Sociology of Minorities is designed to broaden our understanding of the ways in which people who exist where multiple identities such as race, sexuality, and gender intersect experience and/or resist power in the US and global context. We begin by discussing the foundational theories that guide sociologists in our understanding of human interaction as well as the factors that drive us to advocate for more socially just and equitable societies. To this end, students will watch, read, and discuss case studies or memoirs of various “othered” members of society to gain insight on their struggles and their triumphs. Further, we aim to help you explore your own life experiences and choices so as to critically analyze the ways our socio-economic, cultural, and historical forces environment has shaped our understanding of “others.” We’ll also investigate how these larger social factors, not only shape us, but also how they lead to social movements.

Course Objectives
There are several goals for this course. Upon completion, students are expected to:
1. understand how minority groups cope, construct meaning, and communicate within and outside defined boundaries.
2. understand the theories and methods that sociologists use to analyze how identity categories such as race/ethnicity, gender, class shape everyday experience of individuals within a society.
3. be better equipped to navigate this multicultural world in which we live.
4. critically assess how structural, cultural, historical, and political contexts affect individual lives.
5. learn how to effectively participate in disciplines outside one’s field.
6. understand how the concept of intersectionality affect families.
7. to think sociologically about important economic, business, political and personal issues and seeing how culture, institutions and social processes directly interconnect from the micro (personal and interpersonal) and the macro (national and global) level.

Required Readings
- D2L
- Documentaries and Videos

Course Format

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Format</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Locating yourself exercise</td>
<td>(10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Completed Worksheet (6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Responses (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Discussions</td>
<td>(20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) 2 original posts (10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) 4 responses to your classmates’ questions (10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>(40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Quiz One (20)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Quiz Two (20)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Event</td>
<td>(30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Synopsis (10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Update 1(10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Update 2(10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Description of Assignments
Locating yourself exercise (6)
In the first 2 weeks, you will watch on https://www.c-span.org/video/?76064-1/life-color-line the story of Gregory Williams. You will also watch the Sandra Laing Story found on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtHi1H_c-hU. Seeing the lives of the people in the movies change as the socio-political and historical forces dictate their race proves what sociologists mean when they say race is a social construction. For this reason, the “locating yourself exercise is designed” to raise your consciousness because you will not only be an observer of the lives of others, you will also come to understand your own privilege/oppression given the history of the US in relation to other nations. This exercise is due Jan 13th, 2018 @ 11:59pm. In order to get to know one another, please find two entries made by your classmates and ask follow up questions by Jan 17th, 2018 also at 11:59pm. Please respond to posts that have yet to be responded to for more balance. (4)

General Discussions (20)
Our class discussions will consist of:
1. Your original post - Here every student will raise two (2) critical and well thought out questions from watching the movies and analyzing the readings starting January 24th, 2018 @ 11:59pm.
2. Your response to two of your classmates’ posts - Here, you will read all the posts and choose two to critically respond to using materials from the class. The first response will be due by January 28th, 2018 @ 11:59pm. Again, please respond to posts that do not have a response yet.

Your grade for this segment will depend on:
- the originality of your post and the depth of your questions.
- responses to your classmates’ questions as well as your connecting the materials of the week to each other and to everyday life.

Quizzes (40)
You will stave two short answer quizzes addressing the main sociological concepts and themes emerging from readings, videos or PowerPoint notes presented. Quizzes will be posted by noon for 72 hrs. on D2L on a Friday to Monday of the week quizzes are announced on the syllabus. While we do not offer ‘a make-up quiz,” we offer an optional quiz at the end of the term to students who may have missed a quiz for any reason and any student who may have a quiz grade they wish to replace. We will allow a make-up ONLY for an officially documented medical emergency that may have occurred during hours of your quiz. Short answer questions are preferable because they maximize your ability to do well by giving you the chance to earn partial credit.

Hints to do well on the quiz:
(a) If a question asks to DISCUSS or DESCRIBE a concept, please do that to the best of your ability assuming the person reading your answer is unfamiliar with the terms.
(b) Make sure all the parts of the question are answered. If a question asks for two examples for clarification, please do provide those two examples and make sure they are different from each other. Then describe the concept in question. The two examples themselves would not suffice.
(c) While copying and pasting a sentence from the author may earn you partial credit for at least knowing where to find the concept but using your own words to discuss is where the work gets done and points are earned.
Current Events Log and Discussion (30)

Most of our material on inequality leaves students sometimes apathetic about change and dejected about the realities of oppression. This class addresses the issue by providing students with an opportunity to follow a current event involving a group considered as a minority group. Take the three weeks to review events taking place around the world. You will be required to submit three events beginning **January 31st, 2018**. You will tell us
1. Is this a local or international event
2. Name the two sources that are reporting on this event – one mainstream and one alternative
3. Discuss how this issue is being talked about for example who is reporting, who is there audience, why is this issue important.
4. What opinions did we form about other people from reading this story
5. What ideas and concepts from class can you use to discuss what is taking place

We have created this page to assist you in your research
https://guides.library.pdx.edu/soc337u

Here are some examples


You will post three events in total each worth 10 points

Your next report will be due on **Sunday February 21th, 2018 @11:59pm**.

Grades on this assignment are based on
1. your critical analysis of the issue and the relevance of the issue to class – your use of the concepts in class

**Grading Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82-85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>78-81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>74-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>66-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>62-65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>58-61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>57-55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 55</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Course Policy**

**D2L:** There will be no formal textbook for the course. The syllabus, videos, notes, and other course materials will be posted on D2L.

**Email:** I usually respond promptly to emails but please allow 24-48hrs for email responses and up to 72hrs during weekends and holidays.

**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 plagiarizing will result in failing the assignment and will be reported. If you use a direct quote (i.e. someone else’s written or spoken words), you must include it in quotation marks. Any time you take a direct quote, as well as when you summarize or paraphrase an idea from another person, you must cite the source and include a references section at the end of the paper. Failure to cite your sources, whether intentional or not, is plagiarism. Instances of plagiarism will result in failing the assignment, and possibly the course, and will be reported.

**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 DRC to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The DRC is in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 503-725-4150, drc@pdx.edu, [http://www.pdx.edu/drc](http://www.pdx.edu/drc). If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received a faculty notification letter and to discuss your accommodations.

**Title IX reporting:** As a member of the university community, 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 at [http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help](http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help) or you may call a confidential IPV Advocate at 503-725-5672. For more information about Title IX please complete the required student module “Creating a Safe Campus” in your D2L.

**Conduct**

It is required that you act appropriately and demonstrate mutual respect for everyone involved in this course, including the instructor, mentor/assistants, and your classmates. Disruptive behavior including, but not limited to, allowing online access by unauthorized guests, profanity, verbal abuse, or threats directed to others, general disrespect of others, will negatively impact your grade and may result in an F in the course. I reserve the right to delete any posts that I or your classmates find to be non-academic and offensive. Please review the University’s Student Code of Conduct and the Acceptable Use Policy that you agreed to when you received your PSU network access. These policies will be strictly adhered to and enforced should the situation arise.  [www.pdx.edu/dos/codeofconduct](http://www.pdx.edu/dos/codeofconduct)
IMPORTANT:
You should think of your weekly discussion posts and essay responses (on exams) as short, formal writing assignments. As in all academic writing, you should make sure the tone is professional and not too casual. AND, you must properly cite your sources. Here are a few rules that are often forgotten:

- Any direct quote, whether a phrase or a full sentence or more, must be indicated with quotation marks.
- All direct quotes require that you cite the author and page number.
- All ideas that are not your own, original ideas must be properly cited, indicating the author. This applies to both paraphrasing and quoting.
- Failure to follow these rules will result in 0 scores and a conduct complaint filed with the Dean of Student Life.

ACADEMIC AND OTHER CAMPUS SUPPORTS


Center for Student Health and Counseling (SHAC): University Center Building 200, 503-7252800, www.shac.pdx.edu

Multicultural Center: Smith 228, 503-725-5342, http://culture.pdx.edu

Queer Resource Center (QRC): Smith 458, 503-725-9742, qrc@pdx.edu, www.qrc.pdx.edu

Student Legal Services: Smith Center M343 (on the mezzanine), 503-725-4556, www.pdx.edu/sls


Sociology Department: Cramer 217, 503-725-3926, www.pdx.edu/sociology

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: Extended Studies Building 150, 503-725-3516, www.pdx.edu/ws


Writing Center: Cramer 188, 503-725-3570, www.writingcenter.pdx.edu