handouts.**

_I expect that 8 hours per week of your study time out will be spent on out of class assignments and exercises, such as reading, writing, and doing fieldwork for your final project. Please note that some weeks will require more time and some weeks less time, but the average is approximately 8 hours per week over the semester._

**January 13th: Introductions & Overview**

**January 20th: What is a Sociological Perspective?**

**January 27th: Enlightenment Perspectives on Human Nature & Society**

**February 3rd: Labor, Capitalism & Inequality**
Feb 10th: The Individual, Social Bonds, & Collective Life

Feb 17th: Religion as a Social Phenomena

Feb 24th: **Take Home Midterm Due In Class**

March 2 – 6: Spring Vacation

March 10th: Rationalization, Power, & the Loss of Meaning

March 17th: Double Consciousness
- W.E.B, du Bois. 1903. The Souls of Black Folk. (selections)

March 24th: Intersectionality

March 31st: Anti-Colonial Discourses

April 2 – 6: Easter Break

April 7th: Presentation of the Social Self

April 14th: The Sociology of Everyday Life

April 21st: Applications

**April 28th: Applications**


**May 5th: Wrap-Up & Final Presentations**