

SKYLINE COLLEGE
SOCI 100: Introduction to Sociology

Instructor:	Course information:
Kaylee T. Matheny	Fall 2021
Office Hours: By appointment	CRN 95633, 3 Units
Office Location: Zoom	Online - Asynchronous

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to the scientific study of how people organize themselves and interact in social settings. It encourages students' curiosity about society and sociological analyses of current social issues. Through this course, students will learn how to wear their sociological lenses—the lenses that allow them to see beyond the individual and analyze how particular occurrences and interactions are manifestations of broader societal trends.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Recognize the interaction of social institutions and social structures with the behaviors of individuals and social groups.
2. Evaluate the impact of culture, social class, gender, and race/ethnicity on people's life chances, practices and attitudes.
3. Analyze, explain and apply key sociological theories, concepts and terms to social issues.
4. Communicate and apply sociological knowledge using oral, written, and/or other technologically-driven mediums to current social issues and problems.

Additionally, upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Increase tolerance and cultural understanding of social classes, gender issues, diversity and race and ethnic issues.
2. Demonstrate skill in critical thinking and writing by analyzing the assigned readings, audio-visual materials and other primary sources utilized in the course.
3. Demonstrate increased understanding of diverse disciplinary perspectives and research methodologies.
4. Integrate and expand their understanding of and access to the Internet, computers and online resources.

Course Materials

Book: *A Sociology Experiment*, by various authors. You may access the book on a per-chapter basis (at \$1 per chapter) by visiting <https://www.sociologyexperiment.com/>. We will read the whole book throughout the course. Chapters are available as PDFs through the website.

All other readings and articles will be posted or linked to on Canvas.

Course Details

Prerequisites:

- There are no required prerequisites for the course, but ENG 100 or 105 is recommended.

Format:

- The course is asynchronous. This means that there are no required class meetings. However, I am available to meet with students one-on-one if you have questions about the course, sociology more generally, or some other topic related to your academic pursuits and interests.
- Instead of class meetings, you will have *videos* and accompanying *lecture slides*, a digital textbook with required readings, research articles and other media to extend class topics, and other supplementary resources provided in each weekly module. The Canvas modules will have *all* of the resources you need (or, in the case of the chapters, will tell you exactly which chapter to read from the textbook). Please check out the video on Canvas titled “Course Walkthrough Video” to improve your understanding of how you will use Canvas in this course.

Attendance, Withdrawal, and Transferability:

- This course is asynchronous, meaning there will be no required class meetings
- The last day to drop semester classes without appearing on record is September 6, 2021
- The withdrawal deadline is November 16, 2021
- This course is transferable to both the CSU and UC college systems.

Technology:

- Check out the Online Resources tab in the Course Information module in Canvas for resources regarding tech support.

Late Work:

- Late assignments will be taken for a portion of a letter grade off up to 24 hours after the initial due date. For example, a B+ paper would receive a B if it were turned in between 0 and 24 hours after the deadline.

- Students may not turn a paper in more than 24 hours late without prior consent of the instructor (that is, you must submit a written request to the instructor—usually this takes place via email—AND have received a consenting response to turn it in late prior to the actual date and time the paper is due).
- Your emergency is not my emergency. I will try to respond to all emails within 48 hours, but I will not immediately respond to emails sent at 11:58 PM regarding assignments due at 11:59 PM. If I don't respond within 48 hours, feel free to nudge me—I may have missed your email. *It is totally okay, and not "annoying" at all, to send a nudge!*
- I am flexible and understanding with assignment deadlines. We are in a pandemic. If you need an extension, send me an email.

Academic Integrity:

- For general academic integrity guidelines, please refer to Student Rights and Responsibilities in the Skyline College catalog, as these will apply in this course.
- Your work at all times must be your own. While you are encouraged to collaborate with others to get preliminary feedback on your work and for engagement with the material, you may not submit another person's work (or the work of a computer) as your own.
- I reserve the right to refer any incidents of academic dishonesty to the Dean of Enrollment Services/ Disciplinary Officer. Additionally, I reserve the right to award plagiarized work with a grade of zero and not to allow the opportunity for make-ups.

Class Accommodations:

- All content will be available on Canvas, and I will strive to incorporate Canvas's accessibility settings into each course page.
- Occasionally, I may occasionally post exemplary de-identified student work so students have examples from which to draw.
- If you require additional accommodations or if there is anything I can do to make the classroom experience more accessible for you, please email or set up a time to meet with me.
- In coordination with the DRC office, reasonable accommodation will be provided for eligible students with disabilities. If you do not yet have an accommodation letter, please contact the DSPS office in room 5132 or call them at 650-738-4280.

Grades and Assignments

Grades:

- Grades will be assigned using the assignment allocations and grading scheme described below. Students will not have the opportunity to turn papers in multiple times, nor will they get extra credit at the end of the semester. Students should plan accordingly.

- If you do not get the grade you believe you deserve on any assignments, you are welcome to discuss the grade with me in further depth during office hours. However, please note that no grades will be changed.

Grades will be assigned based on the following scheme:

A	100-93%
A-	92-90%
B+	89-88%
B	87-83%
B-	82-80%
C+	79-78%
C	77-73%
D+	72-70%
D	69-68%
D-	67-60%
F/NP	59-0%

Grades for the class will be based on assignment types as follows:

Reading Quizzes	10%
Case Study Posts	10%
Data Exercises	15%
Group Project	15%
Midterm Paper	25%
Final Paper	25%

Weekly Assignments

Reading Quizzes:

- Each week, students are assigned to read a chapter in the textbook detailing that week's topic. Students are to complete the reading quiz for the associated chapter by **Wednesday by 11:59pm**. This exercise helps ensure that students have done the reading and are prepared to engage in that week's assignments.
- Quizzes are open book, open note, and open Canvas, with no time limit. All quizzes are ten questions and involve applying concepts from the week's chapter.
- Students are allowed two possible submissions in case technology goes awry.
- 16 reading quizzes are assigned. Students may skip three without penalty (so students must take at least 13 for full credit). Students may complete more than 13 if they would like; in these cases, the 13 best quiz grades will be used for the course grade.

Case Study Posts:

- Each **Wednesday by 11:59pm**, students will *respond* to the week's case study prompt asking them to identify their own "case" of that week's prompt. Examples are provided. Case Study posts should be at least 300 words. Case Studies will be in discussion board format.
- Students should *comment* on two peers' posts by the following **Saturday by 11:59pm**. Responses should be at least 50 words and are part of the grade (if you only submit a case study but do not comment on peers' posts, you will not get credit).
- This assignment is graded on participation. This is an opportunity to connect course content to real-world scenarios and learn something new about the world we live in. Through this activity, students will work toward Student Learning Outcomes #2 and #4.
- 16 case study posts are assigned. Students may skip three without penalty (so students must complete at least 13 for full credit).

Data Exercises:

- Each **Saturday by 11:59pm**, students will complete an assigned task that asks them to apply sociological concepts from that week's lesson and readings to their daily lives.
- Data exercises should be at least 300 words.
- Data exercises will be in assignment format in Canvas (*not* discussion board format). You may submit a Canvas inline submission, a Word document, or a Google document (be sure I have permission). No other formats will be accepted.
- This assignment is graded on participation, so I encourage you to take risks—even if you're not sure about an idea, write out your thinking. Through this activity, students will work toward Student Learning Outcome #3.
- 16 data exercises are assigned. Students may skip three without penalty (so students must complete at least 13 for full credit).

To summarize:

- Case study posts and data exercises should each be at least 300 words.
- For case study posts, comments to peers should be at least 50 words.
- Students may skip three of each type of weekly assignment at some point during the semester without penalty.
- For each of the assignment types above, posts and submissions are graded on a complete/incomplete basis. Posts and submissions that fail to engage/apply the content, are not at least 75% original content from the student, and/or do not meet the word count will be considered incomplete.

Milestone Assignments

Guidelines for All Milestone Assignments:

- Topics are loosely structured. Students who wish to write on a different topic are invited to do so, though they must get the consent of the instructor.

- Papers are to be written in double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font with one-inch margins. Papers should be turned in via Canvas and should be labeled LastName_Assignment (e.g., Matheny_Midterm). Students who fail to appropriately format their papers risk losing half a letter grade.
- All papers must be submitted as Microsoft Word documents or Google Docs. All presentations/posters must be submitted as Microsoft Powerpoint files or Google Slides.
- Students are expected to write at the college level (e.g., no spaces before periods, academic language, etc). Students should cite the assigned readings as well as other sources.
- At least 75% of the assignment must be your own original content. This includes content in quotes (you may only use direct quotes from other sources for up to 25% of your response, and the content you do quote should always be cited in ASA style). Please use plagiarism and grammar checkers before submitting assignments. If you have a high similarity rating, consider paraphrasing and adding your own interpretation of the quotes you have included.
- All papers/projects are graded based on the following criteria:
 - 20% Ideas – Ideas are creative, accurate, and appropriate to the prompt
 - 50% Application – Course content is effectively applied (includes the required number of citations, uses language from course readings)
 - 20% Organization – Ideas are organized and there are effective transitions; the paper is of the appropriate length to address the topic and meet page count requirements
 - 10% Mechanics – Grammar, punctuation, capitalization, formatting

Group Project (Poster):

- Students will draft a poster on one of the following topics:
 - Break a Social Norm or Interview a Social Being
- Students will be assigned to groups in Canvas after the add/drop period (Sept. 6).
- Please see the project handout on Canvas for specific assignment guidelines.
- Only one group member will need to submit the project.
- The **project is due** in the Canvas discussion board on **Wednesday, October 6 at 11:59pm**.
- In order to receive your grade for this assignment, you will also need to **comment** on two other groups' projects by **Saturday, October 9 at 11:59pm**. Each individual group member must comment on two peers' posts.

Midterm Paper:

- Students will conduct a sociological analysis on a piece of media (a book, a television show, a movie, a video game, a comic book, etc.).

- In this paper, students will apply the content from the course thus far. For more specifics, please see the midterm handout on Canvas (to be released when the Group Project is complete).
- The project should reference at least two course readings (in ASA format) and be at least four pages long. See paper/project guidelines above for formatting specifics.
- The midterm paper is due on Canvas at by **Saturday, November 6 at 11:59pm**.

Final Paper:

- Students will apply content from the course to a contemporary social issue.
- In this paper, students will apply the content from the course thus far. For more specifics, please see the final paper handout on Canvas (to be released when the Midterm Paper is complete).
- The paper should reference at least three course readings (in ASA format) and be five pages long. See paper/project guidelines above for formatting specifics.
- The Final Paper is due on Canvas by **Wednesday, December 15 at 11:59pm**.

Course Outline

Unit I. Socialization Processes and Social Identities

- Week 1, August 22: The Sociological Imagination
- Week 2, August 29: Research Methods
- Week 3, September 5: Social Structure and the Individual
- Week 4, September 12: Social Class, Inequality, and Poverty
- Week 5, September 19: Culture
- Week 6, September 26: Gender and Sexuality
- Week 7, October 3: Race and Ethnicity

Unit II. Social Institutions and Theoretical/Methodological Applications

- Week 8, October 10: Sociology of Families
- Week 9, October 17: Sociology of Education
- Week 10, October 24: Sociology of Religion
- Week 11, October 31: Political Sociology
- Week 12, November 7: Immigration and Urbanization
- Week 13, November 14: Deviance, Crime, and Violence
- Week 14, November 21: Economic Sociology
- Week 15, November 28: Health and Illness
- Week 16, December 5: Environmental Sociology