This course is designed to introduce students to the power of the *sociological imagination*, an analytic tool used to critically interrogate the complexities of the social world. Sociology is the scientific study of human social behavior. This encapsulates the built environment (i.e., material and non-material culture), and social institutions (e.g., the family, school, religion, the state), as well as socialized norms such as gender roles and cultural constructions of race and ethnicity. This course will survey the scope of sociology as a discipline and teach you to critically interrogate social constructions of reality.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**


*In-class assignments (40 points):* We will regularly have in-class assignments. These will consist of small group discussions and individual writing assignments. If you miss class (or if you arrive late to class or leave early) and miss an assignment, you will receive no credit. Assignments cannot be made up. Assignments not receiving full credit cannot be revised. The two lowest assignment grades will be dropped.

*Writing assignments (30 points):* You will complete five writing assignments (400-500 words) reflecting on what you have learned by making connections from the readings to class discussions and additional materials presented, such as documentary films. You may choose to make your writing assignments more personal and reflective or you can critique the readings in an academic style; see detailed instructions below. Assignments are due via D2L on designated Fridays by 11:59pm.

*Tests (20 points):* There will be two tests, each worth 15 points towards the course grade. Tests will include the material covered in readings and material presented in class. The tests will consist of multiple choice questions only. For each test, you will need a Scantron, form 882-E (sold at both the bookstore and at the university market in the Smith Center) and a #2 pencil. Tests are not cumulative: test 1 covers weeks 1-5, test 2 covers weeks 6-10. If you miss a test,
you will need to inform the instructor and schedule a makeup at the PSU testing center. Test 1 must be made up within one week and test 2 must be made up by the end of finals week.

_EXTRA CREDIT (6 POINTS):_ Extra credit opportunities are available by reading and responding to additional material. Read an OPTIONAL assignment meant to enhance deeper understanding of the week’s topics and challenge you to think beyond the boundaries of class discussions. Write a critical analysis essay in response to the reading. You may submit up to two responses for 3 points each, giving you the ability to add 6 points to your final grade; see detailed instructions below.

POLICIES

_D2L:_ The instructor will post course materials on D2L. Students will submit assignments via D2L. The instructor will also post comments and grades for assignments on D2L.

_Email:_ The instructor and TA will regularly communicate with the class via PSU email so be sure that you are receiving our emails, particularly the weekly follow-up. It is your responsibility to check your email daily during the school week and respond in a timely manner. In emails to the instructor, please put the title of the course in the subject line and sign your emails using your first and last name. Use the email addresses on the first page of the syllabus. The instructor will generally respond to email within 24 hours. Emails sent after 5:00pm on Friday will generally be answered by 5:00pm on Monday.

_Academic Honesty:_ You are expected to demonstrate complete academic honesty. Please refer to the Student Conduct Code for more detailed information on PSU policies. Cheating or plagiarism will result in failing the assignment and will be reported.

_Plagiarism:_ If you use a direct quote (i.e. someone else’s words), you must include it in quotation marks and cite the source, including author(s) name(s), the date of publication, and the page number. If you summarize or paraphrase an idea from another person, you must cite the source, including author(s) name(s) and the date of publication. Failure to cite your sources, whether intentional or not, is plagiarism. Instances of plagiarism will result in failing the assignment and will be reported.

_Students with Disabilities:_ Students with disabilities who may require accommodations are encouraged to contact the PSU Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) and the instructor at the beginning of the term to arrange accommodations. The DRC is located in 435 Smith and can be contacted at 725-4150 or by email at drc@pdx.edu. Visit their website at http://www.pdx.edu/drc.

_Laptops/tablets/e-readers:_ If you prefer to read electronic versions of the readings, you may bring these devices to class to reference the readings during in-class assignments and class discussions. You may also use these devices to take notes in class. However, if you use your device for non-class purposes, you will be asked to put away your device.

_Classroom Conduct:_ You must demonstrate the highest level of respect for your peers and for the instructor. All points of view will be welcomed and respected; however, statements or behaviors that are disrespectful towards individuals or groups will not be tolerated. Behaviors that are distracting to your peers and to the instructor are not acceptable (e.g. coming in late,
packing up or leaving early, using electronic devices for non-class purposes, and having side conversations).

Guests in class: The instructor does not allow people under age 18 to attend class. If you would like to bring a guest to class who is over 18, please ask the instructor in advance.

Cancelled Classes: In the case of inclement weather or other emergencies, please refer to the PSU web page: http://www.pdx.edu/. In the event that the instructor has to cancel class, she will email the class as soon as possible. If the instructor has not arrived to class 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, consider class cancelled for the day.

Absences: In the event you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to ask a classmate for notes, announcements, and any other missed material. If you have any questions after you have checked with a classmate, please see the instructor before or after class or during office hours. If you miss a test, you will need to inform the instructor and schedule a makeup at the PSU testing center. Test 1 must be made up within one week and test 2 must be made up by the end of finals week.

Late assignments: Late assignments will be penalized at 5% per weekday late and late assignments will not be accepted after 5 weekdays. This policy applies only to weekly writing assignments. In-class assignments cannot be completed late or made up. Extra credit assignments will not be accepted late.

Note on course content: Some readings and discussions for this course will cover controversial topics related to human bodies, sexual practices, sexual assault, institutional racism, gender minority (e.g. transgender and non-binary) and sexual minority (e.g. gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer) identities and experiences, and other topics related to discrimination and violence that some students may be uncomfortable reading and discussing. If you have concerns about the course content generally or any specific topics we may cover, please see the instructor at the start of the term.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1  

Introduction to the Sociological Imagination

Tuesday April 4

- Carefully read the syllabus, including all assignment guidelines and policies.

Thursday April 6

- Read TEXT Ch. 1-2

Week 2  

Methods, Media, & Culture

Tuesday April 11

- Read TEXT Ch. 3
Thursday April 13

- Read TEXT Ch. 4

Friday April 14

- Reflective writing assignment due via D2L by 11:59pm. Suggested prompt for first writing assignment: What does ‘society’ mean to you? What would you like to learn from this course?

**Week 3**

*Stratification & Capitalism*

Tuesday April 18

- Read TEXT Ch. 7

Thursday April 20

- Read TEXT Ch. 14

**Week 4**

*Social Control, Deviance, & Religion*

Tuesday April 25

- Read TEXT Ch. 6

Thursday April 27

- Read TEXT Ch. 16

Friday April 28

- Film response due via D2L by 11:59pm

**Week 5**

*Mid-term*

Tuesday May 2

- Catch UP!

Thursday May 4

- Mid-term exam

**Week 6**

*Gender*

Tuesday May 9

- Read TEXT Ch. 8
### Week 7  
**Race**

**Tuesday May 16**
- Read TEXT Ch. 9

**Thursday May 18**
- TEXT Ch. 10

### Week 8  
**Education & the Matrix of Domination**

**Tuesday May 23**
- Catch-up TEXT Ch. 9-10

**Thursday May 25**
- TEXT Ch. 13

**Friday May 26**
- Film response due via D2L by 11:59pm

### Week 9  
**Health & Family**

**Tuesday May 30**
- Read TEXT Ch. 11

**Thursday June 1**
- Read TEXT Ch. 12

**Friday June 2**
- Film response due via D2L by 11:59pm

### Week 10  
**Collective Action & Social Change**

**Tuesday June 6**
- TEXT Ch. 18
Thursday June 8

- TEXT Ch. 18

Friday June 9

- Reflective writing assignment due via D2L by 11:59pm. Suggested prompt for final writing assignment: Considering the material we have covered in this course, choose some topics or issues that falls into any/all of the following categories (a) A topic or issue that you learned about for the first time in this class; (b) A topic or issue that you developed a stronger opinion about based on the material you learned in this class; (c) A topic or issue that you changed your mind about based on the material learned in this class.

**Finals week**

**Thursday June 15, 10:15 - 12:05**

- Final exam

**Guidelines for Reflective WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**

*Task:* Complete a 500-600 writing assignment reflecting on what you have learned this week. You may choose to make your writing assignments more personal and reflective or you can critique the readings in an academic style. Do not simply summarize the readings or material covered in class.

*Sources:* For writing assignments, you may draw on course readings or outside sources in addition to the reading selections for the week; however, drawing on outside sources is strongly discouraged. You should only incorporate additional sources if it enhances your analysis. You must include a references section at the end of the reading response only if you use sources other than the course readings.

Reminder of the plagiarism policy: If you use a direct quote (i.e. someone else’s words), you must include it in quotation marks and cite the source, including author(s) name(s), the date of publication, and the page number. If you summarize or paraphrase an idea from another person, you must cite the source, including author(s) name(s) and the date of publication. Failure to cite your sources, whether intentional or not, is plagiarism. Instances of plagiarism will result in failing the assignment and will be reported.

*Components of the assignment:* You may choose to make your writing assignment more personal by reflecting on how what you this week learned relates to you and your life. Alternately, you can write more academic writing assignments, writing a critical analysis of the week’s readings and other material presented in class.

*Film Response:* Describe your personal response to the readings while making connections to material presented in class, or class discussion. The purpose of the reflection is to consider how
you engaged with the ideas presented, not just summarize the ideas—critically analyze the material from your social location.

- **Some questions to consider discussing:**
  - Did you learn something new that surprised you? Did you reevaluate your views on an issue based on the arguments and evidence presented this week?
  - Did you disagree with any of the arguments presented this week (if so, provide an argument and evidence to support your view)?
  - Were there related issues you wished we had covered this week (if so, describe what would you have wanted to discuss)?
  - Was there anything you would have liked to say in class discussion but didn’t?

**General guidelines for writing assignments:**

- You do not need to discuss all the readings and material presented in class. Just choose one or two topics to focus on.
- Assignments should provide in-depth discussion and fully explain all ideas. It is best to choose just a few points to make rather than make superficial comments on many topics.
- You do not need a references section unless you use outside sources.
- Use examples and quotes to support your points (for these short assignments, limit your use of quotes and use only short quotes).
- Assignments should show clear and concise writing and appropriate proofreading; assignments will not receive full credit if they show significant problems with grammar, spelling, word use, typos, and/or awkward sentences.

**DUE DATES, SUBMITTING THE ASSIGNMENTS, AND GRADING**

A total of 5 writing assignments are required. Entries must be submitted by 11:59pm on Friday each week. Late assignments will be accepted up to 5 weekdays late, with a penalty of 5% each day.

Submit your assignment in the appropriate folder (indicated by the week) in the dropbox of D2L. Be sure to COPY AND PASTE your assignment into the “comments” box as well as ATTACH your word or pdf document.

Each assignment will be graded as complete/incomplete, based on word count, submitted on time or late, and meeting the criteria for the assignment described above. Each successfully completed assignment is worth 6 points towards the course grade.
GUIDELINES FOR EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENT

Task: Read an OPTIONAL assignment meant to enhance deeper understanding of the week’s topics and challenge you to think beyond the boundaries of class discussions. Write a critical analysis essay in response to the reading.

Components of the assignment: Assignments should show clear and concise writing and appropriate proofreading; assignments will not receive full credit if they show significant problems with grammar, spelling, word use, typos, awkward sentences and/or improper formatting.

Extra credit assignments must be submitted via D2L, and will not be accepted after Finals Week. Submit extra credit assignments in the “Extra credit” folder in the dropbox of D2L. Be sure to COPY AND PASTE your assignment into the “comments” box as well as ATTACH your word or pdf document.

Standard formatting: This formatting is required for all assignments: Times New Roman, size 12 font; one inch margins all around; paragraphs indented half an inch; heading in upper right corner (name, date, assignment name); page number in bottom right corner; single spaced.

Critical analysis: Write an academic critique of an optional reading; discuss the theoretical, methodological, or empirical strengths and weaknesses of the text. The purpose of the critique is to provide an original and critical response rather than a summary of the text. Note that your personal feelings, responses, or experiences are not appropriate for an academic analysis.

- Some questions to consider discussing:
  - What are the strengths and, more importantly, what are the weaknesses of the article (but be sure you are not simply summarizing points from the text)?
  - For empirical articles, how does the research design shape the findings?
  - What questions does the research raise that might be addressed by future studies?

ACADEMIC AND OTHER CAMPUS SUPPORTS

Advising and Career Services (ACS): University Services Building room 402, (503) 725-4005, www.pdx.edu/advising-career-services/. “Advising and Career Services (ACS) supports the career development needs of all Portland State University students and provides academic advising for those who are exploring/changing majors.”

Center for Student Health and Counseling (SHAC): University Center Building 200, 503-725-2800, www.shac.pdx.edu/.

Disability Resource Center: Smith 116, 503-725-4150 (voice) and 503-725-6505 (TDD), www.pdx.edu/uasc/drc.html. “The mission of the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is to collaborate with and empower Portland State University students with disabilities in order to coordinate support services and programs that enable equal access to an education and university
life. To accomplish this goal, the DRC provides pre-admission and disability counseling, advocacy, educational training, and a variety of accommodations for equal access to the educational process and campus at Portland State University.”

*Multicultural Center:* Smith 228, 503-725-5342, [multicul@pdx.edu](mailto:multicul@pdx.edu), [http://culture.pdx.edu/](http://culture.pdx.edu/). “The Multicultural Center provides a forum for collaborative cultural, educational, and social experiences at PSU and beyond. Our mission is to bring together students, faculty, staff and the community to promote respect, understanding, equality, social justice, and interdependence among people of diverse backgrounds.”

*Queer Resource Center (QRC):* Smith 458, 503-725-9742, [qrc@pdx.edu](mailto:qrc@pdx.edu), [www.qrc.pdx.edu/](http://www.qrc.pdx.edu/). “The Portland State University Queer Resource Center strives to provide an inclusive safe space in advocating for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning students, staff, faculty and their allies. Our mission is to serve the PSU and surrounding communities through both outreach education and social programming that promotes awareness.”

*Student Legal Services:* Smith Center M343 (on the mezzanine), 503-725-4556, [www.pdx.edu/sls/](http://www.pdx.edu/sls/). “Student Legal Services (SLS) is a full service law firm available to serve eligible Portland State University students. The goal of SLS is to encourage students to fully participate in and complete their academic endeavors by helping to alleviate legal obstacles to degree or program completion.”

*Student Code of Conduct:* Know what your rights and responsibilities are by checking out this link: [www.pdx.edu/dos/codeofconduct](http://www.pdx.edu/dos/codeofconduct)

*Veterans Services:* Smith 425, 503-725-3876, [www.pdx.edu/veterans/current-students](http://www.pdx.edu/veterans/current-students)

*Sociology Department:* Cramer 217, 503-725-3926, [www.pdx.edu/sociology](http://www.pdx.edu/sociology).

*Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies:* Extended Studies Building 150, 503-725-3516, [www.pdx.edu/ws](http://www.pdx.edu/ws).

*Women’s Resource Center (WRC):* Basement of Montgomery Hall, 503-725-5672, [http://wrc.pdx.edu/](http://wrc.pdx.edu/). “The WRC provides a great student lounge and event space, a Leadership in Action program that gives students the chance to get involved with grass roots feminist activism, The Empowerment Project which provides resources to non-traditional women students, and sexual assault and domestic violence advocacy and information.”

*Writing Center:* Cramer 188, 503-725-3570, [www.writingcenter.pdx.edu/](http://www.writingcenter.pdx.edu/)