

SOC 280-1433
Introduction to Sociology
Spring 2013
NE 113
TR 1-2:15

Dr. Stephanie Medley-Rath
Office: NE 21
Office Hours: 8:30-9:30; 2:15-4:30 T & R; 10:30-11 W
Office Phone: 217-234-5438
smedleyrath@lakeland.cc.il.us (checked M-F)

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 learn more 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:** You will turn in your out of class work on Canvas. You will also find most handouts also posted to Canvas. You can also communicate with me through Canvas.
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 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

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

same. This enables you to search for this course's tweets, which you could use to review for your exams.

GRADING POLICY

1. Participation (7% of final grade)

Participation will be self-reported and account for 7% of your grade. At the end of each non-exam class meeting, you will complete a participation form.

2. Attendance (3% of final grade)

I will take attendance at the beginning of each class meeting. It is expected that you will stay for the duration of class. Attendance will account for 3% of your final grade. You may miss two classes without penalty.

3. Activities (60% 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, Group Discussions, Background Knowledge Probe, four Reading Rating Sheets, three Seeing Sociology assignments, and short individual writing assignments. Complete requirements can be found in the "Sociology Activity Guide."

4. 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.
- Your lowest exam score will be dropped from your final grade.
- Late exams will not be allowed.

5. 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 accounts for 3% of your grade. If you are absent, you are responsible for any information covered in class. It is your responsibility to complete all the requirements listed in the course schedule by their due date. You also will earn a participation grade. You can't participate unless you attend. Finally, you will be expected to work with your classmates during class, making attendance a priority. If attendance is going to be a struggle, please meet with me as soon as possible to determine if this is the best course for you.

Late Work and Exams: All assignments are due by the start of class 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.

Technical Assistance: I am not tech support. Please contact The Center at (217) 234-5439 or ctpd@lakeland.cc.il.us. You can also use the Help feature in Canvas to answer many of your technical questions.

GROUND RULES:

1. Do not interrupt your fellow students or myself.
2. No personal conversations during lecture (this includes texting).
3. We will not accept any discrimination, intimidation, or harassment of fellow students.
4. Remember, just because something does not apply to you, does not make it any less true. Keep an open mind.
5. Electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, e-readers, laptops, tablets) are conditionally allowed in this classroom. It is assumed that your use of these devices is for educational or emergency situations. Any other uses are prohibited. This technology should be set to silent. I reserve the right to disallow the use of electronic devices at any time for any reason.
6. I do not allow this class to be recorded (audio or visual) unless you have documentation requiring it to be recorded that you have cleared with me beforehand.
7. Consequences: you may be asked to leave class that day.

COURSE SCHEDULE

YMAY: *You May Ask Yourself*

ES: *Everyday Sociology*

Date	Readings/Assignments
22-Aug	Syllabus
	Activity #1
27-Aug	Read YMAY Chapter 1
	Read ES: p. 1-6
	Activity #2
29-Aug	Nothing Due
3-Sep	Read YMAY Chapter 2
	Read ES: p. 10-22
5-Sep	Activity #3
	Activity #4
10-Sep	Read YMAY Chapter 3
	Read ES: p. 31-44
	Activity #5
12-Sep	Nothing Due
17-Sep	Read YMAY Chapter 4 and 5
	Read ES: p. 47-49, 82-102
	Activity #6 Due
	Activity #7 Due
19-Sep	Read YMAY Chapter 6
	Read ES p. 105-130
	Activity #8
24-Sep	Nothing Due
26-Sep	Activity #9
1-Oct	No Class
3-Oct	Exam 1
8-Oct	Read YMAY Chapter 7
	Read ES p. 133-156
10-Oct	Read YMAY Chapter 10
	Activity #10 Due
15-Oct	Nothing Due
17-Oct	Read YMAY Chapter 8
	Read ES p. 173-182; 197-206
	Activity #11 Due
22-Oct	Activity #12 Due

24-Oct	Read YMAY Chapter 9
	Read ES p. 209-240
29-Oct	Nothing Due
31-Oct	Read YMAY Chapter 11
	Activity #13 Due
	Activity #14 Due
5-Nov	Exam 2
7-Nov	Read YMAY Chapter 12
	Read ES p. 243-256
12-Nov	Activity #15 Due
14-Nov	Read YMAY Chapter 13
	Read ES p. 262-273
19-Nov	Activity #16 Due
	Activity #17 Due
21-Nov	Read YMAY Chapter 14
	Read ES p. 257-261
	Activity #18 Due
26-Nov	Read YMAY Chapter 15
28-Nov	No Class Thanksgiving Break
3-Dec	Read YMAY Chapter 16
	Read ES p. 292-293
	Activity #19 Due
5-Dec	Activity #20 Due
	Activity #21 Due
10-Dec	Exam 3
Dec. 17 (12:30-2:30)	Exam 4 (Final)

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