COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to give students an introduction into the academic study of society. We will explore fundamental social theories and research methods used by sociologists to examine the interactions between social structures and individuals. We will be examining concepts such as culture, socialization, social structures and institutions, groups and networks, stratification, deviance, race, and gender. The goal of the course is to gain a basic knowledge of sociological concepts and techniques, with a focus on the cultivation of the sociological imagination. This course will survey the scope of sociology as a discipline and teach you to critically interrogate social constructions of reality.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon successfully completing this course, you will be able to:
- Identify the sociological perspective, including the idea of social construction, and methods for studying social life.
- Explain different elements of culture and the ways in which we enforce cultural norms.
- Apply the concept of social construction to analyze social life.
- Explain the importance of socialization and the processes through which it occurs.
- Evaluate the accuracy of common beliefs about social trends (such as divorce rates, crime, and single parenting).
- Identify how major forms of social stratification (especially class, gender, race/ethnicity) influence life experiences and outcomes.
- Critically examine the social constructions of reality and apply the concepts we have discussed to your everyday lived experiences.


IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS (20 points): Everyone should complete the assigned reading prior to each class and be prepared to engage in thoughtful discussion regarding the reading. We will regularly have in-class assignments. Assignments will consist of multiple choice questions, individuals writing, group writing, and/or small group discussions assignments. If you miss class (or arrive late/leave early) and miss the assignment, you will receive a grade of a zero (0) for in-class assignments; these assignments cannot be made-up.

TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENTS (20 points): You will complete four take-home assignments. Assignments will be individual written assignments (350-500 words). In these assignments you will reflect on what you have learned by making connections from the readings to class discussions and additional materials presented, such as documentary films. I will provide detailed instructions about each assignment when I hand out the prompt. You will have a week to complete the assignments once the prompt has been handed out (e.g. If I hand out the assignment on Monday, it will be due to the following Monday). Assignments turned in late will be deducted 10% each day after it is due. I will not accept assignments that are 5 days late (e.g. if the assignment is due on a Wednesday the latest date you can turn it in would be Monday). I will only grade the hard copy assignment, if you are late and cannot turn in a hard copy, please talk to me before the assignment is due; as we can figure out how to turn in the assignment on time.

EXAMS (60 points): There will be two exams. Exams will include the material covered in readings and material presented in class. No early exams will be given. I reserve the right to implement anti-cheating measures during exams. 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. The midterm and final are not cumulative, and each will be given in class. Thus you will have 1hr and 5 minutes to complete the midterm and final. The final examine will not be taken during final week, but instead on the last day of week 10. The final will have similar format to the midterm and can be taken within the class time.

- The midterm exam will be taken on Friday February 5th.
- The final exam will be taken on Friday March 16th.
**Extra credit:** Extra credit opportunities are available by either reading and responding to additional material or by going to the Sociology brown bag series. 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 (Minimum 250 words but no more than 500 words). You may submit up to 5 responses for 2 points each, giving you the ability to add 10 weighted points to your grade. The brown bags happen a few times out of the year on Fridays from 12pm-1pm. If you are unable to attend the brown bag, you may read the scholars work and turn in an essay. If you attend the brown bag you must turn in an essay. In the essay you should discuss the scholar(s) research question(s), the methods used to answer the research questions, and general findings – I will provide a more detailed prompt for each brown bag.

**GRADES:** Grades will be based on the following:

- Exam 1 = 30 points
- Exam 2 = 30 points
- In-class assignments = 20 points
- Take-home assignments = 20 points
- Total points: 100 points

**POLICIES**

**CLASS CONDUCT:** In an effort to make this class a learning environment for everyone, please be considerate of the other students in class. Please try to get to class on time and refrain from leaving before class is done. Turn off all electronic devices. This includes phones and laptops. If you want to have a chat with your classmates, do it outside. We will be discussing topics that may be controversial, so it is very important that we all maintain respect for the diversity of opinions represented in the class. This is an educational environment, so ideas may be questioned and critiqued but personal attacks will not be tolerated.

**ACCESS & INCLUSION:** PSU values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. My goal is to create a learning environment that is equitable, useable, inclusive, and welcoming. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment. 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, https://www.pdx.edu/drc.

- If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received a faculty notification letter and discuss your accommodations.
- Students who need accommodations for tests and quizzes are expected to schedule their tests to overlap with the time the class is taking the test.
- Please be aware that the accessible tables or chairs in the room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not useable.
- For information about emergency preparedness, please go to the Fire and Life Safety webpage (https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-health-safety/fire-and-life-safety) for information.

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 federal, state, and PSU policies require faculty members to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. Similarly, PSU faculty are required to file a report if they have reasonable cause to believe that a child with whom they come into contact has suffered abuse, or that any person with whom they come into contact has abused a child. If you would rather share information about these experiences with an employee who does not have these reporting responsibilities and can keep the information confidential, please contact one of the following campus resources (or visit this link):

- Women’s Resource Center (503-725-5672)
- Queer Resource Center (503-725-9742)
- 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
ACADEMIC HONESTY: Academic honesty is a cornerstone of meaningful education and a reflection of maturity and integrity. Portland State University is committed to the highest standards of academic honesty. The Student Conduct Code prohibits all forms of academic cheating, fraud, and dishonesty, but not limited to plagiarism, buying and selling of assignments for others, unauthorized disclosure and receipt of academic information and other practices understood to academically dishonor. Copies of the Student Conduct Code may be obtained by contacting 503-725-4422, or by visiting room 433 in Smith Memorial Center. Any assignment or exam found to be academically dishonest will receive no points for the whole exam/assignment and a referral to the appropriate authority.

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.

CONTACT INFO: The best way to contact me is via email. Please be sure to put “Soc 200” in the subject line so I can find your email amidst the spam. If you do not put that in the subject line, I might not read your email. I have a great many students so don’t expect an instant reply; generally I will respond within 24 hours. However, emails sent after 4:30pm on a Friday will usually be answered by 5:00pm on Monday.

CANCELLED CLASSES: In the case of inclement weather or other emergencies, please refer to the PSU webpage: http://www.pdx.edu/. In the event that the instructor has to cancel class, he will email the class as soon as possible. If the instructor has not arrived to class 15 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 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.

SCHEDULE
The instructor does their best to carefully construct the schedule and then stick to it. However, the schedule may change if he believes it’s necessary as the term progresses. He will always provide advance notice and discuss any changes with you in class.

Please be sure you’ve completed all readings before class on the day they’re listed!

Week 1  Chapters 1: The Sociological Imagination: An Introduction
Week 2  Chapter 2: Methods
          Take-home assignment 1 will be handed out
Week 3  Chapter 3: Culture and Media
Week 4  Chapter 4: Socialization and the Construction of Reality
          Take-home assignment 2 will be handed out
Week 5  Chapter 5: Groups and Networks
          Exam 1 (midterm) is scheduled for Friday, 2/5th.
Week 6  Chapter 6: Social Control and Deviance
Week 7  Chapter 7: Stratification and Inequalities
          Take-home assignment 3 will be handed out
Week 8  Chapter 9: Racial Inequality
Week 9  Chapter 8: Gender Inequalities
          Take-home assignment 4 will be handed out
Week 10 Loose Ends and Leftovers
          Exam 2 (final) is scheduled for Friday, 3/16th.