

# Introduction to Sociology SOC 101

Red Rocks Community College

Spring 2017

**INSTRUCTOR:** SALLY STABLEIN, MA Sociology  
**COURSE:** Sociology 101-601 room 2533  
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**Office:** 2638

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday 12:00-3:00 PM & Thursday 1:00-3:00PM  
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays I am available by appointment. I will be happy to meet with you anytime, just email me and we can arrange something or just come by during office hours. You will most likely get a quick response from me when emailing. If D2L is down you may email me at [sally.stablein@rrcc.edu](mailto:sally.stablein@rrcc.edu).

## REQUIRED TEXT

**Collective Sociology: An Introduction to Sociology eBook Ashbury Publishing**

Recommended Writing @ Red Rocks

## WHAT IS INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY?

This introduction to Sociology course provides students an opportunity to explore the working of U.S. society and other cultures. Some of the topics we will study are: poverty, stereotypes, gender inequality, racial discrimination and criminal behavior. Sociology is the scientific study of society. Sociology provides an explanation of how we live, why we live a particular way and what difference does culture and stratification (inequality) make to people.

**HOW WILL WE STUDY SOCIOLOGY?** By "doing Sociology" we investigate how social issues go beyond the lives of individuals; issues that individuals cannot resolve without the combined efforts of others. For example, homelessness is an individual issue for the person who is homeless, but the homeless situation is a public or community issue when large numbers of homeless people exist. The job of Sociology is to explain how homelessness is created due to an insufficient supply of low income housing, periodic unemployment and changing job opportunities and many other social

factors. This hands-on approach for studying Sociology is well tested in the classroom teaching environment and is equally suited for online study.

## II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examines the basic concepts, theories, and principles of sociology as well as human culture, social groups, and the social issues of age, gender, class, and race.

## III. COURSE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES

This course is an introduction to the discipline of sociology and the insights it provides into the human condition. Like any discipline of thought, sociology includes a body of knowledge articulated in a scholarly literature. Central to this literature are a number of theories that systematically inquire into the nature of social life and human behavior. Some of these theories are quite broad in scope, attempting to make statements about society in the most general sense. Others are more narrow in the questions they pose, focusing on a particular facet of social life.

Equally central to sociological inquiry is social research. Critical to the sociological perspective is the conviction that the validity of ideas we hold about human behavior must be judged in light of observations we make regarding ongoing social life within historical contexts. Ideally, the observations gleaned at a given point in time contribute to our understanding of human behavior, which transcends the particular observation. Thus, for example, observing the activities of a sports team (and its fans) may tell us something more broadly about social solidarity and/or the nature of social interaction.

Ultimately, sociology is more than the sum of its theoretical and research parts. Sociology is a perspective from which to view human behavior. Central to this perspective is the assumption that **human beings are essentially social**. In other words, we can only understand human behavior by examining the nature of an individual's relationship to others and the larger structural and historical contexts within which people think and act. Though such an assertion is easy to make, investigating the complex dynamics of the social web within which we live—is a difficult task. It is the

task, which challenges us as sociologists. In defining sociology in this way, we distinguish it from other disciplines of thought.

The sociological perspective provides important insights into the conditions and dynamics that affect people's lives, as individuals and collectivities. The sociological perspective offers an important way to understand one's place in society and helps to develop practical commitments to informed action in society. The excitement of sociology rests in the fact that it is not simply a body of knowledge to be absorbed (and/or regurgitated for a passing grade). Rather, sociology is a body of knowledge that has relevance for the choices individuals make in their daily lives.

**The major objectives of this course**, therefore, are to stimulate your sociological imaginations, acquaint you with the discipline, and help you gain insight into the nature and operation of societies. In order to accomplish this task, we will examine many of the fundamental concepts, principles, and issues of concern to sociologists.

**Course outcomes:** Upon completion of this course, you should be able to demonstrate knowledge and/or skill in the following areas:

- Define sociology and explain the basic insight of sociology.
- Explain the meaning and the importance of the sociological imagination.
- Contrast the views that Comte, Spencer, and Marx held regarding society and the role of the sociologist.
- Compare and contrast three major theoretical perspectives of sociology.
- Identify the contributions of theory and research to sociological knowledge.
- Identify the advantages and disadvantages of laboratory and field experiments.
- Distinguish between a population and a sample and explain the connection between them; specify ways to ensure that a sample is representative.
- Describe the relationship between culture and society.
- Discuss norms and their importance to society.
- Define ethnocentrism and discuss its consequences to for a culture.

- Describe cultural relativism and its appropriate use.
- Indicate how subcultures and countercultures relate to the dominant culture.
- Define socialization
- Describe the ways in which biological pre-dispositions and social influence are intertwined.
- Discuss the concept of "self" and how it develops.
- Describe Cooley's three-part theory of the looking-glass self.
- Describe Mead's theory of formation of the self through symbolic interaction, role-taking, and the generalized and particular other.
- Identify the key agents of socialization.
- List the characteristics of a group that distinguish it from an aggregate or category.
- Contrast the features of primary and secondary groups.
- Identify ways in which individuals conform to groups.
- List the functions of in-groups and out-groups.
- Explain the importance of reference groups.
- Characterize formal organizations
- Define deviance as a sociological concept.
- Discuss the concept of stigma.
- Characterize Merton's five-part typology of deviance.
- Explain why mental disorder is classified as a form of deviance.
- List four functions of deviance.
- Define social stratification.
- Explain the concept of social mobility.
- Describe how sociologists use socioeconomic status (SES) as a measurement of social position.
- Explain how stratification systems are maintained.
- Discuss social stratification in the United States.
- Identify the social classes in the United States and the features of each.
- Cite biological evidence in discussing differences between the sexes.
- Explain the two ways poverty is defined and indicate which groups in the United States are most likely to experience poverty.

## IV. COURSE WORK

### Attendance

Regular attendance is required.

### Reading Assignments

Please stay on top of the reading assignments. We will be discussing the reading material in most classes and I expect you to actively participate in class discussion.

### Class Participation and Homework

I expect everyone to participate in class discussion. We will often do group work and group exercises. You will have homework assignments in this class. We will talk about that our first day. Usually, homework consists of an essay question or a brief summary over something we have discussed or a movie we have watched. Class participation, group exercises, homework assignments, and attendance will be worth 300 points of your final grade. Please note that all work must be typed. I will not accept hand written work.

### Exams

There will be two exams in this class. Exams will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, true and false, and short essay questions. These exams are worth 200 points of your final grade (100 pts. each);

### Oral presentation

There will be one presentation. This assignment will be worth 100 points. I will discuss this assignment our first class.

### Homework

This will be discussed out first class.

**You will be expected to** read, think, write and contribute to class discussions, analyze, evaluate, and draw conclusions from readings and other course material; to do introductory research using sociological methods and language; to contribute ideas and effort; and, to compare and contrast facts, concepts, perspectives, language, and theories related to the course.

## What you can expect from me:

You can expect that I will go above and beyond to help you succeed in this course. You can expect mistakes - I am not perfect. Please let me know if I have made a mistake and I will fix it right away!

### Grade Breakdown

Exams	200 points
Community presentations	100 points
Group work/homework/attendance	300 points

### Total Point Breakdown

600-540	A
539-480	B
479-420	C
419-360	D
Under 360	F

## V. Final Comments/ Course Policies:

**Late assignment policy: I will not accept late work.**

### RRCC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity: Admission to the Red Rocks Community College implies that you agree to respect the rights of others and observe moral and civil laws. Interference with the normal processes of education in the classroom or elsewhere on the campus will be regarded as unacceptable conduct, warranting suspension or dismissal.

Complete Student Code of Conduct is at this web site:

<http://www.rrcc.edu/handbook/codeofconduct.pdf>.

ADAAA (Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: Red Rocks Community College is committed to access for students with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and need assistance or are interested in requesting accommodations, please contact Accessibility Services. Faculty are not obligated to provide accommodations without proper notification by

Accessibility Services and accommodations are not retroactive. Students may contact the Access staff by telephone or email to make an intake appointment at 303-914-6733 or [access@rrcc.edu](mailto:access@rrcc.edu). Accessibility Services is located in Suite 1182 at the Lakewood campus. More information is available at [www.rrcc.edu/accessibility-services](http://www.rrcc.edu/accessibility-services).

### Syllabus Statement Regarding Mandatory Reporting

Our College is committed to preserving a safe and welcoming educational environment for all students. As part of this effort, I have an obligation to report certain issues relating to the health and safety of campus community members. I must report to the appropriate College officials any allegation of discrimination or harassment. Sexual misconduct, which includes sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, non-consensual sexual intercourse, and sexual exploitation, is considered a form of discrimination. In addition to reporting all discrimination and harassment claims, I must report all allegations of dating violence or domestic violence, child abuse or neglect, and/or credible threats of harm to yourself or others. Such reports may trigger contact from a College official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like more information, you may reach the Title IX/EO Coordinator: **D. Arnie Oudenhoven, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title IX Administrator, 303-914-6298** or [Arnie Oudenhoven](mailto:Arnie.Oudenhoven@rrcc.edu) (arnie.oudenhoven@rrcc.edu)

Reports to law enforcement can be made at the Red Rocks Campus Police Department behind the Welcome Desk at the Main Entrance or [RRCC Dispatch](mailto:RRCCDispatch@rrcc.edu) (rrpd.dispatch@rrcc.edu) at 303-914-6394.

If you would like a confidential resource, please contact **Deborah Houser, Assistant Director of Human Resources/Deputy Title IX Administrator, 303-914-6224** or [Deborah Houser](mailto:Deborah.Houser@rrcc.edu) (deborah.houser@rrcc.edu)

Further information may be found on the college [Human Resources website](http://www.rrcc.edu/human-resources/sexual-misconduct): <http://www.rrcc.edu/human-resources/sexual-misconduct>.

Grade of Incomplete: Incomplete: An "I" indicates that the course objectives are not yet fulfilled. It is the responsibility of the student to request, if needed, the assignment of an incomplete grade. The instructor's decision to authorize or not authorize an incomplete grade is final. The

student must have completed 75% of the class with a C or better, and must complete the rest of the work with the same instructor. Arrangement for the completion of the course must be made with the instructor prior to the assignment of the "I" grade. This agreement must be written on a Contract for Incomplete Grade Form. The instructor may allow up to one full semester for the student to complete missing requirements. "I" grades not changed by the end of the following semester will automatically become failing grades (F). This instructor rarely gives incompletes.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is grounds for failing an assignment or course and/or disciplinary action from RRCC. DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. Plagiarism means copying passages directly from the text or any other source, without quotation marks and citations. Summarize or paraphrase the information. If you paraphrase by rearranging the order of a sentence or words, then give credit for the source. No credit will be given for plagiarized papers and may be grounds for failure from the class.

### **IMPORTANT:**

This syllabus is the essential road map and cornerstone for this course. Because you are responsible for the requirements of this syllabus, please clarify any information, which you do not understand with the instructor as soon as possible.

## **VI. ANTICIPATED TOPIC & READING CALENDAR**

**WEEKEND 1: We will meet Friday from 5PM-10PM and Saturday from 8AM - 5:30 PM**

**2/3**

- Introductions-Syllabus Review
- Read chapters 1 & 2, **An Introduction to Sociology & Research Methods**
- **Read Rwanda article before 2 PM tomorrow**
- Discuss assignments

**2/4**



- Chapters 3, 4, & 5 **Society & Culture, Socialization, Social Structure & Social Interaction**
- **Film**
- **Hand out exam 1**

**WEEKEND 2: We will meet Friday from 5PM-10PM and Saturday from 8AM - 5:30 PM**

**2/10**

- Chapters 6 **Groups and Organizations & Deviance and Social Control**

**2/11**

- Chapter 7-**Social Stratification In The United States & Globally**
- **Social Class data due**
- **Exam due**
- **Guest Speaker**

**WEEKEND 3: We will meet Friday from 5-10 PM and Saturday from 8AM to 5:30 PM**

**2/17**

- Chapter 9, **Race and Ethnicity**
- **Film & group work**
- **Interview due**

**2/18**

- Chapter 10, **Inequality & Stratification By Gender And Age**
- **Presentations**
- **Exam 2 due by midnight 2/18**
- **Goodbyes**

**NOTE:** This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be informed of any changes.