

**Department of Sociology**

<b>Instructor:</b>	<b>Dr. Elizabeth Withers</b>
<b>Office:</b>	Cramer Hall 217C
<b>Availability:</b>	Zoom or phone office hours by appointment
<b>Email:</b>	elizabew@pdx.edu
<b>Course Title:</b>	Introduction to Sociology
<b>CRN:</b>	15416
<b>Credits:</b>	4
<b>Course Meeting Schedule:</b>	Fully Online and Asynchronous

**Course Description**

This course introduces students to the major concepts, theories, and research methods of the discipline of sociology. Sociology is the study of all aspects of society. Sociologists seek to understand how human behavior and beliefs are shaped by the social arrangements under which we live. The goal of this course is to introduce students to the basic concepts and theories of sociology and to understand how sociology is useful for understanding the social world. Sociology is more than acquiring knowledge. It also involves developing a sociological imagination. This class will challenge you to think critically about existing social arrangements and their effect on your life as well as the lives of others. Studying sociology leads us to see that we construct society and are in turn shaped by it.

**Course Goals**

The course is designed to encourage students to develop and use their sociological imaginations in everyday life, throughout their experience as students, and in future careers. In addition, this course is designed to encourage students to accomplish the following:

1. Understand major social theories and research techniques in sociology.
2. Recognize how culture shapes the way we view the world and identify factors that contribute to cultural differences between and within societies.
3. Analyze the various dimensions of social and cultural diversity in American Society, including class, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and ability/disability.
4. Develop the ability to think critically about the social world.
5. Apply sociological knowledge regarding social inequalities to explain how systems of power and oppression shape our lives and influence efforts to advance social justice and equity.

**Course Format and Expectations**

First and foremost, no racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism or any other hate speech/intimidation will be tolerated.

This is a fully online course. Unlike courses that have been designed for remote learning during covid, this course is fully asynchronous and is designed to be accessible to students with varying schedules. In

other words, we will not be meeting virtually, rather each week you will complete each module at your own pace and in accordance with your own personal weekly schedule.

Each Module will cover one chapter from the textbook and will include some combination of reading, videos, recorded lectures, written reflections or learning activities.

### **Required Texts**

- **Course Text:** For this course we will be using the Center for Open Education text, *Introduction to Sociology 3e*. The textbook is free and openly available online at: [openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e](https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e)
- **Additional Readings:** Occasionally I will assign additional articles / excerpts available via Canvas. It is your responsibility to be aware of new reading assignments posted via Canvas.

### Technology:

This course requires students to regularly access the course site on Canvas. Course announcements, materials, discussions, assignments, and quizzes will all be posted/administered via the course site. It is vital that students have the technology and connection needed to check the site on a daily basis. Furthermore, this course requires that students have both the internet access and digital literacy skills needed to navigate/search the web, use email, attach and upload documents, and download and save files.

### **Course Requirements**

I have tried to design this course to be both rigorous and achievable. According to PSU's Academic Planning page students should expect to spend around 3-4 hours studying for every credit taken each week. As a 4 credit course that means you should expect to work around 12-16 hours per week. When planning for this course I have taken these time frames into account and believe you should each be able to complete the weekly reading and assignments reasonably within that time. That said, if you find that you are struggling to complete the reading and assignments within 16 hours each week please feel free to reach out and we can discuss a plan of action.

### Online Learning Activities (40%)

Each module will include some kind of online learning activity. These will vary in form but may include written reflections, partner activities, games, video responses, etc. These assignments will be pass/fail.

### Group Discussion Participation (20%)

Each week there will be a discussion question posted to your discussion group forum. You will be asked to respond to the prompt as well as two other classmate's posts. [More detail regarding the requirements for the discussion question participation can be found here.](#) Participation in each discussion will be worth 10 points toward your Group Discussion Participation grade.

### Weekly Quiz (15%)

Each week there will be an open material quiz covering the modules from that week. Quiz questions will be multiple choice, true/false, and short answers. You may take each quiz as many times as you like and your highest score will be counted towards your Weekly Quiz grade.

### Final Exam (25%)

There will be a final exam consisting of short essay answer questions (no multiple choice or true/false questions). You will be tested on materials from each of the modules. The exam is open material and you are expected to utilize your textbook, lectures, videos, group discussions, and other assigned materials as you compose your answers and demonstrate your understanding of the concepts covered throughout the course.

### **Make-up Policies**

These are unprecedented times and we are each faced with unique challenges and barriers. As such, I will accept all late work for full credit with the exception of the final exam. Further, I believe we learn best when we are able to make mistakes, learn from them, and correct them. As such, I will accept revised work for full credit as well, again with the exception of the final exam. I simply ask that you use these allowances only when needed.

### **Flexibility Statement**

I reserve the right to modify course content and/or substitute assignments and learning activities in response to institutional or class situations.

**Course Calendar/Schedule** *(subject to change)*

Week 1	9/26 - 10/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Orientation to course structure and requirements</li> <li>● Introduction to instructor and fellow students</li> </ul>
Week 2	10/2 - 10/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ch. 1 – An Introduction to Sociology</li> <li>● Ch. 2 – Sociological Research</li> </ul>
Week 3	10/9 - 10/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ch. 3 – Culture</li> <li>● Ch. 4 – Society and Social Interaction</li> <li>● Ch. 5 – Socialization</li> </ul>
Week 4	10/16 - 10/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ch. 7 – Deviance, Crime, and Social Control</li> <li>● Ch. 8 – Media and Technology</li> </ul>
Week 5	10/23 - 10/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ch. 9 – Social Stratification in the United States</li> <li>● Ch. 10 – Global Inequality</li> </ul>
Week 6	10/30 - 11/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ch. 11 – Race and Ethnicity</li> <li>● Ch. 12 – Gender, Sex, and Sexuality</li> </ul>
Week 7	11/6 - 11/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ch. 14 – Relationships, Marriage, and Family</li> <li>● Ch. 15 – Religion</li> <li>● Ch. 16 – Education</li> </ul>
Week 8	11/13 - 11/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ch. 17 – Government and Politics</li> <li>● Ch. 18 – Work and the Economy</li> </ul>
Week 9	11/20 - 11/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ch. 19 – Health and Medicine</li> </ul>
Week 10	11/27 - 12/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ch. 20 – Population, Urbanization, and the Environment</li> <li>● Ch. 21 – Social Movements and Social Change</li> </ul>
Finals	12/4 - 12/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Final Exam due by Midnight on Wed (12/7)</li> </ul>

## **PSU Policies and Resources**

### **Academics**

#### *PSU Grading System*

Undergraduate:

<http://pdx.smartcatalogiq.com/2021-2022/Bulletin/Undergraduate-Studies/Grading-System-for-Undergraduates>

Drop/Withdraw Deadline:

<http://pdx.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2021-2022/Bulletin/Academic-Calendar>

#### *Academic Integrity*

Academic integrity is a vital part of the educational experience at PSU. Please see the [PSU Student Code of Conduct](#) for the university's policy on academic dishonesty. A confirmed violation of that Code in this course may result in failure of the course.

#### *Incomplete Policy*

Students do not have a right to receive or demand an Incomplete grade. The option of assigning an Incomplete grade is at the discretion of the instructor when the following criteria are met.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Required satisfactory course completion/participation.
2. Reasonable justification for the request.
3. Incomplete grade is not a substitute for a poor grade.
4. Written agreement. (See [Incomplete Contract](#))
5. Resolving the Incomplete.

For the full Incomplete Policy see

<https://www.pdx.edu/registration/grading-system#/?section=incompletegradei>

### **Student Services**

#### *Disability Access Statement*

If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 503-725-4150, [drc@pdx.edu](mailto:drc@pdx.edu), <https://www.pdx.edu/disability-resource-center/>.

#### *Safe Campus Statement*

Portland State University desires to create a safe campus for our students. As part of that mission, PSU requires all students to take the learning module entitled Creating a Safe Campus: Preventing Gender Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Assault. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources on PSU's Enrollment

Management & Student Affairs: Sexual Prevention & Response website at <http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault>

### *Student Food Security*

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact Committee for Improving Student Food Security for support at [foodhelp@pdx.edu](mailto:foodhelp@pdx.edu). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable her to provide any resources that she may possess.

### *Title IX Reporting*

As an instructor, students frequently come to me for assistance in matters that are not related to the course material. Please be aware that PSU's policies require instructors to report any instance of sexual harassment, sexual and relationship violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination to University Officials, who keep the information private. If you would rather share information about these experiences with a PSU staff member who does not have these reporting responsibilities and can keep the information confidential, please contact one of the following campus resources.

- Confidential Advocates: 503.894.7982, or by [scheduling online](#) (for matters regarding sexual harassment and sexual and relationship violence)
- Center for Student Health and Counseling ([SHAC](#)): 1880 SW 6th Ave, 503.725.2800
- [Student Legal Services](#): 1825 SW Broadway, (SMSU) M343, 503.725.4556 For more information, please complete the required student module Understanding Sexual Misconduct and Resources in D2L.

[PSU Sexual Misconduct Response website](#) gives you comprehensive information about how to support and/or report an incident.

Please complete the required student module [Understanding Sexual Misconduct and Resources](#) in Canvas, which provides information about PSU policy and resources.

### *Cultural Resource Centers*

The Cultural Resource Centers (CRCs) create a student-centered inclusive environment that enriches the university experience. We honor diversity, explore social justice issues, celebrate cultural traditions, and foster student identities, success, and leadership. Our centers include the Multicultural Student Center, La Casa Latina Student Center, Native American Student & Community Center, Pan African Commons, Pacific Islander, Asian, Asian American Student Center and the Middle Eastern, North African, South Asian program. We provide student leadership, employment, and volunteer opportunities; student resources such as computer labs, event, lounge and study spaces; and extensive programming. All are welcome!

### **Technology**

We may use technology for virtual meetings and recordings in this course. Our use of such technology is governed by FERPA, the [Acceptable Use Policy](#) and PSU's [Student Code of Conduct](#). A record of all meetings and recordings is kept and stored by PSU, in accordance with the Acceptable Use Policy and FERPA. Your instructor will not share recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, TAs/GAs/Mentors, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners that we may engage with. **You may not share recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.**