
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
SOCY 1001, Spring Semester, 2010

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Graduate Teaching Assistants (see course website for office hours and locations):

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Course Web Page: <http://sobek.colorado.edu/~hunterlm/IntroSoc/SOCY1001.htm> (*capitalization is necessary*)

OVERVIEW: This course provides an introduction to Sociology as a social science. During the semester, we make use of various sociological perspectives to examine social patterns, processes, institutions, as well as social problems. We will use Sociology to help us make sense of our world and a variety of social issues. The Teaching Assistants and myself especially hope that after this course, you can apply your “Sociological Imagination” to better understand the social forces that shape all of our lives.

SPECIFIC AIMS: You should leave this course with:

- ◆ an understanding of several different Sociological perspectives, particularly the *Sociological Imagination*;
- ◆ the ability to apply Sociological perspectives to understand society generally, as well as to understand the causes and consequences of various social problems;
- ◆ insight into the critical link between societal and individual circumstances;
- ◆ appreciation of the myriad components of society and the influence these components have on societal members.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Witt, Jon. 2010 (2nd Ed.). *SOC*. McGraw-Hill: New York, NY.

OTHER

REQUIREMENTS: A registered **iClicker** is also required for use in each class. You will not be able to share an iClicker with another student in this class.

iClicker (<http://www.iclicker.com>). ISBN: 0716779390.

An online subscription to the news magazine, *US News & World Report*, is also required for the course. Professor Hunter will use stories from the news magazine within lecture. *USNWR* stories will also form the basis of weekly writing assignments. A 1-year digital subscription is \$19.95 and you can subscribe at:

<http://www.usnews.com/>

In a large class of this nature, it is imperative that procedures and expectations be clearly outlined. The information set forth below is designed to clearly specify the structure of this course. In order to be fair to all students, this structure is not flexible except for particularly extenuating circumstances. Unless this is the case, **please do not request “bending” of the rules.** It’s just not fair.

FORMAT:

The course is composed of lectures and recitation sections. Lectures take place in Chem 140, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-11:50. In addition, you **must** be enrolled in a recitation section, otherwise you are not enrolled in the general course. Recitations meet weekly and are led by one of the course’s Teaching Assistants (TAs). For most weeks, you will read one chapter of the textbook (Witt 2010) as well as material from *US News & World Report*.

Lectures will focus on textbook material, while weekly discussions in recitation will center on the news magazine stories as explored through textbook material. We will use the news magazine stories to critically consider current events making use of the sociological “lens” supplied by textbook and lecture material. Most weeks, a short writing assignment is also due in recitations.

Required news magazine readings, and related writing assignment, will be posted on the course website at least 4 days before your recitation session.

Professor Hunter and the TAs meet weekly to standardize material covered in recitation sections. As such, although each TA has a unique perspective and teaching style, the core material covered within recitations is similar.

WEB PAGE:

<http://sobek.colorado.edu/~hunterlm/IntroSoc/SOCY1001.htm> (*capitalization is necessary*)

EVALUATION:

Many different components, from both lecture and recitation sections, will make up your course grade. This makes the course far more complicated to manage – but offers you a variety of pathways for you to demonstrate your Sociological skills! We trust this is preferable to having most of the class evaluation bundled into a handful of exams.

Please note, too, the graduated valuation for exams --- more weight is placed on exams as the semester progresses – as your Sociological foundation becomes more firm and your familiarity with the exam format increases.

Exam 1 (Tues, Feb 9, during lecture session)10%
Exam 2 (Thurs, Mar 4, during lecture session)15%
Exam 3 (Thurs, April 8, during lecture session) ...15%
Final (Exam 4) (Tues, May 4, 4:30 pm)20%
Lecture attendance/participation (iClickers)5%
Lecture Factual Clicker Questions Correct5%
Recitation written responses (lowest dropped)20%
Recitation attendance5%
Recitation participation5%

Questions about grades should first be addressed to your TA since he/she has your records. Contact Prof. Hunter if questions remain.

Lecture attendance/participation (5%) Your participation in iClicker questions during lectures (Tues/Thurs) will reflect your lecture session attendance.

You may miss up to six lecture sessions (of the 24 lecture sessions that follow the first week of classes – therefore, you can miss, without penalty, 1/4 of lecture sessions). If you attend class but forgot your clicker, that is counted as a “missed” lecture session. Again, you will **not** be penalized for missing up to six lecture sessions. Still, these six absences need to cover both your excused and unexcused absences, as well as forgotten clickers. Of course, unusual cases of extended and well-documented

illnesses, lengthy jury duty, or similar situations will be considered (contact Dr. Hunter **immediately** upon learning of these situations).

Any absences or forgotten clickers beyond the “free” six will lower your overall attendance grade by 0.5 percentage points of your final grade per additional absence. To be clear, as an example, two additional absences from lecture would reduce a final grade of 90% to a final grade of 89%.

There are no opportunities for “make-up points” for absences beyond the six “free” misses.

Ask your TA if you do not know where you stand on your total number of lecture absences, and they can look it up for you.

Lecture factual iClicker questions correct (5%): There will be at least one factual clicker question per lecture. In addition to general attendance/participation, a portion of your lecture grade is based on correctly responding to the factual clicker question presented during lecture. Five percent of your overall course grade will represent the proportion of correct responses to factual clicker questions throughout the semester – within attended lecture sessions.

Recitation written responses (20%): Most weeks, a typed, printed assignment is due at the beginning of recitation. These are to be double-spaced, no less than 0.75” margins, and no longer than 1 full page.

Weekly recitation assignments are due in printed, hard copy at the **beginning** of your recitation session meeting and are to be handed in to your Teaching Assistant.

All required information for these assignments can be found on the course website:

<http://sobek.colorado.edu/~hunterlm/IntroSoc/SOCY1001.htm> (*capitalization is necessary*)

The lowest grade for a recitation written response will be dropped before we calculate that portion of your overall grade.

Recitation attendance (5%): Recitation attendance is another important part of this course. Students are allowed **three excused absences** from recitation, with an excused absence meaning **prior notification** of your TA that you will be absent (an email sent *prior to start of class* is considered appropriate prior notification).

Excused absences authorize a student to turn in class assignments without penalty *within 4 days* of the missed class and these makeup assignments may be submitted either by email or in hard copy (*only makeups, no other assignments, will be accepted electronically!*).

Again, there can be no more than three excused absences in the semester, so try not to use them up early (unless you must!) This policy is quite generous but requires that you think ahead and plan appropriately.

Other absences will be considered unexcused and will affect your recitation attendance/participation grade. In addition, as mentioned above, **no make-ups** will be allowed for assignments due during a recitation session for which the student has an unexcused absence.

Recitation participation (5%): In addition to simply being present in recitation, your TA will keep track of, and evaluate, your contribution to recitation discussion. This is also worth 5% of your overall course grade – so speak up, participate and stretch that *Sociological Imagination!*

EXPECTATIONS: You are responsible for the material and announcements presented during all lectures, therefore it is your responsibility to get missed notes and announcements from fellow students. Professor Hunter does not give out her lecture notes or presentations.

Also, Professor Hunter makes “housekeeping” announcements detailing administrative information at the **beginning** of each lecture. It is your responsibility to get this information if missed.

Finally, do not disrupt the ability of other students to learn from the lectures; **try not to** arrive late, leave early, read the paper, talk during class, or forget to turn your cell phone off. These behaviors are distracting and disrespectful. Even “facebooking” during lecture is distracting as flashy images catch the eyes of nearby students trying to focus on the class material. Please stay tuned in to class – not the internet.

MAKE-UPS: On missed lecture sessions, there are no make-ups for classes missed beyond the six “free” misses. Remember that these six free misses must cover excused, unexcused absences and forgotten clickers.

On missed recitation sessions, again, there can be no more than three excused absences from recitations, so try not to use them up early (unless you must!) This policy is quite generous but requires that you think ahead and plan appropriately. Other absences will be considered unexcused and will affect your recitation attendance/participation grade. In addition, as mentioned above, **no make-ups** will be allowed for assignments due during a recitation session for which the student has an unexcused absence.

On missed exams, the exam dates are provided below. This calendar is provided early in order that you can identify any potential conflicts as soon as possible. Excused absences from exams are **rarely granted**, must be a result of **extenuating circumstances**, and must be coordinated with Professor Hunter **at least one week in advance** of the absence.

There are no make-ups for the final exam, and anyone **NOT** taking the final (Exam 4) will fail the course, no exceptions. This is a comprehensive exam and is, therefore, important in bringing together the entire semester’s material.

University policy on multiple final exams on same day:

http://registrar.colorado.edu/calendar/exam_sched_spring09.html

If you have three or more final exams scheduled on the same day, you are entitled to arrange an alternative exam time *for the last exam or exams scheduled on that day*. To qualify for rescheduling final exam times, you must provide evidence that you have three or more exams on the same day, and arrangements must be made with your instructor no later than the end of the sixth week of the semester (Friday, February 19th).

MISC: Laptop computers are **NOT** allowed in recitation sections, but may be used in the lecture hall.

On weekly writing assignments, it is fine to discuss the material and explore shared ideas with fellow students. However, **it is imperative that the written work submitted represents your individual effort**. To do otherwise constitutes **plagiarism** which is defined as “the use of another’s ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgment.” (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/acadinteg.html>; Dec 2005). Plagiarism of any nature (including from the internet) will result in a Violation Report being filed with the University’s Honor Code office. We take this very seriously.

Students are responsible for keeping copies of all returned, graded work in the event there is a grade dispute at semester's end. For example, if our course records show an exam score of "85" but you claim you received a "91" but don't have the returned exam, your grade will remain "85."

If you qualify for accommodations because of a **disability**, please submit to Professor Hunter a letter from Disability Services (DS) early in the semester (**by the end of the 3rd week**) so that your needs may be addressed. DS determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (303-492-8671, Willard 322, www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices).

Please review the course schedule ASAP. If you have conflicts between **religious observance** dates and course examinations or assignments, let Professor Hunter or your TA know **by the end of the 3rd week of the semester**.

The University has a **classroom behavior** policy. Students are required to adhere to the behavior standards listed in the Rights and Responsibilities Regarding Standards of Conduct and to refrain from disrupting classes and other academic settings. The specific policy may be found at: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>.

Finally, the University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises that create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: <http://www.colorado.edu/odh/>.

GENERAL TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS

- ◆ A calendar reflecting lecture and recitation topics for specific days can be found following this list.
- ◆ Remember that required news magazine readings, and related writing assignments, will be posted on the course website at least 4 days before your recitation session.

UNDERSTANDING SOCIOLOGY

Examples of topics we will cover:

- ◆ So, what is Sociology?
- ◆ How do you practice Sociology as a science?
- ◆ What is the "Sociological Imagination"?
- ◆ What is Sociological Theory?

Readings:

- ◆ Chapter 1, "The Sociological Imagination" (in Witt, *SOC*)
- ◆ Assigned additional material (as noted on course website)

SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Examples of topics we will cover:

- ◆ What are the steps of the Scientific Method and how does the Sociologist make use of these?
- ◆ What types of research designs, data and analytical techniques are used by Sociologists?
- ◆ What types of ethical considerations guide social research?

Readings and Assignments:

- ◆ Chapter 2, “Sociological Research” (in Witt, *SOC*)
 - ◆ Assigned additional reading material (as noted on course website)
 - ◆ Writing assignment (as noted on course website)
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CULTURE

Examples of topics we will cover:

- ◆ What is culture and what influence does culture have upon social life?
- ◆ What is the difference between material and nonmaterial culture?
- ◆ What is the difference between norms and values? What roles do they play within culture?
- ◆ How does the Sociological perspective shed light on cultural variation?

Readings and Assignments:

- ◆ Chapter 3, “Culture” (in Witt, *SOC*)
 - ◆ Assigned additional reading material (as noted on course website)
 - ◆ Writing assignment (as noted on course website)
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SOCIALIZATION

Examples of topics we will cover:

- ◆ What is socialization and how does it happen?
- ◆ Why is socialization an important social process? What are some specific agents of socialization?
- ◆ What is the debate over “nature” vs. “nurture”?
- ◆ How do Sociologists study the “self” and what does the “self” have to do with socialization?

Readings and Assignments:

- ◆ Chapter 4, “Socialization” (in Witt, *SOC*)
 - ◆ Assigned additional reading material (as noted on course website)
 - ◆ Writing assignment (as noted on course website)
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SOCIAL STRUCTURE & INTERACTION

Examples of topics we will cover:

- ◆ What role does social interaction play in defining reality?
- ◆ What are the elements of social structure? What are the implications of social structure?
- ◆ What is a social status? role? network?

Readings and Assignment:

- ◆ Chapter 5, “Social Structure & Interaction” (in Witt, *SOC*)
 - ◆ Assigned additional reading material (as noted on course website)
 - ◆ Writing assignment (as noted on course website)
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GENDER

Examples of topics we will cover:

- ◆ What is the difference between sex and gender?
- ◆ What is the “social construction” of gender?
- ◆ How is gender related to social stratification? What are the implications of this association?

Readings and Assignment:

- ◆ NOTE: Only pages 265-278 (section on gender) in Chapter 12, “Gender and Age” (in Witt, *SOC*)
- ◆ Assigned additional reading material (as noted on course website)
- ◆ Writing assignment (as noted on course website)

RACE AND ETHNICITY

Examples of topics we will cover:

- ◆ What is the difference between race and ethnicity?
- ◆ What is the difference between prejudice and discrimination? What are their implications?
- ◆ How do Sociologists study race and ethnicity?
- ◆ What types of patterns characterize intergroup relations?

Readings and Assignment:

- ◆ Chapter 13, “Race and Ethnicity” (in Witt, *SOC*)
- ◆ Assigned additional reading material (as noted on course website)
- ◆ Writing assignment (as noted on course website)

DEVIANCE, CONFORMITY, AND SOCIAL CONTROL

Examples of topics we will cover:

- ◆ How do Sociologists define deviance?
- ◆ What different perspectives are used to understand deviance?
- ◆ What are some forms of social control?
- ◆ In Sociological terms, what is conformity? Obedience?

Readings and Assignment:

- ◆ Chapter 6, “Deviance” (in Witt, *SOC*)
- ◆ Assigned additional reading material (as noted on course website)
- ◆ Writing assignment (as noted on course website)

FAMILIES

Examples of topics we will cover:

- ◆ What is the “family” and what roles does the family play in society?
- ◆ Is there only one type of “family”?
- ◆ What type of unique insights are provided by studying the family from different theoretical perspectives?
- ◆ What are the patterns of courtship and mate selection?
- ◆ Why is divorce a social issue?

Readings and Assignment:

- ◆ Chapter 7, “Families” (in Witt, *SOC*)
- ◆ Assigned additional reading material (as noted on course website)
- ◆ Writing assignment (as noted on course website)

SOCIAL CLASS

Examples of topics we will cover:

- ◆ What exactly is stratification? What are some different forms of stratification?
- ◆ How does stratification shape “life chances?”
- ◆ How do Sociologists measure social class? What are consequences of social class?
- ◆ What is social mobility? What type of social mobility characterizes the U.S.?

Readings and Assignment:

- ◆ Chapter 10, “Social Class” (in Witt, *SOC*)
- ◆ Assigned additional reading material (as noted on course website)
- ◆ Writing assignment (as noted on course website)

GLOBAL INEQUALITY

Examples of topics we will cover:

- ◆ What is “The Global Divide?” How did it develop?
- ◆ What is the global movement for human rights? How did it develop?
- ◆ How significant is global stratification? What forces lead to stratification and what are its implications?

Readings and Assignment:

- ◆ Chapter 11 “Global Inequality”
- ◆ Assigned additional reading material (as noted on course website)
- ◆ Writing assignment (as noted on course website)

HEALTH, MEDICINE & ENVIRONMENT

Examples of topics we will cover:

- ◆ What does culture have to do with health?
- ◆ What types of Sociological perspectives are used in the study of health and illness?
- ◆ What is social epidemiology?
- ◆ In what ways can Sociological perspectives be applied to environmental issues?

Readings and Assignment:

- ◆ Chapter 14, “Health, Medicine and Environment” (in Witt, *SOC*)
- ◆ Assigned additional reading material (as noted on course website)
- ◆ Writing assignment (as noted on course website)

SOCIAL CHANGE

Examples of topics we will cover:

- ◆ What are social movements and how do they develop?
- ◆ What are some of the major contemporary forces of social change?
- ◆ What forces resist social change? What are the consequences of social change?

Readings:

- ◆ Chapter 15, “Social Change” (in Witt, *SOC*)
- ◆ No recitation reading or writing assignment for this week.

NOTES:

Use this calendar in combination with the prior weekly reading list to clarify assignments for lecture days as well as YOUR recitation day. Recitations **ARE** also held on days labeled "TAs Agenda." These are days where the TA designs the recitation content. Each recitation has 1 day off through the course of the semester and 2 days with "TAs Agenda."

JANUARY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lectures:	11	12 Review syllabus	13	14 Ch. 1 (Witt) Soc Imagination	15
Recitations:	<i>Introductions, overview</i>		<i>Introductions, overview</i>		<i>Introductions, overview</i>
Lectures:	18 MLK Jr. Holiday	19 Chs 1 & 2 (Witt) Soc Imagination Soc Research	20	21 Ch 2 (Witt) Soc Research	22
Recitations:	<i>No recitations today !</i>		<i>Soc Research (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Soc Research (Witt) USNWR</i>
Lectures:	25	26 Ch 3 (Witt) Culture	27	28 Ch 3 (Witt) Culture	29
Recitations:	<i>Soc Research (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Culture (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Culture (Witt) USNWR</i>
FEBRUARY	1	2 Ch 4 (Witt) Socialization	3	4 Ch 4 (Witt) Socialization	5
Recitations:	<i>Culture (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Socialization (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Socialization (Witt) USNWR</i>
Lectures:	8	9 TEST #1 Covering Lecture & Recitation Material Thus Far	10	11 Ch 5 (Witt) Social Interaction & Social Structure	12
Recitations:	<i>Socialization (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>No recitation today !</i>		<i>Interaction & Structure (Witt) USNWR</i>
Lectures:	15	16 Ch 5 (Witt) Social Interaction & Social Structure	17	18 Ch 12 (Witt) Section on "Gender"	19
Recitations:	<i>Interaction & Structure (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Interaction & Structure: (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Gender (Witt) USNWR</i>
Lectures:	22	23 Ch 12 (Witt) Section on "Gender"	24	25 Ch 13 (Witt) Race & Ethnicity	26
Recitations:	<i>Gender (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Gender (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Race/Ethnicity (Witt) USNWR</i>

MARCH	1	2	3	4	5
Lectures:		Ch 13 (Witt) Race & Ethnicity		TEST #2 Lectures & Recitation Since Test #1	
Recitations:	<i>Race/Ethnicity (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Race/Ethnicity (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>No recitation today!</i>

Lectures:	8	9	10	11	12
		Ch 6 (Witt) Deviance, Conformity, Social Control		Ch 6 (Witt) Deviance, Conformity, Social Control	
Recitations:	<i>TAs Agenda ...</i>		<i>Deviance (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Deviance (Witt) USNWR</i>

Lectures:	15	16	17	18	19
		Ch 7 (Witt) Families		Ch 7 (Witt) Families	
Recitations:	<i>Deviance (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Families (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Families (Witt) USNWR</i>

22	23	24	25	26
SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK

MAR/APRIL

Lectures:	29-Mar	30-Mar	31-Mar	1	2
		Ch 7 (Witt) Families Ch 10 (Witt) Social Class		Ch 10 (Witt) Social Class	
Recitations:	<i>Families (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Social Class (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Social Class (Witt) USNWR</i>

Lectures:	5	6	7	8	9
		Ch 10 (Witt) Social Class		TEST #3 Lectures & Recitations since Test #2	
Recitations:	<i>Social Class (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>TAs Agenda</i>		<i>TAs Agenda</i>

Lectures:	12	13	14	15	16
		Ch 11 (Witt) Global Inequality		Ch 11 (Witt) Global Inequality	
Recitations:	<i>TAs Agenda</i>		<i>Global Inequality (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Global Inequality (Witt) USNWR</i>

Lectures:	19	20	21	22	23
		Ch 14 (Witt) Health, Medicine & Environment		Ch 14 (Witt) Health, Medicine & Environment	
Recitations:	<i>Global Inequality (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Heath, Med, Env (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>Heath, Med, Env (Witt) USNWR</i>

Lectures:	26	27	28	29	30
		Ch 15 (Witt) Social Change		Ch 15 (Witt) Social Change	
Recitations:	<i>Heath, Med, Env (Witt) USNWR</i>		<i>TAs Agenda</i>		<i>TAs Agenda</i>

***** **COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 4th, 4:30 pm**