

SOC 101 01: Principles of Sociology

Westminster College, Spring 2013

Instructor: Kristenne Robison, Ph.D.

Room: PH 205

Office: 306 Patterson Hall

Meeting Times: MWF 8:10-9:10 am

Email: robisokm@westminster.edu

Office Hours: MWF 9:30-11 am

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to provide you with an overview of the discipline of sociology. This will include introducing you to the key concepts, main theoretical perspectives, important substantive issues, as well as basic research methods and research findings of sociology.

Student Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this course each student should be able to:

- (1) describe and apply the sociological imagination (sociological imagination assignment, depictions of society assignment, midterm, and final).
- (2) evaluate, compare and contrast the main theoretical perspectives within sociology (midterm, final, class participation, and sociological event assignment).
- (3) evaluate and practice the main types of sociological research (midterm and dirty hands assignment).
- (4) identify and illustrate categories of inequality and stratification (midterm, final, sociological imagination assignment and depictions of society assignment).
- (5) detail and analyze the ways social institutions structure our lives (midterm, final, sociological event assignment, class participation and depictions of society assignment).
- (6) demonstrate an awareness of how one might use the sociological imagination to better understand the world (final and class participation).

Academic Integrity: “Central to the purpose and pursuit of any academic community is academic integrity. All members of the Westminster community, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators, are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity, in keeping with the philosophy and mission of the College.” It is expected that students turn in original academic work and cite all sources. For more details please go to the following website:

http://www.westminster.edu/staff/corsokf/SPE_111/Documents/academic%20integrity_student_handbook_FLO7.pdf

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice Studies is moving toward an exam taking policy. While we recognize that most students do not cheat on exams, some students do. In order to minimize the opportunities for student to cheat on their exams students will be asked to leave all of their belongings at the front of the room during their exam, including all electronic devices. In addition students should make it a habit to use the restroom before starting your exam. Once students have turned in their exam they are unable to make any changes to the exam or turn in any take home portion of the assignment.

Individuals with Disabilities: Westminster College actively strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students with disabilities who require access solutions for environmental or curricular barriers should contact Faith Craig, Director of the Office of Disability Resources, located in 209 Thompson-Clark Hall. phone: 724-946-7192 e-mail: craigfa@westminster.edu. For more details please go to the following website: http://www.westminster.edu/student/disability_support/dis_overview.cfm

Other Available Support Services: Westminster College has a variety of support services. Some of them are:

- Library Instruction: Reference Librarian, Dorita Bolger (X7325)
- The Learning Center: Director, Sally Huey (X6700, or 6812)

Classroom Expectations & Environment: It is the expectation of the instructors that all students are here to learn, be engaged in course material, and regularly attend class. Class will primarily take the form of a seminar. Students are expected to read the assigned course readings and actively participate in discussions of those readings. I greatly appreciate students refraining from using their cell phones in class. I do not use my cell phone during class so I expect the same courtesy from you. If you must take a call please step outside in the hall. Timeliness is important to the instructors so please be on time for class.

The sociology classroom is a great space for discussion. Sociology readings can bring up personal feelings for many of us so I encourage you all to think about that as you read and discuss the course material. At times you may disagree with another student. If you disagree do so respectfully by repeating what you heard and pointing out the specific statement that you disagree with.

Required Course Materials:

Manza et al. 2013. *The Sociology Project: Introducing the Sociological Imagination*.
New York: Pearson.

MySocLab – **Course Name:** Principles of Sociology **Course ID:** robison77215

**All other course readings can be found at our course webpage on my.westminster under the handouts section. The instructor reserves the right to add or subtract readings throughout the course.

Course Resources:

<http://thesocietypages.org/socimages/>

www.everydaysociologyblog.com

Grading Scale:

A	93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	60-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	F	0-59
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69		

Assignments & Grading:

Class Participation (10%): It is the expectation of the instructors that all students will regularly attend class and participate in in-class and online class discussions. This class will take a discussion format where classroom discussion will be generated by both faculty and students. In class participation opportunities include engagement in large and small group discussion. Online class participation opportunities include posting on our course forum. Other class participation opportunities that exist are emails to the instructors, attending office hours, sharing discussions or observations that occur outside of the classroom, and sharing of media.

Sociology Portfolio Assignments (45%): Three portfolio assignments are due over the course of the semester.

1) **Sociological Imagination Assignment:** This assignment requires you to link your biography to larger historical and cultural forces. You will do so in multiple formats for this assignment. First you are to complete a historical timeline of events (autobiographical and pertaining to larger society). Second you are to locate five artifacts that reinforce your use of the sociological imagination as applied to your own life. After completing your timeline and collecting your

artifacts you are to write a 4-5 page essay on how historical forces have shaped your life. Use chapter one as a reference for this assignment and make sure you cite the book where appropriate. Your paper should include in-text citations, a reference page, and page numbers. Turn your paper into my.westminster by 8:10 am on February 6th. Bring your artifacts to class to share in the discussion on February 6th.

2) Dirty Hands Assignment: For this assignment I want you to go out and ‘get your hands dirty’ so to speak. That is, you are going to go out into a social setting you are **unfamiliar** with and document what you are seeing. Observe and perhaps, participate, in an environment that is completely new to you. What are the people doing, what are the norms for this specific place? How are the people behaving? Are they in groups, are they alone? If they’re in groups what do you notice about the group dynamics? What is your response to your observations? Take detailed observation notes and include them with your write up. Remember to use sociological terms that you have learned in your write-up. Your write-up should be 4-5 pages including in-text citations, a reference page, and page numbers. Due Friday, March 22nd on my.westminster by 8:10 am.

3) Sociological Event Analysis: Analyze a major event sociologically. Be sure to consider the following in your analysis: a) Explain event from a sociological perspective b) In what social context did the event occur? c) How many people were affected by the event? Are there trends in shared characteristics of the people affected by this event or similar events? d) Which sociological theory best explains this event? Use sociological vocabulary correctly and thoroughly in your analysis. Your paper should be 5-6 pages. It should include in-text citations, a reference page, and page numbers. For this assignment you are to seek out **three outside, scholarly sources** to assist in your sociological analysis of the event. Due Monday, April 15th to my.westminster by 8:10 am.

Exams (30%): The midterm and final exam will include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The midterm may incorporate a take home essay. You will be given a study guide for both. The midterm is Wednesday, February 27th and the final exam is Monday, May 6th.

Depictions of Society Assignment (15%): For this assignment you are to depict sociological concepts through photographs. Your group (2-3 students) will be assigned a chapter to depict pictorially. For each photograph you are to add a caption beneath it describing, using correct sociological terms, what is being depicted. All photos *must* be original. The captions *must* include a sociological description of the photograph (all terms used correctly!). Your group will sign up for a chapter and date to present your photographs in class. I recommend using PowerPoint or Prezi for your class presentation. Cameras can be borrowed from Audio Visual Services. I must give you

permission to borrow their equipment. Go to this link to complete a form to borrow a camera: http://www.westminster.edu/resources/av/forms/media_request.cfm.

Chapters available for this assignment include:

- Sociological Imagination
- Social Interaction
- Social Structure
- Culture, Media, and Communication
- Power and Politics
- Markets, Organization, and Work
- Cities and Communities
- Social Stratification, Inequality, and Poverty
- Race and Ethnicity
- Gender and Sexuality
- Immigration
- Families and Family Life
- Sociology of Religion
- Education
- Environmental Sociology

Course Reading Schedule:

Chapter 1: The Sociological Imagination

Wed., January 16 th	Introduction to Class and Sociological Imagination Wheel
Fri., January 18 th	P. 2-12, MySocLab “Invitation to Sociology”
Tues., January 22 nd	P. 12-23, MySocLab Video <i>Applying Your Sociological Imagination</i>

Chapter 2: Studying the Social World

Wed., January 23 rd	P. 26-38, MySocLab Video <i>Big Question</i>
Fri., January 25 th	P. 38-53, MySocLab “Sense and Nonsense about Surveys”

Chapter 3: Social Interaction

Mon., January 28 th	Group 1: Sociological Imagination
	P. 58-71
Wed., January 30 th	P. 72-80, MySocLab “The Looking Glass Self”

Chapter 4: Social Structure

Fri., February 1 st	Group 2: Social Interaction
--------------------------------	-----------------------------

P. 84-95
Mon., February 4th P. 96-106, MySocLab “Social Structures and Family Violence”
Wed., February 6th *Sociological Imagination Assignment Due*
Bring artifacts to class

Chapter 5: Culture, Media, and Communications

Fri., February 8th Group 3: Social Structure
P. 110-125, MySocLab “Code of the Streets”
Mon., February 11th P. 125-136
Wed., February 13th Video: *Kokoyakyu*

Chapter 6: Power and Politics

Fri., February 15th Group 4: Culture, Media and Communications
P. 140-153
Mon., February 18th P. 154-167, MySocLab “Is Congress Really For Sale?”
Class Debate

Chapter 7: Markets, Organizations, and Work

Wed., February 20th Group 5: Power and Politics
P. 170-182
Thurs., February 21st The Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center
Dancers, Berlin Lounge, 7 pm
Fri., February 22nd P. 182-194, MySocLab “Hanging Tongues”

Chapter 8: Cities and Communities

Mon., February 25th Group 6: Markets, Organizations, and Work
P. 198-209, MySocLab Data on Megaregions
Wed., February 27th Midterm
Fri., March 1st No Class (see Thursday, February 21st)

SPRING BREAK!!!

Mon., March 11th Video: *Belong*

Wed., March 13th P. 210-224, MySocLab “Death of a Neighborhood”

Chapter 9: Social Stratification, Inequality, and Poverty

Fri., March 15th Group 7: Cities and Communities

P. 228-239

Mon., March 18th P. 240-256, MySocLab Data on Income Inequality and “Class Conflict”

Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity

Wed., March 20th Group 8: Social Stratification, Inequality, and Poverty

P. 260-271

Fri., March 22nd *Dirty Hands Assignment Due*

Video: *Unnatural Causes*

Mon., March 25th P. 271-288, MySocLab “Names, Logos, Mascots, and Flags”

Chapter 11: Gender and Sexuality

Wed., March 27th Group 9: Race and Ethnicity

P. 292-304

Thurs., March 28th P. 305-315, MySocLab “The Balance of Power in Dating”

EASTER BREAK!!!

Chapter 12: Immigration

Wed., April 3rd P. 318-331, MySocLab Data on Coming to America

Fri., April 5th Criminal Justice Symposium

Mon., April 8th Group 10: Gender and Sexuality

P. 332-334, MySocLab “Mexican Americans and Immigrant Incorporation”

Chapter 13: Families and Family Life

Wed., April 10 th	Group 11: Immigration P. 348-358, MySocLab “Beyond the Nuclear Family”
Fri., April 12 th	P. 358-374, MySocLab Data on What Women and Men Want
Mon., April 15 th	*Sociological Event Assignment Due* Movie: <i>Daddy and Papa</i>

Chapter 14: Sociology of Religion

Wed., April 17 th	Group 12: Families and Family Life P. 378-391
Fri., April 19 th	P. 392-408 Video: 30 Days - <i>Muslims and America</i>

Chapter 15: Education

Mon., April 22 nd	Group 13: Sociology of Religion P. 412-438
------------------------------	---

Chapter 18: Environmental Sociology

Wed., April 24 th	Group 14: Education P. 506-514
Fri., April 26 th	P. 514-533, MySocLab Data on What Our Garbage Says About Us

Chapter 19: Population, Aging, and Health

Mon., April 29 th	Group 15: Environmental Sociology P. 536-561
Wed., May 1 st	TBA
Fri., May 3 rd	Final Exam Study Session
Mon., May 6 th	Final Exam Period - 11:30 am – 2 pm