Course Objectives

1. The student will understand theories in sociology, current trends, and developing theories.
2. The student will understand how socialization, social constructs and social groups shape our understanding of society and culture.
3. The student will understand behaviors and interactions in the context of social groups, communities, organizations, governments, and micro- and macro-economies.
4. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the influence of inequalities pertaining to race, ethnicity, and other cultural / diversity variables and how that knowledge relates to sociological theories. The impact of culture, gender, and age on social ideology and behavior will be discussed.
5. The student will demonstrate ethical knowledge pertaining to sociological research and practices.
## Course Topics and Assignments:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics and Assignments:</th>
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| Sep 3  | *Introduction to Sociology; Sociology Research Methods*  
Explanation of class expectations  
Kendall, chapters 1-2 |
| Sep 10 | *Culture; Socialization*  
Kendall, chapters 3-4 |
| Sep 17 | *Social Structure and Interaction in Everyday Life; Groups and Organizations*  
Kendall, chapters 5-6 |
| Sep 24 | *Deviance and Crime*  
Kendall, chapters 7  
**Quiz 1** (chapters 5 & 6) |
| Oct 1  | *Class and Stratification in the U.S., Global Stratification*  
Kendall, chapters 8-9  
**Group A Topic Presentation and Discussion Leadership** |
| Oct 8  | *Race and Ethnicity; Sex, Gender and Sexuality; Aging and Inequality*  
Kendall, chapters 10-12  
**Group B Topic Presentation and Discussion Leadership** |
| Oct 15 | Dr. Condie in Atlanta. No class.                                                        |
| Oct 22 | *The Economy and Work; Politics and Government*  
Kendall, chapters 13-14  
**Quiz 2** (chapters 8 & 9) |
| Oct 29 | *Families and Intimate Relationships*  
Kendall, chapter 15 |
| Nov 5  | *Education*  
Kendall, chapter 16  
Quinn: Kindergarten Black-White Test Score Gaps  
**Group C Topic Presentation and Discussion Leadership** |
| Nov 12 | *Religion*  
Kendall, chapter 17  
Mahoney et al.: Religion in the Home in the 1980s and 1990s  
**Group D Topic Presentation and Discussion Leadership** |
| Nov 19 | *Health, Health Care and Disability*  
Kendall, chapter 18  
**Quiz 3** (chapters 15 & 16) |
| Nov 26 | Thanksgiving. No class.                                                                |
| Dec 3  | *Population and Urbanization*  
Kendall, chapter 19  
Bourdieu: The Bachelors’ Ball |
| Dec 10 | *Collective Behavior, Social Movements and Social Change*  
Kendall, chapter 20  
Kelly & Lowery: Cleveland Officer Acquitted... |
| Dec 17 | Finals Week  
**Final Exam** (chapters 17, 18, 19, and 20) |
Required Textbook/Readings:


Class Requirements:

Class is held once per week. Requirements for the class are described below.

Topic Presentation and Discussion Leadership (25% of grade): Students will work together in a group to lead a discussion on a topic related to the lecture content for the assigned date. Students will (a) frame the issue by presenting and describing a thesis statement, (b) highlight key components that support their thesis statement, (c) form an argument, based on sociological theories and research, that favors their thesis statement, (d) form an argument, based on alternative theories and research, that might potentially negate their thesis statement, (d) compare and contrast c and d above, and (e) prepare questions designed to guide a class discussion.

The time limit is 20 minutes of presentation, with each person taking a 5-minute leadership role for their portion of the presentation; followed by 20 minutes of leading class discussion. Total=40 min.

Evaluation is based on your portion of the group effort, evidence of preparation, quality of the information presented, how the information relates to textbook content and related material, critical analysis, adherence to the time requirements, leadership, and the quality of the questions designed to promote class discussion. The grading template will be posted on Canvas.

Q&A Written Response (25% of grade): Each audience member re: the Topic Presentation and Discussion will choose and write down one of the presenter’s questions and then bring to class the following week a one-page single-spaced response to the question. Individuals conducting the presentation are not required to hand in a Q&A. Only audience members do so. Thus, each student will complete three Q&As during the semester. The grading template will be posted on Canvas.

Participation in Class Discussion (10% of grade): The course content is conducive to interesting and lively discussion. Students will illustrate, through their responses to discussion questions, that they read the assigned chapters in the textbook. They will come prepared to discuss the material. Class participation also includes attendance and responsiveness to questions from the student presenters and the professor. Full credit for class participation means you attended class for the full amount of time and you were prepared to discuss the textbook material, and you actively responded to presenter’s questions.

Quizzes (25% of grade): There will be three 20-point multiple-choice quizzes.

Final Exam (15% of grade): There will be an open-book final examination consisting of 20 multiple-choice questions and 20 fill-in-the-blank questions.

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- (.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (.00), failure; I (.00), incomplete; F (.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (.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.

**Course Summary**
1. Class meets Thursday, 6:15-9:15 p.m.
2. Students will read the assigned required material.
3. Students will participate in class discussions and presentations. Keeping pace with assigned reading material will promote meaningful participation, critical thinking, & comparison and contrast re: theories.
4. Students will work in groups to prepare one topic presentation, working together to organize an assigned topic and working individually to gain command of the details of the discussion points. Questions will be written by the group and posed to the audience.
5. Students will take four quizzes and one final exam.
6. This is a 4-credit course, 3 credits are earned via 1-5 above. A fourth credit is earned via reading and discussion of the ancillary readings; information to be found on Canvas.

**Important Policies:** [http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html](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 APA, MLA, CLA format per instructors decision. 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](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, Com.or's Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or ADHD) 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. [http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html](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 corrective 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.