Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Claudia Geist
Pre-requisites: None

Course Name: Soc 1010-090 Introduction to Sociology
Credit Hours: 3

Department: Sociology
Semester: Spring 2020

Office: Gardner Commons
Hours: M 2-3 pm
Meeting Days: Online

Email: Claudia.geist@soc.utah.edu & via canvas message
Meeting Times: N/A

Teaching Assistant: Scott Wood
Teaching Assistant: Karen Zhang
Contact via canvas message

Note: This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for our course. Please note that I may modify it with reasonable notice to you. I may also modify the Course Schedule to accommodate the needs of our class. [Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas under Announcements.]

Course Description

Course Summary

An introduction to the basic nature of society and the relationship between society and the individual. This course focuses on how society functions and is organized, and how society impacts and influences individual motivation, understanding, action, and well-being. Basic sociological ideas regarding social relations, social interaction, social structure, and social change are examined. Students are introduced to key issues addressed by contemporary sociologists; class, race, gender, sexuality, religion, globalization, education, health care, crime, the media, and the environment. The knowledge gained in these course will aid students in future studies within a variety of fields and careers, and encourage the development of critical thinking about important issues.

This course fulfills the BF requirement.

Course Objectives

This course has 5 learning objectives:

- Create opportunity for reflection/provoke thoughts for students across disciplines, including those outside of the social and behavioral sciences.
- Introduce students to institutions, cultures, and behaviors by focusing on fundamental concepts, theories, or principles used in sociology.
- At the end of the course, you will be able to apply course concepts, principles, theories, etc. to contemporary issues or your own lives.
- Information Literacy ("Intellectual and Practical Skill")
• Intercultural knowledge and competence ("personal and social responsibility")

Required Materials

There is ONE required book for this course. I recommend you purchase the e-book, but do whatever works best for you. A physical copy of the book will be on reserve at the University of Utah Marriott Library for short term loans.

Teaching and Learning Methods

This is an online course, so while I care deeply about your learning I will not meet you in person to gesture at you “in real time.” Please do the readings and watch the lecture videos. In addition to completing the required assignments I strongly encourage you to participate in the optional discussions about the class materials, and reach out to me with any content questions you have. You can “work ahead” by a few weeks, but you cannot “catch up” at the end of the semester. Late work will typically not be accepted except under the most extreme, documented circumstances.

Online Course Expectations

Instructor Expectations

Your instructor is committed to the following expectations for this course:

• The instructor will design the course to include lectures, readings materials, and assignments that will challenge students and will provide them with opportunities to learn and practice course content.
• Though this online course includes pre-recorded lectures, it is not a class that is run “automatically” by technology. The instructor and teaching assistants will interact with the class via announcements, virtual office hours, emails/the Canvas Inbox feature, feedback on assignments, and comments on lecture discussion boards.
• The instructor and teaching assistants will provide feedback on the assignments in a timely manner.
• The instructor will respond to emails/canvas messages within 24 hour (Monday - Friday)

Student Expectations

The following is expected of all students in this class:

• Students will log in to the course a minimum of 2 times per week.
To do well in online courses, students must be self-motivated, organized, and willing to stay on top of their schedule. Students should take control of their learning while in this course.

- Students will engage with the course, students, and the instructor in a respectful and professional manner at all times.
- Students will inform the instructor of any university-sanctioned absences (debate, athletic events, etc.) to ensure they can receive appropriate accommodations.
- Students will communicate needs for accommodations due to health and disability in a timely manner.

**Course Engagement and Participation**

Class participation is an essential part of the learning process. Students are responsible for their learning and are required to actively participate in all components of the course. Students are expected to complete the readings, viewings, and assignments for each module. Open and critical discussion associated with the course material is welcomed and encouraged at all times.

**Netiquette**

Students are expected to follow the core rules of netiquette at all times while participating in the class, interacting with other students, and communicating with the course instructor and teaching assistants.

**Evaluation & Grading**

[Depending on your approach – percentages, numeric values, scale you will use, any details about curves, etc.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly interactive quizzes</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Essays/Graded Discussions/Skills quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Exams</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Assignments**

Weekly Interactive Quizzes (40%)
We will use the tool “Inquizitive.” These quizzes are interactive, and allow you to adjust how “confident” you are about an answer. I will provide you with a tutorial in canvas. You can complete the quiz after the minimum required number of questions OR you can keep going to move closer to a perfect score.

Mini Essays/Graded Discussions/Skills quizzes (20%)

There will be 3 mini essays that required you to reflect on a prompt; you are also required to give thoughtful comments on other students’ essays. The grading scheme is high pass – pass - marginal pass – fail. In addition, you will receive a few small “skills” quizzes about readings tables and how to write in sociology. These are graded as pass-fail.

Three Exams (40%)

There will be three multiple choice exams. These will be administered on canvas. Questions will be drawn from a large question bank, so no two exams are exactly the same. I will NOT require you to take the exam in a testing center as this may be an undue burden to some of you. In exchange, you will have to answer questions at a fairly brisk pace to minimize any potential for cheating. Exams will be open from 6 am to 11.59 pm on the day they are due. You cannot stop and start exams, so please make sure you are ready to take the exam before you start.

Grading Scheme

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100%-94%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89.9%-87%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79.9%-77%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>69.9%-67%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>59.9%-0%</td>
<td>D-</td>
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## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/Discussion</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Exams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Sociological Imagination</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Methods</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Culture and the Media; Socialization and the Social Construction of Reality</td>
<td>Chapter 3 &amp; 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Groups and Networks</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Social Control and Deviance</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Stratification</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>Exam 1 (2/21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Race</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Semester Break</td>
<td>No readings</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Health &amp; Society</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>Exam 2 (3/29)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Capitalism and the Economy; Authority and the State</td>
<td>Chapter 14 &amp; 15</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Religion; Science, the Environment, and Society</td>
<td>Chapter 16 &amp; 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Social Movements</td>
<td>Chapter 18</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Finals Week</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Exam 3 (4/28)</td>
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## Course Policies

### Attendance & Participation
Regular participation in the online course is expected. Except in the rare cases of sudden illness or emergency (excused with documentation), students are expected to arrange with the instructors to submit assignments in advance of a planned absence.

### Canvas
The course will take place entirely on canvas. Please familiarize yourself with the environment early in the semester.

Problems with Canvas? Contact 24/7 Canvas Support by clicking the Help button located on the left-side global navigation.
Communication
Please contact the instructor, Dr. Geist, for all questions about course content and assignments. Contact the TAs with technical questions about submissions or other Canvas Mechanics.

Late Assignments
I do not accept late assignments except under very rare, documented circumstances. If you are traveling on “university business” on a due date, please consider submitting an assignment early. If you need to miss an exam due to extreme circumstances, please contact me as soon as possible.

Institutional Polices & Procedures

1. **The Americans with Disabilities Act.** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the [Center for Disability & Access](https://www.utah.edu/cda/), 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDA will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability & Access.
   a. **Accommodation Policy (see Section Q):** [http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php](http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php)

2. **Addressing Sexual Misconduct.** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the [Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action](https://www.utah.edu/oepa/), 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the [Center for Student Wellness](https://www.utah.edu/studentwellness/), 328 SSB, 801-581-7779 or email at advocate@sa.utah.edu. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677 (COPS).

3. **Drop/Withdrawal.** Students may drop a course within the first two weeks of a given semester without any penalties. Students may officially withdraw (W) from a class or all classes after the drop deadline through the midpoint of a course. A “W” grade is recorded on the transcript and appropriate tuition/fees are assessed. The grade “W” is not used in calculating the student’s GPA. See the [Academic Calendar](https://www.utah.edu/academic_calendar/) for the last day to withdraw from term, first and second session classes.
   a. **Deadlines for courses with irregular start and end dates policy.**
4. **Plagiarism/Cheating.** It is assumed that all work submitted to your instructor is your own work. When you have used ideas of others, you must properly indicate that you have done so. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an individual assignment, and/or failure in the course. Academic misconduct, according to the University of Utah Student Code, “includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one’s work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct.” For detailed definitions and possible sanctions please see the **Student Code** below.

http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php

5. **Wellness Statement.** Your personal health and wellness are essential to your success as a student. Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student’s ability to success and thrive in this course and at the University of Utah. Please speak with the instructor or TA before issues become problems. And, for helpful resources, contact the Center for Student wellness at www.wellness.utah.edu or 801-581-7776.

6. **Veterans Support Center.** The Veterans Support Center is a “one stop shop” for student veterans to find services, support, advocacy, and camaraderie. They are located in the Park Building Room 201. You can visit their website for more information about their services and support at http://veteranscenter.utah.edu.

7. **LGBT Resource Center.** The University of Utah has an LGBT Resource Center on campus. They are located in Room 409 of the Olpin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. You can visit their website to find more information about the support they can offer, a list of events through the center and links to additional resources: http://lgbt.utah.edu.

8. **Learners of English as an Additional/Second Language.** If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will support you with your language and writing development. These resources include: the Writing Center (http://writingcenter.utah.edu); the Writing Program (http://writing-program.utah.edu); the English Language Institute (http://continue.utah.edu/eli).

9. Please let us know if there is any additional support you would like to discuss for this class.

10. For many issues that students deal with during the semester, the student success advocates can help you or steer you towards someone who can. Check our their website at www.ssa.utah.edu. They TEXT, too!

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As the only institution in the state classified in the highest research category (R1), at the University of Utah you will have access to state-of-the-art research facilities and be able to be part of the knowledge creation process. You will have the opportunity to do research of your own with faculty who are leading experts in their field, engaging in programs that match your research interests. Further, you will interact with and
often take classes with graduate students that provide an advanced understanding of the knowledge in your field.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

U Heads Up App: There’s an app for that. Download the app on your smartphone at http://alert.utah.edu/headsup to access the following resources:

- **Emergency Response Guide**: Provides instructions on how to handle any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Flip charts with this information are also available around campus.

- **See Something, Say Something**: Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus if you see a life threatening or emergency situation, please call 911!

- **Safety Escorts**: For students who are on campus at night or passed business hours and would like an escort to your care, please call 801-585-2677. You can a call 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.