

# Sociology 101: Introduction to Sociology

Fall Term, 2016

Classroom: Liberal Arts 3315

Class Hours: MWF 9:00 a.m.-9:50 a.m.

Instructor: Jason Freeman  
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Office Hrs: MWF 2 p.m.-3 p.m.  
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## **Course Catalog Description:** SOCI 101 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (3.00 units)

Sociological concepts, theories, methods; a study of society and culture; the influence of the social environment on individual behavior. GenEd II.C.2 or Core: Social & Behavioral Sciences.

## **Course Overview**

Over the course of this semester we will read about and discuss the key concepts, theories, paradigms, and people that make up the social construct known as sociology. In this course you will be presented with major questions that sociologists have been pondering for over century. You'll also be encouraged to formulate your own questions about society as well. By the end of the course you should be able to answer questions such as: What is sociology? What are the major paradigms that make up sociology? What is a social norm? What do we mean when we say something is socially constructed? What are some major changes taking place in today's society and what might these changes mean for our future?

## **Learning Objectives**

1. You will be able to articulate relevant basic assumptions, concepts, theoretical constructs and factual information of the social and behavior sciences.
2. You will be able to demonstrate an understanding of relevant social and behavioral science methodologies.
3. You will be able to apply appropriate problem-solving skills in discipline specific contexts.
4. You will be able to apply disciplinary knowledge from the social and behavioral sciences to contemporary ethical or social issues.

## **Rules of the Road**

1. We start and end class on time (if you arrive late, you may lose the chance to take that day's quiz or begin that day's activity).
2. Turn off cell phones, music devices, and other electronic devices that could be a distraction during class.
3. Check your email daily.
4. Check our class's Blackboard page daily.
5. We are all expected to be civil and respectful in our interactions within this class.

## **Office Hours**

For simple questions, the best way to reach me is by email at jfreeman@towson.edu. For more difficult questions, please come see me during office hours. **I have office hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** If you can't make these hours, please let me know and we'll arrange another time. To make the best use of our time, you should come prepared with specific questions; for example, you might have a question about a reading you don't understand, a concept we've covered in class that wasn't clearly defined, or something you've seen in another source that you are curious about. Be as specific as you can about how I can help you. However, you don't have to have a problem to come to office hours -- you may just want to chat about something, and that's OK too.

## **Required Texts**

Society: The Basics, 14<sup>th</sup> ed. John J. Macionis. 2016. Pearson.

Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. John J. Macionis and Nijole V. Benokraitis. 2009. Pearson.

The Discovery of Society, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Randall Collins and Michael Makowsky. 2009. McGraw Hill.

Outliers: The Story of Success. Malcolm Gladwell. 2008. Little, Brown and Company.

ASA Style Guide, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. 2014. American Sociological Association.

## **Recommended Readings**

Throughout the semester I may post recommended reading to supplement the assigned readings for the class. Any recommended readings will be posted on Blackboard.

## **Course Format**

This is an active learning course. This means that you are expected to read, discuss, and write about the various topics listed on the course schedule. At the beginning of each week you will be given a **closed-book, open note** quiz based on the readings. Following each quiz, I will give a short lecture broadly describing the topic we are covering as well as connecting the week's reading to a current issue facing society. Later each week we will have a group discussion as well as either a short in-class essay or a group activity.

## **Attendance Policy**

Achieving success in this class requires consistent daily attendance. Please don't schedule any appointments, trips, association meetings, or other activities that would require you to miss class.

Also, an **excused** absence is an absence in which a student cannot attend class due to a family emergency, an obligation to the University or some other reason that is beyond the student's immediate control. In the case of an **excused** absence, please let me know as soon as possible the reason for the absence and the anticipated length of the absence. If you want an absence excused, you **must** have a note or some other documentation showing that you could not attend class on that day.

## **Department Statement on Academic Integrity (Updated Spring 2015)**

The faculty of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice expects students to demonstrate academic integrity at all times. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any class. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, any form of cheating or unapproved help on an exam or academic exercise, copying someone else's written work without citation, presenting fabricated information as legitimate, any unauthorized collaboration among students, or assisting someone to cheat in any way. Penalties for academic dishonesty are determined by the individual faculty member. The minimum penalty in for academic dishonesty in this class is a grade of **zero** on the affected work. Students who are charged with academic dishonesty must remain enrolled in the course and cannot withdraw. Instructors will file a report of academic dishonesty with the Office of the Student Conduct and Civility Education, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and to the Chair's Office in the department.

For more information on academic integrity, see the TU Student Academic Integrity Policy (<http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/appendices/appendix-f-code-student-conduct/>) and the College of Liberal Arts' Academic Integrity and Appeals Information, (<http://www.towson.edu/cia/acadviolations>).

We also encourage students to make use of campus resources to learn more about academic integrity and how to avoid academic dishonesty, such as the resources provided by Cook Library and the Writing Center (<http://www.towson.edu/writingcenter>).

### **Disability and Support Services**

This course is in compliance with Towson University policies for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with Disability Support Services (DSS), 7720 York Road, Suite 232, 410-704-2638 (Voice) or 410-704-4423 (TDD). Students who suspect that they have a disability but do not have documentation are encouraged to contact DSS for advice on how to obtain appropriate evaluation. A memo from DSS authorizing your accommodation is needed before any accommodation can be made.

### **Policy on Repeating Course**

Students may not repeat this course more than once (make a third attempt at this course) without the prior approval of the Academic Standards Committee. Please call 4-4351 for more information.

### **Emergency Statement (TU Office of the Provost)**

In the event of a University-wide emergency, course requirements, classes, deadlines and grading schemes are subject to changes that may include alternative delivery methods, alternative methods of interaction with the instructor, class materials, and/or classmates, a revised attendance policy, and a revised semester calendar and/or grading scheme. In the case of a University-wide emergency, I will attempt to communicate with you via e-mail and/or the Blackboard site.

For more general information about any emergency situation, please refer to the following:

Web Site: [www.towson.edu](http://www.towson.edu)

Telephone Number: 410-704-2000

TU Text Alert System Sign-up at:

<http://www.towson.edu/adminfinance/facilities/police/campusemergency/>). This is a service designed to alert the Towson University community via text messages to cell phones when situations arise on campus that affect the ability of the campus - students, faculty and staff - to function normally.

## Evaluation

Your course grade is based upon quizzes, group discussions, group activities, in-class essays, a mid-term, a final exam, and a term paper.

1. Weekly Quizzes: At the beginning of week you will be given a **closed-book, open note** quiz based on the readings assigned for that week. The purpose of the quizzes is to encourage in-depth reading and good note-taking. All notes must be **hand-written** and sharing notes or using of typed notes will result in a grade of **zero** for that day's quiz. **There will be no make-up quizzes**. If you miss a class due to an **unexcused** absence or arrive late, you will **not** be able to take any portion of the quiz at a later time. The lowest **3** quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.
2. Group Discussions: Each week you will be asked to answer 3-5 discussion questions based on the week's reading and turn in your answers for a grade. The purpose of group discussions is to facilitate discourse about topics that pertain to the functioning of society that is both critical and civil. For group discussions you are expected to discuss and answer each question within your group and be prepared to discuss your group's answers with the entire class. For each group discussion your group will turn in **a written copy** of its answers prior to the full class discussion. Each of the group members will receive an overall group grade based on the correctness for each set of answers. All missed group assignments will count against each student's final grade except in the case of an **excused** absence.
3. In-Class Essays: At varying weeks you will be given a short in-class essay which will be listed on the syllabus on the course schedule. In-class essays will be based on an essay question I give you at the beginning of the day's class. You will have the entire class period to complete the essay. The in-class essay can be hand-written or typed and will be graded based on 1) how completely you answer the essay question, and 2) whether or not the essay possesses all of the elements of a high quality essay, which are: A strong thesis statement, clearly defined supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion that summarizes main ideas of the paper. All missed group in-class essays will count against each student's final grade except in the case of an **excused** absence.
4. Groups Activities: At varying weeks you will be given a group activity which will be listed on the syllabus on the course schedule. For group activities you will be given a set of directions and will be expected to complete the activity within the time allotted. Group activities are graded based on whether or not the group correctly completes the assigned task in the time allotted. All missed group activities will count against each student's final grade except in the case of an **excused** absence.
5. Exams: In this class you will have both a mid-term and a final exam. All material on these exams are taken from the weekly quizzes and discussion questions. The purpose of the exams is to communicate your comprehension of the course materials. Each exam will be composed of fill in the blank, short answer, and essay questions. The exam essay will be graded based on 1) how completely you answer the essay question, and 2) whether or not the essay possesses all of the elements of a high quality essay, which are: A strong thesis statement, clearly defined supporting paragraphs with transitions that link the supporting paragraphs to the thesis statement, and a conclusion that summarizes main ideas of the paper. **Out of fairness to the class, I do not give make-up exams unless there is a family emergency or a situation that is otherwise out of your control that causes you to miss the exam. If you have an obligation to the university that necessitates that you miss the exam period, you are required to take the exam before the designated exam period.**
6. Term Paper: You will be assigned **one** 2 to 4-page research paper based on a question that I pose during the semester. You are expected to completely answer the question using **at least three independent sources** which can include the textbook, articles that we read in class and external sources. All sources should be cited using ASA style as described in the latest edition of the ASA Style Guide. The paper will be graded based on the writing rubric that is included at the end of this syllabus.

Further instructions on the paper will be provided at the time they are assigned. **The paper is due by the beginning of class on the due date listed on the course schedule.**

**Components of your Grade:**

Weekly Quizzes	15%
Group Discussions/Activities/ In-Class Essays	15%
Mid-term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Research Paper	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Grading Policy**

In accord with university policy, students will earn plus/minus grades in this course. Refer to the Undergraduate Catalog for the university policy on plus/minus grading and corresponding quality points. A grade below C will not count for credit in major courses. Final course grades will be awarded as follows:

A	=	93-100
A-	=	90-92
B+	=	87-89
B	=	83-86
B-	=	80-82
C+	=	77-79
C	=	70-76
D+	=	67-69
D	=	60-66
F	=	BELOW 60
FX	=	Failing and completed less than ½ of graded work

## COURSE SCHEDULE

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**Monday, Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>–Friday Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

- Topic:** Introduction to the Course
- Reading(s):** “Does Technology Make Us More Stressed?”  
<http://nyti.ms/1CbcZQs>
- Activity:** Paper Q & A
- “Understanding the Scientific Method”
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**Monday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>                      Labor Day Holiday (No Class)**

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**Wednesday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>–Friday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>**

- Topic:** Understanding the Scientific Method
- Reading(s):** N/A
- Activity:** **Movie:** *Shattered Glass*
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**Monday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>—Friday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>**

- Topic:** What is Sociology?
- Readings:** “The Prophets of Paris: Saint-Simon and Comte” (The Discovery of Society, pp. 15-25)
- “Invitation to Sociology” (Seeing Ourselves, pp. 6-9)
- Activity:** **In Class Essay:** “U.S. Society is...”
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**Monday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>—Wednesday Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- Topic:** Key Theories and Concepts of Sociology
- Readings:** “The Sociological Perspective” (Society: The Basics, pp. 1-7)
- “Sociological Theory” (Society: The Basics, pp. 13-18)
- “The Sociological Imagination” (Seeing Ourselves, pp. 1-5)
- Activity:** “Understanding Manifest and Latent Functions”
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**Monday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>—Monday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>****Topic:** Socialization**Readings:** “Social Experience: The Key to Our Society” (Society: The Basics, pp. 75-77)

“George Herbert Mead’s Theory of the Social Self” (Society: The Basics, pp. 80-82)

“Agents of Socialization” (Society: The Basics, pp. 82-88)

“Socialization and the Life Course” (Society: The Basics, pp. 88-92)

“Resocialization: Total Institutions” (Society: The Basics, pp. 92-93)

“Socialization and the Power of Advertising” (Seeing Ourselves, pp. 83-88)

**Activity:** **In-Class Essay:** “I am the way I am because of...”**Monday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>—Friday Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>****Topic:** Culture**Readings:** “What is Culture?” (Society: The Basics, pp. 42-48)

“The Elements of Culture” (Society: The Basics, pp. 48-53)

“Cultural Diversity: Many Ways of Life in One World” (Society: The Basics, pp. 56-65)

“Theories of Culture” (Society: The Basics, pp. 65-68)

“Symbol: The Basic Element of Culture” (Seeing Ourselves, pp. 33-37)

**Activity:** **Video:** *Ape Genius***Monday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>—Friday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>****Topic:** Social Interaction in Everyday Life**Readings:** “Social Structure: A Guide to Everyday Living” (Society: The Basics, pp. 101-102)

“Status” (Society: The Basics, p.102)

“Role” (Society: The Basics, pp.102-104)

“The Social Construction of Reality” (Society: The Basics, pp. 104-108)

“Dramaturgical Analysis: The ‘Presentation of Self’” (Society: The Basics, pp. 108-112)

“The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life” (Seeing Ourselves, pp. 96-101)

**Activity:** **Video:** *Little White Lie*

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**Monday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>—Friday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Topic:** Social Stratification

**Reading(s):** “What is Social Stratification? Cast and Class Systems” (Society: The Facts, pp. 207-215)

“Theories of Social Inequality” (Society: The Facts, pp. 215-220)

“Inequality and Social Class in the United States” (Society: The Facts, pp. 223-230)

“Nicked-and-Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America (Seeing Ourselves, pp. 209-221)

**Activity:** Social Inequality Game

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**Monday, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>—Friday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic:** Gender Stratification

**Reading(s):** “Gender and Inequality” (Society: The Basics, pp. 273-277)

“Gender and Socialization” (Society: The Basics, pp. 277-279)

“Gender and Social Stratification” (Society: The Basics, pp. 279-288)

“Theories of Gender” (Society: The Basics, pp. 288-292)

“Feminism” (Society: The Basics, pp. 292-295)

“How Subtle Sex Discrimination Works” (Seeing Ourselves, pp. 242-247)

**Activity:** Mid-Term Preview



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**Monday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Mid-Term Exam**

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**Wednesday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Topic:** Paper Q & A

**Reading(s):** N/A

**Activity:** N/A

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**Friday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic:** Mid-Term Exam Review

**Reading(s):** N/A

**Activity:** **Paper Due**

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**Monday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>—Friday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic:** Race and Ethnicity

**Reading(s):** “The Social Meaning of Race and Ethnicity” (Society: The Basics, pp.300-306)

“Prejudice and Stereotypes” (Society: The Basics, pp.306-310)

“Discrimination” (Society: The Basics, pp.310-311)

“Majority and Minority: Patterns of Interaction” (Society: The Basics, pp.311-313)

“Race and Ethnicity in the United States” (Society: The Basics, pp.313-325)

“How Did Jews Become White Folks” (Seeing Ourselves, pp. 266-275)

**Activity:** White Privilege Checklist

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**Monday, Nov 14<sup>th</sup>—Friday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic:** Sexuality

**Reading(s):** “Understanding Sexuality” (Society: The Basics, pp. 146-156)

“Sexual Orientation” (Society: The Basics, pp. 156-160)

“Theories of Sexuality” (Society: The Basics, pp. 163-167)

“Homosexual Behavior in Cross-Cultural Perspective” (Seeing Ourselves, pp. 190-200)

**Activity:** **Speaker:** Towson LGBTQIA Representative

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**Monday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Topic:** Paper Review

**Readings:** N/A

**Activity:** N/A

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**Wednesday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>—Friday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic:** **Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class)**

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**Monday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>—Friday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Topic:** Family and Religion

**Readings:** “Family: Concepts and Theories” (Society: The Basics, pp. 373-380)

“Religion: Concepts and Theories” (Society: The Basics, pp. 394-397)

“Religion and Social Change” (Society: The Basics, pp. 397-400)

“‘His’ and ‘Her’ Marriage” (Seeing Ourselves, pp. 321-326)

“How Student Life is Different at Religious Colleges.” (Seeing Ourselves, pp. 345-350)

**Activity:** “Why Do People Get Married?”

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**Monday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic:** *Outliers*

**Readings:** “The Roseto Mystery” (Outliers, pp. 3 – 11)

“The Matthew Effect” (Outliers, pp. 15-34)

“The 10,000 Hour Rule” (Outliers, pp. 35-68)

**Activity:** N/A

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**Wednesday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic:** *Outliers*

**Readings:** “The Trouble with Geniuses, Part 1” (Outliers, pp. 69-90)

“The Trouble with Geniuses, Part 2” (Outliers, pp. 91-115)

“The Three Lessons of Joe Flom” (Outliers, pp. 116-158)

“Harlan, Kentucky” (Outliers, pp. 161-176)

**Activity:** N/A

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**Friday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic:** Outliers

**Readings:** “The Ethnic Theory of Place Crashes” (Outliers, pp. 177-223)

“Rice Paddies and Math Tests” (Outliers, pp. 224-249)

“Marita’s Bargain” (Outliers, pp. 250-269)

“A Jamaican Story” (Outliers, pp. 270-286)

**Activity:** N/A

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**Monday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic:** Final Exam Q & A

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**Final Exam: Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**

\*Writing Rubric for Sociology 101

Dimensions	Perfect(100%)	Proficient (80%)	Developing (70%)	**Incomplete (0%)
Mechanics	The work possesses <b><u>no</u></b> spelling or grammar mistakes and perfectly adheres to ASA Style.	The work possesses <b><u>a few</u></b> spelling and grammar mistakes and/or mostly adheres to ASA Style.	The work possesses between <b><u>several</u></b> spelling and grammar mistakes and/or significantly deviates from ASA Style.	The work possesses <b><u>a significant number</u></b> of spelling grammar mistakes, making the work largely unreadable.
Structure	The work possesses all of the elements of a high quality research paper, which are: A strong thesis statement that communicates to the reader the central idea of the paper; clearly defined supporting paragraphs that refer back to the thesis statement; and a conclusion that summarizes main ideas of the paper.	The work possesses at least <b><u>two</u></b> of the elements of a high quality research paper.	The work possesses at only <b><u>one</u></b> of the elements of a high quality research paper.	The work possesses <b><u>none</u></b> of the elements of a high quality research paper.
Clarity of Ideas	The average reader would have no difficulty following the writer's lines of reasoning.	The average reader would have very little difficulty following the writer's lines of reasoning.	The average reader would have some difficulty following the writer's lines of reasoning.	It is unlikely that the average reader could follow the writer's reasoning.
Relevance to Question	The work answers the question completely. The writer demonstrates expert knowledge of the subject.	The work answers the question completely. The writer demonstrates a general understanding of the subject.	The work answers the question completely. The writer demonstrates a basic knowledge of the subject.	The work does not answer the question.
<p>*The final score of the paper is the average of each dimension.</p> <p>**If the paper fits any of the criteria in the incomplete column it will receive an automatic grade of 0.</p>				