

I selected sociology as my major at the end of my freshman year after declaring a social work major and taking the required Introduction to Sociology course. My teacher was very passionate about the “Battle in Seattle,” which inspired me to use the event in my speech class. Further, while reading my textbook, I was struck by this photo:¹



I learned that the Bellamy salute was used during the Pledge of Allegiance prior to World War II. I was absolutely struck by how the meanings of things, such as gestures could change so profoundly. Sociology also helped me answer questions about the world, such as, why was it ok to use Native American imagery for sports team mascots, when other groups were not depicted in such ways (it's actually not ok)? Why did teenage pregnancy seem like such a popular choice among my classmates (and is declining)? Why did so many of my high school classmates go directly into the workforce, while I went to college as a full-time student? The sociological imagination helped answer these questions. On the sociological imagination, C. Wright Mills² ([1959] 2000) wrote, “[n]either the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both” (p. 3). Throughout this course, we will develop our sociological imaginations and answer questions about social interaction, stratification, and structure.

¹Wikipedia. 2013. “File:Students pledging allegiance to the American flag with the Bellamy salute.jpg.” Retrieved August 19, 2013 (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Students_pledging_allegiance_to_the_American_flag_with_the_Bellamy_salute.jpg).

² C. Wright Mills. [1959] 2000. *The Sociological Imagination*. New York City: Oxford University Press.

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 be able to

- Describe how sociology operates as a science.
- Interpret a 2x2 table.
- Compare the major theoretical perspectives.
- Use the sociological imagination to explain social phenomena.
- Evaluate the ways in which stratification exists within our world.
- Examine the relationship between their individual behavior and the social groups to which they belong (i.e., structure and agency).

RESUME ITEMS

Upon successful completion of this course and all course requirements, you should be able to include the following items on a resume:³

1. Critical thinking and analytic reasoning
2. Knowledge of U.S. cultural values and traditions
3. Written communication
4. Discuss percentages in a two variable table
5. Teamwork skills in diverse groups

I suggest opening a word document with the above items noted and begin keeping a record of the ways in which you practice these skills during this course (and others). At the end of the semester, you will be the best judge as to whether you can demonstrate these skills and talk about them in a job interview. You might also specify your degree of skill: beginner, intermediate, advanced, expert, and so on.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Conley, Dalton. *You May Ask Yourself*. 2nd edition.
2. Sternheimer, Karen. *Everyday Sociology*

ONLINE RESOURCES

1. **Canvas:** This course will be taught entirely on Canvas. I have organized the course into Modules. You should complete all material under each Module. You will find links to assignments, audio recordings, and additional readings that are not listed in the Course Schedule of this syllabus. I have created Unit Guides for each unit that will provide an outline of the unit's materials.
2. **Social Media:** [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

³ American Sociological Association. 2009. *21st Century Careers with an Undergraduate Degree in Sociology*. Washington DC.

interesting articles that relate to our course on both sites. The hashtag for this course is #soc280. I will tag my tweets with this hashtag and I ask that you do the same. This enables you to search for this course's tweets, which you could use to review for your exams.

GRADING POLICY

1. **Activities (70% of final grade):** There are a variety of activities you will complete each week over the course of the semester. These activities include an Introduction, a Background Knowledge Probe, four Reading Rating Sheets, three Seeing Sociology assignments, group discussions, and short individual writing assignments. Complete requirements can be found in the "Sociology Activity Guide."
2. **Exams (30% of final grade):** There are four exams in this course. Your lowest exam score is dropped from your final grade. Exam 4 is a cumulative final exam. Exam 1 covers *You May Ask Yourself* chapters 1-6, all related readings in *Everyday Sociology*, and all information covered in units 1-5. Exam 2 covers *You May Ask Yourself* chapters 7-11, all related readings in *Everyday Sociology*, and all information covered in units 7-10. Exam 3 covers *You May Ask Yourself* chapters 12-16 and all related readings in *Everyday Sociology*. Exam 4 is a comprehensive final exam and covers all course material. Further guidelines:
 - Each exam includes 50 multiple choice questions. Any material we cover in class or is assigned is fair game for an exam.
 - There will not be study guides for your exams. If you keep up with the course readings and stay engaged in the classroom, you will have no need for a study guide.
 - Each exam is open-book and open-note.
 - Each exam is timed. For Exams 1-3, you will have 75 minutes to complete your exam once it is opened. You will have 120 minutes to complete Exam 4 once it is opened.
 - Your lowest exam score will be dropped from your final grade.
 - Late exams will not be allowed.
 - Collaboration on the exams is not allowed and will result in a failing grade in the course. You should direct any questions about the exam to me, your instructor. You should not discuss the exam with any of your classmates until the exam due date has passed. You are to take the exam on your own without help from any other person.
3. **Extra Credit Assessment Survey** due Friday, December 13 at midnight. You will access the survey through Instructure Canvas. 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 a 1% increase in your final grade for completing this survey, regardless of how many answers you get correct. You will need your course section number (SOC 280-11860, 4610, 4613, or 4615) to complete the survey.

The mechanics of all written work:

- All written work must be typed, include page numbers, double-spaced, 12-point font, 1 or 1.5 inch margins.
- Please spell-check and read over your work before turning it in. No more than two spelling or grammatical errors per page.
- Written work should conform to APA format.
- Keep a back-up copy of your work so you do not lose it.
- No late work will be accepted or accepted elsewhere.
- Each submission will be submitted onto Instructure Canvas by the due date.

Grading Scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89.9%
C	70-79.9%
D	60-69.9%
F	0-59.9%

**Do not count on your grade being rounded up. **

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 Instructure Canvas login. 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 Instructure Canvas or in-person only. I will respond to your email between 24-48 hours M-F.

Attendance: Attendance is not figured as a separate grade in this course. You are expected to contribute periodically to group discussions as part of your grade. You should plan to log into our classroom 2-3 times a week. You should expect to spend 9-12 hours each week on this course. Block off time on 4-7 days to devote to this class.

Late Work and Exams: All assignments are due by midnight Central Standard Time on their due date. Late work is not accepted. All exams will be taken during the scheduled time unless other arrangements have been made ahead of time.

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. 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 at <http://www.lakeland.cc.il.us/studenthandbook/detail.cfm?id=30>.

Withdrawals: A student may drop a course through Dec. 5, 2013. A grade of "W" will be recorded for the dropped course.

Disabilities: Students with some special reason for modified testing procedures or note-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 need to provide me with written documentation from your coach by the end of Week 2.

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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THIS COURSE

- Each week you will complete a Module in Instructure Canvas. You should complete all materials under that unit by the due date listed below, which is usually on a Wednesday. You should not wait until Wednesday to complete your work.
- There are 3-5 audio recordings for each unit that you are expected to listen to. These audio files guide you through any additional links, homework, or ungraded assignments in the module. Each recording is between 5-20 minutes in length.
- You are more than welcome to work ahead, but once a due date has passed, you can not go back and submit the work. If you miss a unit, you will have to complete that work before you can move onto the next unit.
- You must complete the units in order. If you miss a unit, you will have to complete it before the next unit opens in Canvas.
- Readings are listed in Canvas as assignments. These are ungraded and serve as a reminder to you to do them before completing the rest of the activities in the module unit.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Module Unit	Due Date	What's Due?
1	Aug. 28	Activity #1 Due
		Activity #2 Due
		Read YMAY Chapter 1
		Read ES: p. 1-6
2	Sept. 4	Read YMAY Chapter 2
		Read ES: p. 10-22
		Activity #3 Due
		Activity #4 Due
3	Sept. 11	Read YMAY Chapter 3
		Read ES: p. 31-44
		Activity #5 Due
4	Sept. 18	Read YMAY Chapter 4 and 5
		Read ES: p. 47-49, 82-102
		Activity #6 Due
		Activity #7 Due
5	Sept. 25	Read YMAY Chapter 6
		Read ES p. 105-130
		Activity #8 Due
6	Oct. 2	Activity #9 Due
		Exam 1
7	Oct. 9	Read YMAY Chapter 7 and 10
		Read ES p. 133-156
		Activity #10 Due
8	Oct. 16	Read YMAY Chapter 8
		Read ES p. 173-182; 197-206
		Activity #11 Due
9	Oct. 23	Read YMAY Chapter 9
		Read ES p. 209-240
		Activity #12 Due
10	Oct. 30	Read YMAY Chapter 11
		Activity #13 Due
11	Nov. 6	Activity #14 Due
		Exam 2
12	Nov. 13	Read YMAY Chapter 12
		Read ES p. 243-256
		Activity #15 Due
13	Nov. 20	Read YMAY Chapter 13

		Read ES p. 262-273
		Activity #16 Due
		Activity #17 Due
14	Nov. 27	Read YMAY Chapter 14 and 15
		Read ES p. 257-261
		Activity #18 Due
15	Dec. 4	Read YMAY Chapter 16
		Read ES p. 292-293
		Activity #19 Due
16	Dec. 11	Activity #20 Due
		Activity #21 Due
		Exam 3
Final	Dec. 16	Exam 4 (Final)

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