

**Instructor:** Barbara Imle

**Office Hours:** By appointment via Zoom/telephone

**Email:** bimle@pdx.edu

**Course Title:** Introduction to Sociology

**CRN:** 43188

**Credits:** 4

**Course Location:** Canvas

**Course Meeting Schedule:** Asynchronous (no “live” meetings)

## Course Description

This course is fully online and is available to you at all times. There are no required meetings (in person or remote). This course introduces students to the basic conceptual framework of the study of human societies. We will discover new ways to think about ourselves and our roles in society by examining social and economic inequalities, and will explore diverse perspectives in the world around us.

## Course Outcomes/Learning Objectives

Students who complete this course will emerge with an understanding of the foundations of sociology, including theories used in trying to explain society and its complexities, as well as the methods used to investigate the major structures and processes of social life. Upon completing this class, students should be able to engage with and apply their “sociological imagination” to think critically about the social world.

## Required Materials

### Books

- **Sociology: Understanding and changing the social world.** 2016 University of Minnesota open access edition. Available for free at: <https://open.lib.umn.edu/sociology/>
- **The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life, Practice, and Promise.** 2008 by Allan Johnson. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. You can find affordable, used copies online (eg Amazon, eBay etc.). While I encourage you to purchase your own copy, you can alternatively access this book for free through our library’s Course Reserves.

### Work through Canvas

- **Canvas account:** Canvas is PSU’s online learning platform. This is where you will find content (readings, homework assignments, quizzes, etc.) for this class. Before you can access Canvas, you will need to establish an Odin account. Instructions on how to create an Odin account can be found on PSU’s website. Once you have set up an Odin account, you can access the Canvas page for this class.

## Course Structure

### Attendance and Make-up Policies

Since we will not be meeting in person, it is imperative that you stay up to date with readings and assignments. I understand that many of you work, have families, and that we are in the midst of a global pandemic. All of these things may (or may not) interfere with your personal lives, and ability to keep up with school work. If this is the case, please reach out to me so I can do my best to accommodate any needs you may have. I cannot promise to agree to all requests, but if you don’t ask me for help, you won’t receive it.

## Major Assignments

There will be a total of 250 possible points to be earned. Here is a breakdown:

- Weekly Assignments (10 points each for a total of 100): Weekly assignments will vary in format (quizzes, writing reflections, activities) and are all worth 10 points each week. The reflections and activity assignments are graded on the substance of content you submit and the connections you make.
- Weekly Discussion Post & Reply (5 points per week for a total of 50 points): Each week (except week 1, which are just introductions) you will be required to post a response to at least one discussion prompts I provide, and reply (respectfully) to at least one of the other students' posts. Responses should be about a paragraph (4-5 sentences) are worth 3 points; and replies should be about 2-4 sentences and are worth 2 points (total of 5 points each week). I will review all discussion posts, but will not be commenting on the majority of content.
- Final (100 points): You will have a choice between taking a final exam, or submitting a final paper. Topics for the final paper will be provided during week 6.

Final grades will be assigned based on percent total:

A	93-100	C	73-76.9
A-	90-92.9	C-	70-72.9
B+	87-89.9	D+	67-69.9
B	83-86.9	D	63-66.9
B-	80-82.9	D-	60-62.9
C+	77-79.9	F	< 60

## Contacting and Meeting with Instructor

- The best way to contact me is through email at [bimle@pdx.edu](mailto:bimle@pdx.edu). To expedite my response, please put SOC 200 in subject line of your email, otherwise there is a chance I may not see it as I get an obscene number of emails. You can typically expect a response from me within 24-48 hours. If you don't get a response from me within 48 hours please do not hesitate to follow up with a second email.
- I am available to meet with students individually via Zoom, or over the telephone. To request a meeting, please email me and include some days/times you will be available to meet.
- Please DO NOT email me through Canvas as my response to you will take longer.

## Flexibility Statement

The instructor reserves the right to modify course content and/or substitute assignments and learning activities in response to institutional, weather, or class situations.

## Tentative Course Calendar/Schedule

FYI- this will likely change, but I will keep you posted any changes through Canvas announcements. Students can find assigned readings, tasks and goal due dates for each week on Canvas under weekly modules.

Week 1: Nuts and bolts- class expectations, basics of sociology

Week 2: Theory and research in sociology

Week 3: Culture and socialization

Week 4: Social structure and stratification

Week 5: Politics, government, and power

Week 6: Deviance, crime, and social control

Week 7: Tools of oppression (race, class, gender etc)

Week 8: Law and society

Week 9: Social change and social movements

Week 10: Applied/ public sociology and loose ends

## **PSU Policies**

### **PSU Grading System**

Undergraduate: <http://pdx.smartcatalogiq.com/2020-2021/Bulletin/Undergraduate-Studies/Grading-System-for-Undergraduates>

### **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.

### **Turnitin**

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of Turnitin.com page service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on the Turnitin.com site.

### **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>

### **Title IX Reporting**

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. Please be aware that as a faculty member, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of those individuals on PSU's Enrollment Management & Student Affairs: Sexual Prevention & Response [website](#). For more information about Title IX please complete the required student module "Creating a Safe Campus: Preventing Gender Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Assault" in the "My Courses" section of Canvas.

## **Student Services/Resources**

### **Disability Resource Center and Course 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), website is available [here](#).

### **Student Health and Counseling (SHAC)**

The Center for Student Health & Counseling is committed to helping students succeed inside and out of the classroom. From managing stress to general wellness, we focus on the overall well-being of Portland State's student body. At SHAC you can find high quality, accessible mental health, COVID-19 resources, physical health and dental services - all under one roof! Call SHAC at 503.725.2800 and visit website [here](#).

### **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 Legal Services**

Student Legal Services provides FREE legal help to current PSU students. Their team of attorneys offers consultations and representation on many legal topics including housing, immigration, criminal, family, disability, legal name changes, employment and interpersonal violence. SLS [website](#).

### **Women's Resource Center**

The Women's Resource Center advocates for the best educational and campus experience for all members of our community. We accomplish this by advancing social justice, *ensuring access to personal empowerment for students of all genders*, and by working toward a safe and healthy campus. WRC [website](#).

### **Student Food and Housing 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). The PSU Food Pantry and the monthly The Free Food Market are still available to students. Please check online for open hours. If you are experiencing houselessness, facing eviction, or feel that you are being treated unfairly by your landlord, there are resources on campus and in the community. On campus, you can start by looking at the resources listed here for houselessness and other economic challenges [here](#). Student Legal Services is also available to help with landlord-tenant issues [here](#). Additional community resources can be found throughout Portland. The local organization, Street Roots, has compiled a guide to these called the "Rose City Resource." When in stock, this comprehensive guide to public services and assistance programs in the Portland Metro area can be picked up at Street Roots (211 NW Davis St. Portland, OR 97209) during open hours or from a Street Roots vendor.

### **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!