



Introduction to Sociology

SOC 1100

3 undergraduate credits

Instructor: Dr. Patricia Arend

Office Hours: Use email or come to office hours via Google Meet with questions.

Tuesday mornings 9-10am: <https://meet.google.com/unz-htre-akt?hs=122&authuser=0>

Thursday evenings 9-10pm. <https://meet.google.com/mce-jbax-bgh?hs=122&authuser=0>

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Instructions: Please use your Fitchburg State email account when contacting me.

Course Website: blackboard.fitchburgstate.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

What is the aim of sociological inquiry? What types of issues do sociologists address? How does one do sociology? This course is designed to provide you with an overview of the field of sociology as well as get you excited about sociology! Sociological inquiry has incredible breadth spanning the study of large scale social change including industrialization of economy, the growth of bureaucratic systems of power, urbanization of population, and the small scale social interactions of human beings in everyday life. It is not social work, therapy, or human services. Over the course of the semester, you will become familiar with sociological theories, methods, and key sociological concepts. We will examine the ways that societies are built, the ways they are maintained and change, and the problems they generate for individuals and communities. In doing so, we will consider how people create, make sense of, reproduce, and/or challenge the meaning and experience of everyday life. The goal of this course is to provoke thought about what we take for granted as “natural” about social order, in order that we may think more critically about the ways our social interactions create, reinforce and challenge the cultural practices and social institutions that shape our lives. Most importantly, you will learn to think with a “sociological imagination.”

COURSE GOALS:

- To learn what a sociological imagination is and be able to use it to make sense of social life, including one’s own experience in society.
- To equip students with a working knowledge of the basic concepts in sociology.
- To introduce students to the central subjects and problems on which sociologists work and how they are studied, especially social inequality.
- To foster and improve critical thinking, reading and writing skills.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Apply your sociological imagination.
- Describe the major theoretical perspectives of sociology and use these theories to examine the various topics.
- Examine and explain systems of stratification.
- Read, reflect on and apply sociological concepts to one’s own life and contemporary society.

TEXTS:

REVEL for *The Sociology Project: Essentials: Introducing the Sociological Imagination*. You cannot take this course without purchasing this online content. REVEL is an online system to which you can connect through Blackboard. It includes a digital textbook (*The Sociology Project: Essentials*) videos, quizzes, and more. You can find the link to REVEL in the sidebar on the left hand side of the Blackboard homepage for our course. When you click on the link for REVEL, another link with “Open REVEL” and a Pearson logo will appear in the main window. Click on that link to open REVEL. You will need to enter an access code here to activate the software. You may also purchase it here with a credit card if you have not already purchased it. You cannot purchase a used code; it will not work. You can find everything you need for the REVEL assignments by clicking on “Dashboard” inside of REVEL. The system allows you to start with a free, two-week trial account. If you do this, note that once you have the code you paid for you will need to link the accounts. Do not start over with a new account or you will lose all of your work. Dr. Arend can help you with this process, so ask for help.

ASSESSMENTS/COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

REVEL Assignments

Within REVEL for *The Sociology Project: Essentials* you are assigned ten chapters total. For each chapter you are required to read the chapter and view all videos embedded within it. You must also take the short module-quizzes as you read, to help with reading comprehension, and then take a final chapter quiz at the end. You are given three chances to answer the quiz questions. Note that there is a one point deduction for each miss. You must also complete the shared writing section of each chapter. The “journals” portion of each chapter is not graded, but you are encouraged to complete them for your own learning process. Deadlines for each chapter can be found in the course outline. Research has shown that it takes students longer to try to cheat the system by skimming or looking for answers online than to complete the assigned reading thoroughly and answer correctly the first time. Get your money’s worth: read thoroughly and take notes.

Class Participation

Class participation consists of reading other students’ shared writing posts and making substantive comments on them. For it to be a “substantive comment” you must include more than “That’s a good point.” Imagine you are in a physical classroom. What would you want to say to someone who made such a comment? So you agree or disagree with them. Why? What comes to mind for you? Can you connect it to some aspect of your own life or, more importantly, to course material? What sociological questions does it raise for you?

Comments can be posted on any shared writing for the first five chapters up to 11:59pm on Sunday, July 25th. Comments for the last five chapters are due by 11:59pm on Monday, August 9th. **The earlier, more frequently, and more substantively you comment, the better your class participation grade will be.** Do not wait until the last minute. When you wait it makes it difficult to have full conversations with your peers. You are not necessarily online at the same time.

Students are encouraged to respond to comments on their posts, so as to foster dialogue with each other. I will count that as part of your class participation. However, everyone must comment on someone else’s post at least once per chapter.

Writing

There are two short papers assigned in this course, in addition to the shared writing in each chapter of *The Sociology Project*. Each should be 500-1000 words. The prompts and deadlines can be found on the dashboard in Revel. You may submit them early if you would like. Note that the system will provide you feedback so that you can make revisions before the final deadline. Take advantage of this feature to work on your writing. Use college level grammar and spelling. Do not copy anything from the internet. The system will scan for plagiarism. If you quote someone else's words without citing them properly you will receive no credit for the assignment. You may quote your textbook, but if you do be sure you use quotation marks and include the section number where the quote can be found. If you do not understand, ask Dr. Arend for help.

Exams

The midterm and final exams are multiple choice and true/false in format. You can find them in the Assignments folder in Blackboard (not REVEL).

COURSE OUTLINE:

All assignments are due ON THE DUE DATE listed, not later than 11:59pm.

Due Date	Topic	Assignments
	Introduction to the Course	
WEEK1	Course Begins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Buy Revel-<i>The Sociology Project: Essentials</i> online through the course website and login through Blackboard. Do not go through the external Pearson website. Do not buy it used; it will not work. o Read the syllabus. ALL of it. The students who have failed this class in the past tend NOT to have read the syllabus. Consider yourself warned.
	Introduction to the course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Introduce yourself to the class on the discussion board in Blackboard (BB) (not Revel). Explore Revel.
	The Sociological Imagination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Watch: https://mediaplayer.pearsoncmg.com/assets/video.true/sociology-2017-blue chalk videos-what is sociology o Read chapter one and view all videos in Revel. o Take module quizzes while reading. o Post shared writing. o Take chapter one quiz at the end of the chapter. o Comment on other students' shared writing.
Part I	Fundamental Concepts	
	Social Theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Read chapter two and view all videos in Revel. o Take module quizzes while reading. o Post shared writing. o Take chapter two quiz at the end of the chapter. o Comment on other students' shared writing.
WEEK2	Social Interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Read chapter three and view all videos in Revel. o Take module quizzes while reading. o Post shared writing. o Take chapter three quiz at the end of the chapter.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comment on other students' shared writing.
	Social Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read chapter four and view all videos in Revel. ○ Take module quizzes while reading. ○ Post shared writing. ○ Take chapter four quiz at the end of the chapter. ○ Comment on other students' shared writing.
	Inequality and Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watch: https://mediaplayer.pearsoncmg.com/assets/video.true/sociology_2017_blue_chalk_videos-dual_perspectives ○ Read chapter five and view all videos in Revel. ○ Take module quizzes while reading. ○ Post shared writing. ○ Take chapter five quiz at the end of the chapter. ○ Comment on other students' shared writing.
	Part I Class Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All comments on shared writing for Part I must be posted by midnight.
WEEK3	Writing Assignment I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submit in Revel.
	Midterm Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The exam is in the assignments folder in Blackboard, not Revel. You have 24 hours to take it.
Part II	Social Inequality & Institutions	
	Race and Ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watch: https://mediaplayer.pearsoncmg.com/assets/video.true/sociology_2017_blue_chalk_videos-s-is_racism_toxic ○ Read chapter six and view all videos in Revel. ○ Take module quizzes while reading. ○ Post shared writing. ○ Take chapter six quiz at the end of the chapter. ○ Comment on other students' shared writing.
	Gender and Sexuality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watch: https://mediaplayer.pearsoncmg.com/assets/video.true/sociology-2017-blue_chalk_videos-gender_socialization ○ Read chapter seven and view all videos in Revel. ○ Take module quizzes while reading. ○ Post shared writing. ○ Take chapter seven quiz at the end of the chapter. ○ Comment on other students' shared writing.
WEEK4	Families and Family Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watch: https://mediaplayer.pearsoncmg.com/assets/video.true/sociology-2017-blue_chalk_videos-who_gets_married ○ Read chapter eight and view all videos in Revel. ○ Take module quizzes while reading. ○ Post shared writing. ○ Take chapter eight quiz at the end of the chapter. ○ Comment on other students' shared writing.
	Markets,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watch:

	Organizations and Work	https://mediaplayer.pearsoncmg.com/assets/video.true/sociology-2017-blue chalk videos-gig economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read chapter nine and view all videos in Revel. ○ Take module quizzes while reading. ○ Post shared writing. ○ Take chapter nine quiz at the end of the chapter. ○ Comment on other students' shared writing.
	Power and Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watch: https://mediaplayer.pearsoncmg.com/assets/video.true/sociology 2017 blue chalk vid eos-term limits ○ Read chapter twelve and view all videos in Revel. ○ Take module quizzes while reading. ○ Post shared writing. ○ Take chapter twelve quiz at the end of the chapter. ○ Comment on other students' shared writing.
WEEK5	Part II Class Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All comments on shared writing posts for Part II must be posted by midnight.
	Writing Assignment II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submit in Revel.
	Final Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The exam is in the assignments folder in Blackboard, not Revel. You have 24 hours to take it.
	Last Day of Class	

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE GRADING POLICY and COURSE EVALUATION

- Revel quizzes and shared writing (20%)
- Other writing assignments in Revel (10% each or 20%)
- Class participation (comments on shared writing) (10%)
- Midterm Exam (25%)
- Final Exam (25%)

<u>4.0</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>95 –100</u>
<u>3.7</u>	<u>A-</u>	<u>92 – 94</u>
<u>3.5</u>	<u>A-/B+</u>	<u>89 - 91</u>
<u>3.3</u>	<u>B+</u>	<u>86 – 88</u>
<u>3.0</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>83 – 85</u>
<u>2.7</u>	<u>B-</u>	<u>80 – 82</u>
<u>2.5</u>	<u>B-/C+</u>	<u>77 – 79</u>
<u>2.3</u>	<u>C+</u>	<u>74 – 76</u>
<u>2.0</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>71 – 73</u>
<u>1.7</u>	<u>C-</u>	<u>69 – 70</u>

<u>1.5</u>	<u>C-/D+</u>	<u>67 – 68</u>
<u>1.3</u>	<u>D+</u>	<u>64 – 66</u>
<u>1.0</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>60 – 63</u>
<u>0.0</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>0 – 59</u>
-	<u>IN</u>	<u>Incomplete</u>
-	<u>IP</u>	<u>In Progress</u>
-	<u>W</u>	<u>Withdrawn</u>

CLASS POLICIES:

Submission of Assignments

Please submit all written assignments via Blackboard and REVEL. Assignments may not be submitted by email.

Late Coursework

Due to the condensed nature of the course, no late assignments will be accepted unless there is an emergency of some sort. Please contact the professor as soon as possible.

Communication

Dr. Arend will post all class messages to the announcements page on Blackboard. Please review Blackboard daily. Any email communication will be done through your Fitchburg State email account. Please be sure your account is up to date and check your email regularly.

Modifications to Syllabus

You are responsible for any/all changes to the syllabus announced in an email or posted on Blackboard.

Class Environment

By nature, sociology involves the study of some controversial social issues. Becoming educated people requires that we not shy away from them, but rather learn how to address them tactfully. You are not going to agree with each other on some issues, but you should be respectful in your communication.

POLICY ON DISABILITY

Fitchburg State University encourages the full participation of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of campus living and learning. To support access and inclusion, FSU offers reasonable accommodations to students who have documented disabilities (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, sensory, etc.). If you require accommodations for this class, please provide me with a copy of your Accommodation Agreement as soon as possible so that we can discuss your specific needs. Any information that you share with me will be held in the strictest confidence, unless you give me permission to do otherwise. If you require academic accommodations but do not have an Accommodation Agreement, please contact Disability Services as soon as possible to establish your eligibility for services.

GRADE APPEAL

If you disagree with the evaluation of your work or believe an improper grade has been assigned, an appeal may be followed. Please discuss the matter with the instructor and refer to the Fitchburg State University Grade Appeal Policy in the university catalog.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

This course will adhere to the university's policies on academic integrity, as outlined in the Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Processes Handbook, which may be downloaded as a PDF file from the website of the Office of Student Conduct, Mediation and Education: <http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/offices-services-directory/office-of-student-conduct-mediation-education/academic-integrity/>

Fitchburg State University encourages all Extended Campus students to take advantage of our online student services. We have created a "virtual student center" just for you. Here you will find access to Counseling Services, Career Services, The Student Activity Center, the university bookstore and many other helpful links. You can access our student center by going to the university homepage at <http://www.fitchburgstate.edu> and clicking on Offices and Services. Scroll down and click on Extended Campus Center. You will find links to Library Services, our Virtual Student Center and other important information.

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY DISTANCE LEARNING & EXTENDED CAMPUS LIBRARY SERVICES

The Gallucci-Cirio Library at Fitchburg State University provides a full range of library services including borrowing privileges; document delivery (books and articles mailed to your home); Interlibrary Loan; reference assistance via: phone, email, IM, Blackboard's Collaboration and Elluminate tools, Skype and in-person; library instruction; research help and more. Any questions relating to library services should be directed to the Linda LeBlanc, Access Services Librarian, at 978-665-3062 or dllibrary@fitchburgstate.edu. There is also a special section for Distance Learning and Extended Campus Services at <http://fitchburgstate.libguides.com/dlservices> outlining the wide range of services available to you and how to access them.

Students who are currently registered with the university may access any of the library's subscription databases, including an increasing number with full-text, by visiting the Gallucci-Cirio Library's homepage at <http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/academics/library> and clicking on the Research Databases button in the center of the page. Select the resource you want to access from the alphabetical or subject listing. Once you click on the database title you will be prompted for your Falcon Key logon information; this is the same logon you will use for your Fitchburg State email account and if you have any online Blackboard courses. If you do not know your Falcon Key username and password or if you have any problems logging in, contact the university's Technology Help Desk at 978-665-4500 or helpdesk@fitchburgstate.edu. The Library can issue you a temporary guest Falcon Key to use while the Technology Department is setting up your account: contact us at 978-665-3062 or dllibrary@fitchburgstate.edu