

Introduction to Sociology
Sociology 100
Online Synchronous- M, T, W 1:00-1:50pm
Spring Semester 2024
Office Hours: by arrangement

Professor: Dr. Kate Burrows

Email: k.burrows@hvcc.edu

In emergencies, text: 732-425-6506

Course Description:

An introduction to the scientific study of human social interactions with emphasis on societies, groups, organizations, social networks and communities as the units of analysis. Topics covered include culture, social structure, socialization, sex roles, groups and networks, organizations, deviance and social control, inequality and social stratification, race and ethnic relations and social institutions.

After taking this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the perspectives offered by sociology.
- Define the basic terms and concepts of the discipline.
- Describe the methods sociologists use to explore social phenomena, including hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, observation, experimentation, qualitative and quantitative data, and the scientific method.
 - locate information effectively using tools appropriate to their need and discipline.
 - evaluate information with an awareness of authority, validity, and bias.
 - demonstrate an understanding of the ethical dimensions of information use, creation, and dissemination.
- Recognize the structures and institutions of our society.
 - analyze the role that complex networks of social structures and systems play in the creation and perpetuation of the dynamics of power, privilege, oppression, and opportunity.
- Describe the historical and contemporary societal factors that shape the development of individual and group identity involving race, class, and gender.
 - e.g., cultural sensitivity, global awareness, intersectionality, and diverse perspectives
- Use scientific reasoning and critical thinking in understanding human social behavior.
- Make historical and cross-cultural comparisons between modern society and other types of societies.
 - apply the principles of rights, access, equity, and autonomous participation to past, current, or future social justice action (civic action)

Required Text: Open Stax Introduction to Sociology.
<https://openstax.org/books/introduction-sociology-2e/pages/1-introduction-to-sociology>

Grades will be based on the following class exercises:

Take-home question and presentation to class:	20
Journal Review paper:	50
Breaching Experiment:	50
Sociological Autobiography:	100
Exam 1	50
Exam2	50
Exam 3	50
Final Exam:	150
Total:	520

Grading Scale	Letter Grade	Point Range
90% and above	A	468-520
80%-89%	B	416-467
70%-79%	C	364-415
60%-69%	D	312-363
Below 60%	F	311-below

* * A Z grade will be given to any student who does not take the third and fourth exams.

Classroom Policies:

I do not take attendance. However, test questions will include material from lectures, as well as your fellow student's take-home question presentations and in-class exercises and films, so you are unlikely to pass the tests unless you attend every course session and take scrupulous notes. If you miss your in-class presentation day, there is no make-up unless you have a documented excuse. No late work will be accepted without a documented excuse. **I do not negotiate grades.** If you are having a problem with the coursework, **please come and see me** early in the course.

Assignments: There are 4 major assignments in this course.

Take-home questions and class presentations: Every Monday at the end of class I will announce 1-2 questions for research and presentation for the following Monday's session. You are expected to select one question during the course (i.e.: 1-2 students each Monday will select a question). For the week you select a question, research the assigned topic (I expect you to use sources in addition to Wikipedia!) for its sociological significance. You must do more than merely define terms- give us an idea of what the concept means "in real life." Some questions will require internet research; others will ask you to use your own experiences to demonstrate sociological concepts; others will demand both. Come prepared for the following Monday's class to briefly present your findings to the rest of the class. This assignment is worth 20 points.

Journal Review paper: Learning about sociology can be facilitated by learning what research actual sociologists are really doing. For this assignment, I will provide a list of major sociology journals. You will select 1 article in any of these journals from the last 5 years and write a short (2-3 pages) review of the article, including its research design, major findings, and your interpretation of the “so-what” question. This assignment will require you to use the college’s online library system, and class time will be dedicated to orienting you to the library to help you find articles. This assignment is due **Wednesday, February 14**. This assignment is worth 50 points.

Breaching Experiment: You will conduct a short “breaching experiment” outside of class and write a short (2-3 pages) paper on your experiment, results, and what these results tell you about socialization and social norms. This assignment is due **Wednesday, March 27**. Be prepared to discuss your experiment and findings in class. This assignment is worth 50 points.

Sociological Autobiography: This is a comprehensive look at your own life, including your family of origin, social position, race/class/gender/ability/sexuality, educational and work experiences, from the viewpoint of your sociological imagination. This paper should incorporate many of the major topics covered in the course and should be 5-7 pages long. This assignment is due **Wednesday, April 24**. This assignment is worth 100 points.

Exams: There are four exams in this course- three during the semester and one at the end of the course. These exams will be composed of multiple-choice and short answer questions and will cover concepts covered in the textbook, in-class discussion, lecture, films, and student presentations. The final exam comprehensive- it will cover the material covered throughout the whole course.

WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Readings	Due
Week 1	Intro to Intro		None
<i>Tues, Jan 16</i>	<i>What is Sociology</i>	This syllabus!	
<i>Wed, Jan 17</i>	<i>The Sociological Perspective</i>	Chapter 1, Introduction to Sociology	
	<i>3 Theoretical Perspectives</i>		

<p>Week 2</p> <p><i>Mon, Jan 22</i> <i>Tues, Jan 23</i> <i>Wed, Jan 24</i></p>	<p>Sociological Research</p> <p><i>Research Methods</i></p> <p><i>Research Ethics</i></p> <p><i>Film: Obedience</i></p> <p><i>Discuss Journal article project</i></p>	<p>Chapter 2, Sociological Research</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Week 3</p> <p><i>Mon, Jan 29</i> <i>Tues, Jan 30</i> <i>Wed, Jan 31</i></p>	<p>Culture</p> <p><i>Elements of Culture</i></p> <p><i>Social Norms</i></p> <p><i>Pop Culture, Subcultures</i></p> <p><i>Theories of Culture</i></p> <p><i>Discuss breaching experiment</i></p>	<p>Chapter 3, Culture</p>	<p>class presentations</p>
<p>Week 4</p> <p><i>Mon, Feb 5</i> <i>Tues, Feb 6</i> <i>Wed, Feb 7</i></p>	<p>Society and Social Interaction</p> <p><i>Types of Societies</i></p> <p><i>Societal Theories</i></p> <p><i>Social Construction of Reality</i></p>	<p>Chapter 4, Society and Social Interaction</p>	<p>Class presentations</p> <p>Wed, Feb 7: EXAM ONE</p>
<p>Week 5</p> <p><i>Mon, Feb 12</i> <i>Tues, Feb 13</i></p>	<p>Socialization</p> <p><i>Self-development</i></p>	<p>Chapter 5, Socialization</p>	<p>Class presentations</p> <p>DUE:</p>

<i>Wed, Feb 14</i>	<i>Agents of socialization</i> <i>Socialization across the life course</i>		JOURNAL ARTICLE PROJECT
Week 6 <i>Mon, Feb 19</i> <i>Tues, Feb 20</i> <i>Wed, Feb 21</i>	Social Groups <i>Types of Groups</i> <i>Group Structure</i> <i>Formal Organizations</i> <i>Discuss sociological autobiography</i>	Chapter 6, Groups and Organization	Class presentations
Week 7 <i>Mon, Feb 26</i> <i>Tues, Feb 27</i> <i>Wed, Feb 28</i>	Deviance, Crime and Social Control <i>Deviance and Control</i> <i>Theories of Deviance</i> <i>Crime and Law</i> <i>Film: The New Asylums</i>	Chapter 7, Deviance, Crime, and Social Control	Class presentations
Week 8 <i>Mon, Mar 4</i> <i>Tue, Mar 5</i>	Social Class in the US <i>Stratification</i> <i>Mobility</i> <i>Inequality</i>	Chapter 9, Social Stratification in the United States	Class presentations Tue, Mar 5: EXAM TWO
Week 9	Global Inequality	Chapter 10, Global Inequality	Class presentations

<p><i>Mon, Mar 18</i> <i>Tues, Mar 19</i> <i>Wed, Mar 20</i></p>	<p><i>Global Stratification</i></p> <p><i>Global Wealth and poverty</i></p> <p><i>Theories of Global Inequality</i></p>		
<p>Week 10</p> <p><i>Mon, Mar 25</i> <i>Tues, Mar 26</i> <i>Wed, Mar 27</i></p>	<p>Race and Ethnicity</p> <p><i>Racial, Ethnic and Minority Groups</i></p> <p><i>Stereotypes, Prejudice and Discrimination</i></p> <p><i>Intergroup relations</i></p> <p><i>Film: A Class Divided</i></p>	<p>Chapter 11, Race and Ethnicity</p>	<p>Class presentations</p> <p>DUE: BREACHING EXPERIMENT</p>
<p>Week 11</p> <p><i>Wed, Apr 3</i></p>	<p>Gender, Sex and Sexuality</p> <p><i>Sex and Gender</i></p>	<p>Chapter 12, Gender, Sex and Sexuality</p>	<p>Class presentations</p>
<p>Week 12</p> <p><i>Mon, Apr 8</i> <i>Tues, Apr 9</i> <i>Wed, Apr 10</i></p>	<p>Aging and the Elderly</p> <p><i>Aging in society</i></p> <p><i>The process of aging</i></p>	<p>Chapter 13, Aging and the Elderly</p>	<p>Class presentations</p> <p>Wed, Apr 7: EXAM THREE</p>

	<i>Theories of aging</i>		
Week 13 <i>Mon, Apr 15</i> <i>Tues, Apr 16</i> <i>Wed, Apr 17</i>	Marriage and Family <i>Variations in family life</i> <i>Family Challenges</i>	Chapter 14, Marriage and Family	Class presentations
Week 14 <i>Mon, Apr 22</i> <i>Tues, Apr 23</i> <i>Wed, Apr 24</i>	Education & Religion <i>Sociological approach to religion</i> <i>Education Theory</i>	Chapter 15, Religion Chapter 16, Education	Class presentations DUE: SOCIOLOGICAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY
Week 15 <i>Mon, Apr 29</i> <i>Tues, Apr 30</i> <i>Wed, May 1</i>	Politics, Economy and Work <i>Power and authority</i> <i>Theories of power</i> <i>Economic systems</i>	Chapter 17, Government and Politics Chapter 18, Work and Economy	Class presentations
Week 16 <i>Mon, May 6</i> <i>Tues, May 7</i> <i>Wed, May 8</i>	Population, Urbanization and the Environment <i>Urbanization</i> <i>Environment and society</i> <i>Social Movements</i> <i>Social Change</i>	Chapter 20, Population, Urbanization and the Environment Chapter 21, Social Movements and Social Change	Class presentations Wed, May 8: FINAL

The College remains committed to following guidance from the CDC, SUNY, and NYS Department of Health and protecting the health and safety of our students, employees, and visitors. The campus COVID-19 policies continue here:

<https://www.hvcc.edu/covid19/index.html>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Hudson Valley Community College is committed to ensuring educational access and accommodations for all its registered students, in order to fully participate in programs and course activities or to meet course requirements. Hudson Valley Community College's students with documented disabilities and medical conditions are encouraged to access these services by registering with the Center for Access and Assistive Technology to discuss their particular needs for accommodations. For information or an appointment contact the Center for Access and Assistive Technology, located in room 130 of the Siek Campus Center, email us at caat@hvcc.edu, or call 518-629-7154/TDD: 518-629-7596.

Student Handbook

As a student at HVCC, you are expected to be familiar with and follow the guidelines stated in the [Student Handbook](#). Important dates, information about campus offices, and the student code of conduct are detailed in the handbook.

<https://www.hvcc.edu/about/policies-procedures/>

The professor retains the right to change this syllabus