

SOC 280-11860, 4610, 4613  
Introduction to Sociology  
Spring 2012  
Online

Dr. Stephanie Medley-Rath  
Office: NE 14  
Office Hours: 9:30-10:50 M, T, W, R  
Office Phone: 217-234-5438  
[smedleyrath@lakeland.cc.il.us](mailto:smedleyrath@lakeland.cc.il.us) (checked M-F)

\*\*\*This syllabus contains hyperlinks. To access the hyperlinks, download a copy of the syllabus from BlackBoard. Any time you see a word underlined and in blue (on your computer), you can right-click on it to go to the linked website.

**This course is taught entirely online [here](#).**

Technical support is available in the Center for Technology and Professional Development and at 217-234-5571. Technical difficulties are not a reason to submit work late. Make sure you have a back-up plan in the event your internet connection fails or your computer crashes. Technological issues are not an accepted excuse for late work.

---

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Study of human interaction focusing on social influences shaping personality, structure and dynamics of human society. Topics include: sociological perspective, culture, society, social interaction, social change in global perspective, socialization, social class, social stratification, race and ethnicity, and deviance.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the completion of the course, the student will

- Describe how sociology operates as a science.
- Delineate and apply the steps used in the sociological research process.
- Summarize key concepts of the major theoretical perspectives.
- Use sociological perspectives to analyze behavior of individuals, groups, institutions, and societies.
- Explain the relationship between their individual behavior and the social groups to which they belong.
- Identify how sociology can be applied to their daily lives.
- Determine whether sociology is a potential major, career choice, or both.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Conley, Dalton. *You May Ask Yourself*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. (YMAY)
2. Sternheimer, Karen. *Everyday Sociology* (ES)
3. Lewis, Michael. *The Blind Side*

### ONLINE RESOURCES

1. [Study Space](http://www.wwnorton.com/college/soc/you-may-ask-yourself2/) (<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/soc/you-may-ask-yourself2/>) is a free resource from the publisher of our textbooks. On this site, you can find quizzes, chapter outlines, and other study aids.

2. Facebook (Learn Sociology) & Twitter: (@learnsociology): I manage a facebook and twitter account for all of my sociology courses and sociological work. I encourage you to follow one or both accounts. You are not required to follow either account, but I will post announcements, reminders, and interesting articles that relate to our course on both sites. When you get to the course schedule, you will see that each Week contains a twitter hashtag (#). I will tag my tweets with these hashtags and I ask that you do the same. This enables you to search for each week's tweets, which you could use to review for your exams.

## GRADING POLICY

1. **Introduction (1 @ 5 points)**. You need to post a short introduction about yourself to the Discussion Thread "Introductions" by Sunday at midnight in Week 1.
2. **Seeing Sociology (3 @ 15 points each)**. For this assignment, you will be required to take a photograph that illustrates a sociological concept and include a tweetable sociologically-rich description of the photo.
  - i) You will have to complete three of these; one for each unit.
    - a) Seeing Sociology 1
      - Covers chapters 1-6
      - Twitter hashtag: #soc280ss1
      - Due by Sunday at midnight in Week 6
    - b) Seeing Sociology 2
      - Covers chapters 7-11
      - Twitter hashtag: #soc280ss2
      - Due Sunday at midnight in Week 11
    - c) Seeing Sociology 3
      - Covers chapters 12-17
      - Twitter hashtag: #soc280ss3
      - Due Sunday at midnight in Week 16
  - ii) You can use a film camera, a disposable camera, or a camera phone to take your photos. You will need to add your photo to a Microsoft Word document with your tweetable caption directly below. If you do not have a camera or access to a camera, please contact me by the end of week 2. If you do not know how to insert your photo into a Word document, click [here](#).
  - iii) Tweetable means your description should be 140 characters or less. That's characters, not words. Each letter, space, and punctuation mark counts as a character. The point is to get you to think sociologically and communicate a sociological concept in very limited space. I would start with a longer description and then cut it back to the heart of the description. Can you write one word as your caption? Yes, but I wouldn't recommend it. Succinctly make your point, yet make sure your description is sociologically-rich. Tell me as much as you can in as few characters as possible.
  - iv) No nudity, pornography, or obscenity. If you went to a strip club and found the experience illustrates the concept of gender inequality, then take a photo of the sign over the strip club. Be creative, but no photos of people actually stripping.
  - v) If you take photos of people, make sure you have their permission to use their photo in class.

- vi) You must take the photo yourself. You can not just download a picture from google images and pass it off as your own work.
- vii) Your paper must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 or 1.5 inch margins.
- viii) Please spell-check and read over your work before turning it in. No more than two spelling or grammatical errors per page.
- ix) Keep a back-up copy of your work so you do not lose it.
- x) Include in-text citations and a reference page when appropriate (this means your reference page should have an APA formatted entry for the article, the textbook, and any other references you use). You should follow APA format. More information on APA format can be found at the [OWL @ Purdue](#). Your reference page does not count towards your 140 character count.
- xi) There are sample Seeing Sociology submissions on BlackBoard.
- xii) Seeing Sociology should be submitted through [Turn It In](#) and will not be accepted elsewhere. [Turn It In: The Turn It In Student Manual](#) is also available to review to learn how to submit papers. If you have never created an account, you can create your account [here](#). You will need the information in the table below to create your account. Make sure to use the correct section number. I will not track down your submission. It must be submitted in the appropriate location.

Section	Course ID	Password
SOC 280-11860	4589447	maxweber
SOC 280-4610	4589448	janeaddams
SOC 280-4613	4589449	durkheim

If you have technical questions, contact the [Turn It In Helpdesk](#). **I will not answer technical questions until you after you have contacted the Turn It In Helpdesk.**

- xiii) **Optional:** If you are on Twitter, you can share your photo and caption with the class via twitter. Include the hashtag listed on page 2 so that we can find your tweets. Sharing your photos on twitter is completely optional.
  - xiv) **Optional:** If you would like to help build a library of sociologically focused images, please share your photo with the [Learn Sociology Flickr Group](#). Sharing your photo on Flickr is completely optional. By sharing your photo with the Flickr group, you are giving me the right to use your photo in the classroom setting.
- 3. Exams (4 @ 25 points each)**
- i) Exam 1 is due by Sunday at midnight in Week 6 and covers all course material for weeks 1-6
  - ii) Exam 2 is due by Sunday at midnight in Week 11 and covers all course material for weeks 7-11
  - iii) Exam 3 is due by Sunday at midnight in Week 16 and covers all course material for weeks 12-16
  - iv) Exam 4 is a comprehensive final exam and is due by Tuesday at midnight in Week 17 (May 8) and covers all course material for weeks 1-16
  - v) Each exam includes 25 multiple choice questions.
  - vi) There will not be study guides for your exams. If you keep up with the course readings, use the study aides at [Study Space](#), and stay engaged in the classroom, you will have no need for a study guide.
  - vii) Each exam is open-book and open-note.

viii) Each exam is timed. For Exams 1-3, you will have 60 minutes to complete your exam once it is opened. You will have 120 minutes to complete Exam 4 once it is opened.

4. **Doing Sociology (16, but only 10 graded @ 5 points each + participation @5 points/week = 100 points total)**

- i) There are 16 Doing Sociology discussion prompts. **I will randomly grade 10 of these activities.**
- ii) You must answer the discussion question by **Wednesday at midnight** the week it is due. Late responses will not earn credit.
- iii) Doing Sociology will be graded for spelling and grammar. Take your time. Complete your response in word, use spell check, and copy and paste it into Blackboard.
- iv) Your responses should be between 200-500 words. If you do not reach 200 words, you most likely have not answered the prompt.
- v) If you state information as fact, you must provide a reference. You do not have to provide a complete citation (though this would be good practice), but you at least need to provide a link or the author, name of the source, and date of publication.
- vi) You must also respond to at least two of your classmates' Doing Sociology responses each week. Your responses are due by **Sunday at midnight** of the week the prompt is due. You must say more than you agree or disagree. You must add something material (or of substance) to the discussion. You can do this by referring back to the readings, by asking pointed follow-up questions, by providing another example, and so on. (5 points total/2.5 points per post)
- vii) The table below gives you each week's Doing Sociology prompt.

<b>Doing Sociology</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Due</b>
#1	Keep a journal for a day; document five social phenomena that you generally perceive as natural in your everyday life. Your journal could include notes on the way people greet each other, share public space, eat, and so on. Pick one and discuss alternative ways your daily life might proceed if this element had been different throughout history. (Example: What if racial divisions in America were based on eye color rather than skin tone?)	Week 1
#2	Create a research design to collect empirical data to either support or disprove one of the following claims: (1) People on welfare are lazy and don't want to work, (2) Women are worse drivers than men, (3) Blacks are naturally more athletic. Remember to think about the different variables involved, whether you're aiming to establish correlation or causality, and what method of data collection is best suited for your research question. You are planning the study, not actually completing the study.	Week 2

#3	Think about the multiple uses of the concept of culture. Ask five people you know what they think when they hear the word culture. Which definitions occur most frequently? Has this exercise (and chapter) changed how you think about culture?	Week 3
#4	This week you have two questions to choose from. Indicate in your answer which question you selected. <b>Question 1:</b> School plays an important role in our socialization. Think about the way socialization works: What are some of the things we learn from schooling (e.g., the first years of elementary school), and how does this learning differ from what we are taught by our teacher? How are things like gender performance shaped in school? </p> <b>Question 2:</b> Parents of different social classes socialize children differently. For example, middle-class parents are more likely to stress independence and self-direction, whereas working-class parents prioritize obedience to external authority. Using this example, how does socialization through families potentially reproduce social inequality?	Week 4
#5	Have you ever gotten involved with a club or community group like one Putnam mentions? Did you feel more connected to your community? Have you gotten involved in an online community, like one Raskoff describes? Did you feel a greater sense of connection with other participants? Did this involvement lead to any in-person meetings or activities?	Week 5
#6	Watch a reality show (e.g., <i>Survivor</i> , <i>American Idol</i> , <i>Jersey Shore</i> ). What are your initial impressions about the celebrities? Now watch the same episode again. How do the celebrities on the show attempt to shape their identities through the program, and, if applicable, the struggles they go through? How does this exemplify Cooley's concept of the looking-glass self, as Raskoff describes it?	Week 6
#7	To talk about the rich, the poor, and the way society is economically stratified sounds like the job of economists. Why should sociologists be interested in stratification? How does a better understanding of stratification potentially contribute to the well-being of society?	Week 7

#8	There are many programs and agencies to help the poor. Locate one agency (or organization) that helps the poor in your community. Speak with a person who works or volunteers at that agency and gather information on what he or she does. How does that person help the poor? How many people does he or she help in a given year? How is the agency funded (government, church, private donors, etc.)? Are there any structural challenges that you can perceive which might make it difficult for the poor to access the agency's benefits? Is there any way that person might be doing more harm than good?	Week 8
#9	Have you ever been to a store and started to look at items of clothing, then realized you might be in the "wrong" department (i.e., clothes for the other sex)? Did you ever walk into the wrong restroom? Make a list of gender-inappropriate behaviors you have encountered. How did people react to these incidents? Would you feel weird at all if you considered buying a jacket meant for the other sex? How do these examples--for example, the separation of stores into "women's" and "men's" sections--demonstrate the way gender is socially constructed and enacted?	Week 9
#10	Thinking about the history of race, what do you predict for the future of "race" and "ethnicity" as social categories? Will they stay the same? What do demographic trends and history lessons suggest might happen in the coming decades in the United States?	Week 10
#11	What would be an argument in support of sin taxes on fast-food meals? Considering that fast-food meals are usually less expensive than healthier options and provide food quickly for underpaid and overworked Americans, how might sin taxes unintentionally reproduce class differences?	Week 11
#12	What is the pecking order, and what does the term mean for children in a family? According to this concept, does your birth position in the family or number of siblings matter to your life chances for success in school and beyond?	Week 12
#13	Through the meritocratic education system everyone has the chance to succeed in America." Do you agree with this statement? Find a theory or a research finding from this chapter that supports this assertion and another that challenges it. Do these theories or findings complicate your view of America as a meritocracy?	Week 13
#14	Find unemployment statistics for the nation, your state, and the nearest major city. How do these rates vary in factors such as age, gender, and race? What do these numbers indicate about the likelihood of people in your region finding work?	Week 14

#15	In a democratic society, why is it possible for a small group of elites to get what it wants at the expense of the larger population? In your answer, consider the work on collective action.	Week 15
#16	Explain how Marx and Weber differ in the way they link religion and the economy.	Week 16

5. ***The Blind Side* Talking Points and Group Discussion (1 @ 50 points)**

- i) We will discuss *The Blind Side* in Week 15. You have each been assigned to a group on BlackBoard with a discussion thread. In this discussion thread, you will each share 3-5 talking points from the book. You could ask a question about the book. You could highlight a passage/quote from the book that you would like to discuss. You need to ask at least one question and highlight one passage/quote from the book. You should indicate the page number of any quotes and include a page number with your questions if applicable. You will also discuss why you chose the talking points you selected. Your explanation should be 1-4 sentences for each talking point. Your talking points are due by Wednesday at midnight in Week 15. (35 points)
  - ii) You will then discuss these talking points with your group. You must also respond to at least **three** of your classmates' *The Blind Side* Talking Points by **Sunday at midnight**. You must say more than you agree or disagree. You must add something material (or of substance) to the discussion. You can do this by referring back to the readings, by asking pointed follow-up questions, by providing another example, and so on. (15 points total/5 points per post)
6. Extra Credit Assessment Survey due Friday at midnight in Week 16. You need the password "extracredit" to access the survey. It is extremely important that you do not complete this survey until you have completed all of your work up until this point. If I suspect that you took this early in the semester and did not take the assessment seriously, you will not earn extra credit. You will earn 15 extra credit points just for completing this survey, regardless of how many answers you get correct. You will need your course section number.

Grading Scale (point system, not an average):

A	300-270
B	269.9-240
C	239.9-210
D	209.9-180
F	179.9-0

**GENERAL POLICIES**

**Email:** You need to use your Lake Land email account to communicate with me. Your Lake Land email address uses the same prefix as your IRIS and BlackBoard login. I will not respond to emails from other addresses. Make sure that you include your course name and section number in the subject of your email. This way, I know the email is from a student and I will respond to you first. I will not discuss grades via email. I will

discuss your grade in BlackBoard or in-person only. I will respond to your email within 24-48 hours M-F. I will not respond to emails sent on the weekend until Monday or Tuesday.

I send emails each Monday to your Lake Land account with reminders for the week. I will not send emails to other addresses. You can learn how to forward your email [here](#) if you do not regularly check your Lake Land email. If after Week 1, you have not received an email from me (and you checked your junk mail), contact me so that I can make sure you are on the list.

**Policy on Academic Honesty:** Response to student cheating on coursework shall be per school policy with the following instructor options:

- No credit given for the plagiarized work
- Reduced credit in the form of a lower grade for plagiarized work
- Instructor notifies the Division's Chair of the incident
- Cheating incidents of a serious nature may result in dropping the student from the course, which could result in failure in the course

If in doubt, ask. Ignorance is not an excuse. If quoting material, any repetition of three or more words should be included in quotations and citations should be used.

Lake Land College's Student Handbook Conduct Code with more details can be found [here](#).

**Withdrawals:** A student may drop a course through April 30, 2011. A grade of "W" will be recorded for the dropped course.

**Disabilities:** Students with some special reason for modified testing procedures or not-taking procedures should contact me as soon as possible so appropriate arrangements can be made. See Jordan Hicks in Student Services Building #24 if you think you have learning, physical, or emotional issues.

**Religious Holidays:** If after reading the syllabus, you discover that I have assigned a test or assignment due date for a holy day of your faith, please let me know by the end of Week 2. Furthermore, if you will be missing any class because of holy days this semester, please inform me in writing by the end of Week 2.

**Student Athletes:** If your coach anticipates that you will need to miss class this semester due to athletic participation, you will need to complete your work ahead of time.

#### **GROUND RULES:**

1. We will not accept any discrimination, intimidation, or harassment of fellow students.
2. Remember, just because something does not apply to you, does not make it any less true. Keep an open mind.



## COURSE SCHEDULE

You should have read the assigned reading prior to the class meeting we are scheduled to discuss it.

You May Ask Yourself = YMAY

Everyday Sociology = ES

You will see Chapter Quizzes listed in the course schedule. These are not graded but are meant for you to test yourself to see how well you are learning. The quizzes are found online at [Study Space](#).

<b>Week 1</b> <b>#soc280ch1</b>	January 9-15	Read the syllabus
		Print out a copy of the syllabus for handy reference
		Take the BlackBoard Tutorial <a href="#">here</a>
		Post your Introduction to the "Introduction" thread by Sunday at midnight
		Activate your <a href="#">turnitin.com</a> account by Sunday at midnight
		Read YMAY: Chapter 1
		Read ES: p. 1-6
		Complete Learning Module for Week 1
		Doing Sociology #1 due Wednesday at midnight
		Respond to at least 2 of your classmates in the week's Doing Sociology thread by Sunday at midnight
		<a href="#">Chapter 1 Quiz</a>
<b>Week 2</b> <b>#soc280ch2</b>	January 16-22	Read YMAY: Chapter 2
		Doing Sociology #2 due Wednesday at midnight
		Complete Learning Module for Week 2
		Respond to at least 2 of your classmates in the week's Doing Sociology thread by Sunday at midnight
		Read ES: p. 10-22
		<a href="#">Chapter 2 Quiz</a>
<b>Week 3</b> <b>#soc280ch3</b>	January 23-29	Read YMAY Chapter 3
		Read ES: p. 31-44
		Doing Sociology #3 due Wednesday at midnight
		Complete Learning Module for Week 3
		Respond to at least 2 of your classmates in the week's Doing Sociology thread by Sunday at midnight
		<a href="#">Chapter 3 Quiz</a>

<b>Week 4</b> <b>#soc280ch4</b>	January 30- February 5	Read YMAY Chapter 4
		Read ES: p. 47-79
		Doing Sociology #4 due Wednesday at midnight
		Complete Learning Module for Week 4
		Respond to at least 2 of your classmates in the week's Doing Sociology thread by Sunday at midnight
		<a href="#">Chapter 4 Quiz</a>
<b>Week 5</b> <b>#soc280ch5</b>	February 6- 12	Read YMAY: Chapter 5
		Read ES: 82-102
		Doing Sociology #5 due Wednesday at midnight
		Complete Learning Module for Week 5
		Respond to at least 2 of your classmates in the week's Doing Sociology thread by Sunday at midnight
		<a href="#">Chapter 5 Quiz</a>
<b>Week 6</b> <b>#soc280ch6</b>	February 13-19	Read YMAY: Chapter 6
		Read ES: p. 105-130
		Doing Sociology #6 due Wednesday at midnight
		Seeing Sociology #1 Due by Sunday at midnight on Turnitin.com
		Complete Learning Module for Week 6
		Respond to at least 2 of your classmates in the week's Doing Sociology thread by Sunday at midnight
		<a href="#">Chapter 6 Quiz</a>
		Exam 1 is due by Sunday at midnight and covers all course material for weeks 1-6
<b>Week 7</b> <b>#soc280ch7</b>	February 20-26	Read YMAY: Chapter 7
		Read ES: p. 133-156
		Doing Sociology #7 due Wednesday at midnight
		Complete Learning Module for Week 7
		Respond to at least 2 of your classmates in the week's Doing Sociology thread by Sunday at midnight
		<a href="#">Chapter 7 Quiz</a>
<b>Week 8</b> <b>#soc280ch8</b>	February 27 – March 4	Read YMAY: Chapter 10
		Doing Sociology #8 due Wednesday at midnight
		Complete Learning Module for Week 8
		Respond to at least 2 of your classmates in the week's Doing Sociology thread by Sunday at midnight
		<a href="#">Chapter 10 Quiz</a>

<b>Week 9</b> <b>#soc280ch9</b>	March 5-11	Read YMAY: Chapter 8
		Read ES: p. 173-182; 197-206
		Doing Sociology #9 due Wednesday at midnight
		Complete Learning Module for Week 9
		Respond to at least 2 of your classmates in the week's Doing Sociology thread by Sunday at midnight
		<a href="#">Chapter 8 Quiz</a>
<b>Week 10</b> <b>#soc280ch10</b>	March 12-18	Read YMAY: Chapter 9
		Read ES: 209-240
		Doing Sociology #10 due Wednesday at midnight
		Complete Learning Module for Week 10
		Respond to at least 2 of your classmates in the week's Doing Sociology thread by Sunday at midnight
		<a href="#">Chapter 9 Quiz</a>
<b>Week 11</b> <b>#soc280ch11</b>	March 19-25	Read YMAY: Chapter 11
		<a href="#">Chapter 11 Quiz</a>
		Doing Sociology #11 due Wednesday at midnight
		Complete Learning Module for Week 11
		Respond to at least 2 of your classmates in the week's Doing Sociology thread by Sunday at midnight
		Seeing Sociology #2 Due by Sunday at midnight on Turnitin.com
		Exam 2 is due by Sunday at midnight and covers all course material for weeks 7-11
<b>Week 12</b> <b>#soc280ch12</b>	March 26-April 1	Read YMAY: Chapter 12
		Doing Sociology #12 due Wednesday at midnight
		Read ES: p. 243-256
		Complete Learning Module for Week 12
		Respond to at least 2 of your classmates in the week's Doing Sociology thread by Sunday at midnight
		<a href="#">Chapter 12 Quiz</a>
<b>Spring Break</b>	April 2-8	No School
<b>Week 13</b> <b>#soc280ch13</b>	April 9-15	Read YMAY: Chapter 13
		Doing Sociology #13 due Wednesday at midnight
		Read ES: p. 262-273
		Complete Learning Module for Week 13
		Respond to at least 2 of your classmates in the week's Doing Sociology thread by Sunday at midnight
		<a href="#">Chapter 13 Quiz</a>

<b>Week 14</b> <b>#soc280ch14</b>	April 16-22	Read YMAY: Chapter 14
		Read ES: p. 257-261
		Doing Sociology #14 due Wednesday at midnight
		Complete Learning Module for Week 14
		Respond to at least 2 of your classmates in the week's Doing Sociology thread by Sunday at midnight
		<a href="#">Chapter 14 Quiz</a>
<b>Week 15</b> <b>#soc280ch15</b>	April 23-29	Read <i>The Blind Side</i>
		<i>The Blind Side</i> Talking Points (due Wednesday and Sunday)
		Read YMAY: Chapter 15
		Doing Sociology #15 due Wednesday at midnight
		Complete Learning Module for Week 15
		Respond to at least 2 of your classmates in the week's Doing Sociology thread by Sunday at midnight
		<a href="#">Chapter 15 Quiz</a>
<b>Week 16</b> <b>#soc280ch16</b>	April 30- May 6	Read YMAY: Chapter 16
		Read ES: p. 292-293
		Doing Sociology #16 due Wednesday at midnight
		<a href="#">Chapter 16 Quiz</a>
		Seeing Sociology #3 Due by Sunday at midnight on Turnitin.com
		Complete Learning Module for Week 16
		Respond to at least 2 of your classmates in the week's Doing Sociology thread by Sunday at midnight
		Exam 3 is due by Sunday at midnight and covers all course material for weeks 12-16
		Extra Credit is Due Friday by midnight
<b>Week 17</b> <b>#soc280ch17</b>	May 7-8	Exam 4: Final Exam (comprehensive and covers all course material for weeks 1-16) is due by Tuesday, May 8 at midnight

**The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.**