

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

SOCI-10100-14/Unique 43385/Spring 2010

Textor 101/MWF 11-11:50 AM

Dr. Baker, kmbaker@ithaca.edu; AIM: BakerSoc

Office: Mueller 113, 274-5122

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10 AM – 12 PM; Wednesdays, 3 PM – 4 PM; and by appointment

(You can check my scheduled appointments at <http://ical.me.com/kmbaker34/Office%20Hours>)

TEACHING ASSISTANTS (TAs)

Cindy Concepcion – cconcep1@ithaca.edu

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology is the study of human interaction, and sociologists aim to describe, explain and predict human behavior. The sociological approach takes a step back from the limitations of individual experience to pose broader questions about social and cultural influences upon human activities and world-views. This course offers an introduction to the theories, methodologies, vocabulary, and themes of the discipline of sociology.

GOALS

At the conclusion of this course, you will be able to

1. Articulate the unique perspective of sociologists (as opposed to other disciplines), particularly (1) the types of questions sociologists ask and (2) the ways that sociologists answer those questions;
2. Understand the differences between evidence-based claims and personal opinions/beliefs;
3. Describe and examine social phenomena such as culture, the self, social structure, and inequality;
4. Apply sociological insights to your own lived experience and the world around you.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Thomas J. Sullivan (2009) *Sociology: Concepts and Applications in a Diverse World, 8th Edition*

Jeff Goodwin & James M. Jasper. (2008) *The Contexts Reader*

CONTACTING THE INSTRUCTOR & TAs

The best way to reach all of us is by email. (ONLY LEAVE VOICE MAIL MESSAGES IN EMERGENCIES.) If you have a simple question or need to schedule an appointment, just send one of us an email. Please only email one of us at a time. Each of us will check our email accounts during regular business hours - 9 AM and 5 PM, Monday through Friday. We will respond to emails within 24 hours during these times (emails received over the weekend will receive a reply on Monday). If you have a complicated issue or just want to get to know us better, make an appointment or stop by during my office hours.

NOTE: Any time you send an email, write the name of the course (Intro to Sociology) in the subject line of your email.

You can also contact me during office hours on my AIM chat account (BakerSoc). This is an easy way for you to contact me for short questions. If I do not respond immediately, then I am meeting with another student.

CLASS POLICIES AND YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A STUDENT

1. ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY – You are expected to be on time and to attend class regularly. Do not schedule activities that conflict with class time (such as work, a doctor's appointment, or personal travel time). In-class assignments will be used to verify attendance (see p. 4 for details). If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes and announcements from a fellow classmate. Do not ask me or the TAs for notes.

2. READINGS – The information presented in the readings will serve as a point of departure for class discussion. I expect you to complete all required readings *before* the week listed on the syllabus. Class

discussion will meander. It will include topics from the readings, relevant topics from the headlines, and even insights from your own lives. I will do my best to discuss every reading in class. But class will shift based on your questions and interests. If I do not cover a reading in class, I will most certainly cover it on exams.

There is a substantial reading load throughout the semester. After looking over the syllabus, if you think you cannot or will not do the reading, now is the time to look elsewhere for a class. This acknowledgement is not meant to scare you, just to make you aware that completing the readings will be essential to earning a good grade in this course.

3. SENSITIVITY – Discussions in this course will often involve controversial topics that you may have strong feelings about. I encourage you to express your thoughts on these issues in a manner that is both thoughtful and relevant. I expect you to be courteous toward others by providing your undivided attention to those speaking in class and to avoid making comments that can be construed as personal attacks. The best way to approach this course is to consider all sides of an argument to understand where others may be coming from.

4. CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR - This class is meant to be an enriching, enjoyable learning experience for all of you; disrupting the class results in depriving your fellow classmates and yourself of this experience. Be respectful of your instructor, your fellow classmates, and yourself. The following list provides general guidelines, but is not exhaustive.

- NO TEXTING DURING CLASS. Your phone (and any other personal electronic devices) should not be visible at any point during class time.
- No reading during class unless you are explicitly instructed to do so by me.
- No talking with the people next to you. If you are asking your neighbor a question about the course, it is likely that everyone will benefit if you raise your hand and ask your question of the professor. I can guarantee that at least one other person in the class is thinking about your same question. Everyone benefits from your curiosity.
- No sleeping. No eating meals (e.g. a bag of chips or candy bar is okay, a basket of chicken fingers or a salad is not okay).

If you are behaving inappropriately, I will give you an explicit instruction to stop AND I will count you absent for the day. If I must ask you a second time to stop disruptive behavior (on that same day or on a different day), I will instruct you to leave the class. I reserve the right to withdraw disrespectful and disruptive students from the course.

5. COMPUTER USE POLICY - Students who wish to use their computers to take notes may do so only in the front 2 rows of the classroom. If I catch any student with a computer program opened that is not a word processing program, even if a word processing program is also opened, you will lose the privilege to use your computer in class for the remainder of the semester. Browsing, IM-ing, emailing, or any type of computer use for self-amusement is unacceptable. If I demand to see your computer, you will take your hands off the keyboard instantly. Any delay, and any keystroke activity, even for just a second, will be perceived as evidence of violating the laptop policy.

6. CLASS WEBSITES – The primary website for this class is <http://IntroSoc.kimberlymbaker.com>. On this website, you will find copies of course documents (syllabus, assignments, etc.), links and further information about individual single class session, and important announcements. I will update this site regularly. This site is a wonderful opportunity for us to interact outside of class. So, when you find interesting things you want to share with others or when you have thoughts about what we have been talking about in class, you should add comments. I also encourage you to respond to others' comments. **If you find any section of the website that is password protected, the password is "Ithaca".**

Blackboard – I will post your grades on Blackboard (<http://courses.ithaca.edu>). If you have problems with this site, you need to contact the ITS Help Desk (274-3282). If you find that any of your information on the site is unavailable or incorrect, contact me via email as soon as possible.

7. **ACADEMIC HONESTY** – Dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. During this course, you may submit for evaluation only work that is your own and that is submitted originally for this course. Forms of conduct that will be considered evidence of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- Turning in a in-class assignment for another student who is not present
- Conversations between students during an exam
- Reviewing material during an examination (e.g. personal notes, another students' exam)
- Unauthorized collaboration on an assignment (e.g. discussing your answers to assignment questions prior to submission)
- Submission of written material previously submitted for credit in another course
- Submission without proper acknowledgement of work that is based partially or entirely on the ideas or writings of others (traditionally, this is referred to as plagiarism)

Violation of the academic honesty policy will in an automatic F in the course and a report to judicial affairs. Take some time to review the college policy at <http://www.ithaca.edu/attorney/policies/index.html>.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have a documented disability (physical or cognitive) and require academic accommodations, contact the Office of Academic Support Services for Students with Disabilities at 274-1257 (voice) or 274-7319 (TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. Please notify me as soon as possible of any documented accommodations. Alternative exam times must be scheduled with Support Services at least 1 week prior to the exam time and should be scheduled during our class time.

EVALUATION

The final grade in this course will be determined as follows:

Assignments (4 x 15%)	60%
Exams (2 x 15%)	30%
In-Class Assignments	<u>10%</u>
	100%

1) Assignments – A series of 5 assignments are scheduled throughout the semester. These assignments are designed to provide an opportunity for you to apply course material to your own life and the world around you. I will calculate your final grade using only your 4 highest grades. Detailed instructions for each assignment will be posted on the course website.

All assignments must be printed and handed in on or before the due date. All items must be stapled together with your name clearly written on each page. If you will be absent on the day that an assignment is due, you may (1) turn the assignment in early, (2) ask a classmate to turn your assignment in for you, or (3) turn the assignment in at the Sociology Department office (Mueller 106). **EMAIL ATTACHMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

2) Exams: Two exams are scheduled for this course – a midterm and a final. The midterm exam will cover lecture and required reading material from the first half of the class. The final exam will cover lecture material and required readings from the second half of the course. Please note that although the final exam is given during the final exam period, the final exam is **NOT** comprehensive. The exams will include multiple choice, true-false, and short answer essay questions.

3) In-Class Assignments: A number of in-class assignments (such as quick-writes, quizzes and group activities) will be given throughout the semester. All in-class assignments are graded on a credit/no-credit basis. These assignments will serve a number of purposes. First, I will use them to verify that you are doing

the required reading. Second, I will also use assignments to make sure that everyone is processing the ideas we are discussing in class. Finally, since I do not call roll in this class, assignments will be used to reward students for good attendance. Thus, it is likely that I will give an assignment on a low attendance day.

- You must be present in class to receive credit for an in-class assignment. **No make ups will be allowed for students who are late or absent** (excused or unexcused).
- If you miss an in-class assignment, you can earn make-up credit by posting a thoughtful and substantial comment on the course website (<http://IntroSoc.kimberlymbaker.com>). You can earn credit for a maximum of 3 in-class assignments. You will need to use your full name or your IC username when you enter your comments to receive credit.
- If you miss 3 or more in-class assignments *before* Spring Break you may be dropped from the course for excessive absences.
- Any student with who misses half (or more) of the in-class assignments at the end of the semester may receive a final grade of F for having excessive absences.

ADDITIONAL GRADING NOTES:

Late/Make-up Policy: ONLY students with an excused absence will be allowed to make up exams or avoid late penalties on assignments. To qualify as an excused absence, you must (1) have a valid, verifiable, and unavoidable excuse; and (2) have contacted me **PRIOR** to the absence to notify me of your circumstances. (*Read that last sentence again, because I really mean it.*) Failure to contact me in advance or failure to have a verifiable conflict with the test or assignment will result in a zero. Legitimate excuses include school-related travel, serious illness, or death of a loved one, but do not include personal travel, doctor's appointments, or work schedule. In addition:

- Make-up exams must be scheduled within 1 week and may be given in essay format.
- All late assignments will be penalized 10 points per day (including weekends). Any assignment more than 5 days late will receive an automatic zero.
- Missed in-class assignments cannot be made up.

If, during the semester, you experience some kind of issue that affects your ability to do work for this class, you need to contact me as soon as possible to discuss your options. You do not need to give me tons of personal details, but you do need to communicate with me about your situation. When students turn work in late or fail to turn in work, I generally assume that means that the student does not care about her or his grade. If this assumption is not accurate, it is your responsibility to let me know. This kind of issue is best discussed in my office (not over email and not before/after class).

FINAL GRADE ASSIGNMENT

The final grades will be based upon the following grading scale:

100-97.0	A(+)	96.9-93.5	A	93.4-90.0	A-
89.9-87.0	B+	86.9-83.5	B	83.4-80.0	B-
79.9-77.5	C+	77.4-73.5	C	73.4-70.0	C-
69.9-67.5	D+	67.4-63.5	D	63.4-60.0	D-
59.9 or below	F				

Further comments on grades: Make a commitment to excellence in this class. In other words, do not be satisfied with a minimum effort. I will not promise you easy credit for this course. But I can guarantee that if you stay engaged in what we are doing, you will learn a great deal about yourself and the world around you. And, frankly, this class can be both enriching and a lot of fun.

I know many of you have general concerns about your GPAs (because of scholarships, academic status, your parents, etc.). You should know now that your grade is earned based on the quality of your work throughout the semester. As a general rule, I do not assign extra credit projects. Do not plan on it and do not ask me

about it. Applying yourself throughout the semester is a vastly better way to pass any class than scurrying around at the last minute.

Furthermore, you I WILL NOT CHANGE GRADES FOR ANY REASON other than an error on my part. Do not request adjustments for being “close.” With respect to any individual grade, I will entertain requests for re-grades of specific exam questions and assignment issues, but such requests (1) must be submitted in writing, with a specific description of what part of the grading you believe was incorrect and a thorough argument as to why you believe I made an error; and (2) must occur within one week of grades being posted.

What should you do if are concerned about your grade? I encourage you to come and talk to me immediately. My door is always open to you. The more proactive you are, the more I can help. *Do not wait until the end of the semester or right before an exam to discuss matters such as grades or comprehension problems.*

SCHEDULE

NOTE: Schedule subject to change. Check course website regularly for updates.

WEEK 1 (Jan 25-29): Introduction

Group 1: Contexts Ch 18
Group 2: Contexts Ch 34
Group 3: Contexts Ch 62

WEEK 2 (Feb 1-5): Sociological Perspectives

Sullivan Ch 1
Contexts Ch 14, 15 & 64

WEEK 3 (Feb 8-12): Culture

Sullivan Ch 2
Contexts Ch 16
Feb 12 – Assignment 1 Due

WEEK 4 (Feb 15-19): Culture More Complicated

Contexts Ch 8, 19, & 20

WEEK 5 (Feb 22-26): The Self

Sullivan Ch 3
Contexts Ch 1

WEEK 6 (Mar 1 -5): Socialization

Contexts Ch 3 & 4
Mar 5 – Assignment 2 Due

WEEK 7 (Mar 8-9): Deviance & Social Control

Mar 8 - MIDTERM
Sullivan Ch 5
Contexts Ch 22 & 49

WEEK 8 (Mar 15-19): SPRING BREAK

*****No Class*****

WEEK 9 (Mar 22-26): Inequality – Social Class

Sullivan Ch 6
Contexts Ch 6

WEEK 10 (Mar 29-Apr 2): Inequality – Poverty

Contexts Ch 23, 24 & 46
Apr 2 – Assignment 3 Due

WEEK 11 (Apr 5-Apr 9): Inequality – Race & Ethnicity

Sullivan Ch 7
Contexts Ch 35, 37

WEEK 12 (Apr 12-16): Inequality – Race & Ethnicity

Contexts Ch 13, 38, 39 & 40
Apr 16 – Assign 4 Due

WEEK 13 (Apr 26-30): Inequality – Sex & Gender

Sullivan Ch 8
Contexts Ch 32 & 33

WEEK 14 (May 3-7): Inequality – Sexuality

Contexts Ch 9, 30, 31
May 3 – Assign 5 Due

FINAL EXAM