

# Introduction to Sociology 1 101-601

Red Rocks Community College

Summer 2017

**INSTRUCTOR:** Janene Krieger, MA Sociology  
**COURSE:** Sociology 101 Section 601 - begins  
6/24/2016 - 7/16/2016 - 3 credit hours

**Email:** [Janene.krieger@rrcc.edu](mailto:Janene.krieger@rrcc.edu)

**Office:** by appointment

**OFFICE HOURS:** Posted hours are available in course description. I will check class emails daily. You will most likely get a quick response from me when emailing. If D2L is down you may email me at [janene.krieger@rrcc.edu](mailto:janene.krieger@rrcc.edu)

## 1. REQUIRED TEXT

Introduction to Sociology: A Collaborative Approach

ISBN 978-09791538-3-9

Recommended Writing @ Red Rocks 4th Edition

**HELP DESK:** 1(888) 800-9198 or <http://help.cccs.edu>

**COMMUNICATIONS:** **CONTACT** between the student and the instructor through the course website "private mail" and discussion board is expected. Please let me hear from you if you are having problems with this course. I will go above and beyond to help you succeed with this class, but I cannot help you if you are not communicating with me. You may email me anytime. I will get back with you. I will let you know if I am leaving for a few days and cannot respond that quickly. Please, it is your responsibility to communicate with me for problem solving---before the problem, that is before you miss class, before the test, before the paper is due, before you get too confused to succeed in this class.

## 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 & EVALUATION

**Reading Assignments** Please stay on top of the reading assignments. You will be homework based on the reading material. There will be times that I ask questions in your homework assignments that are not in your book, I will have you get this information from web sites online or readings that I will post and discuss in our class.

**Written Work** There are 3 written assignments for this class - 2 movie review papers (short) and one paper/presentation due at the end of the course. We will watch 2 films for this class.

One Exam: Final (Take Home)

**Written Assignments:** Babies, Hotel Rwanda, and paper/project.

**Films:** Babies and Hotel Rwanda. We will watch these films during this class. It is important that you maintain your attendance, otherwise you may be required to check out the films from the library or rent them from any source that works for you.

**Paper/Project:** There will be one paper/project assignment. This assignment will be worth 150 points (100 for content and 50 for presentation).

### **Homework Assignments**

You will have weekly homework assignments. These assignments will consist of thought provoking questions, short essays, and other course work.

## **DISCUSSIONS**

Most of the discussions will be conducted in the class setting, however at times, there will be communication posted on the discussion tab. Click on the discussion icon on the homepage and the topic headings will appear. Click on

a topic heading to post for that discussion assignment. Some topic headings in the discussion are available for students to casually discuss topics in the textbook readings or films.

Many times your homework will be done through the discussion board. Please read grading criteria for discussions. You will find this in course materials in the grading criteria & helpful hints folder

**Homework assignments** that are turned into me can be submitted through the class assignment drop box, or at the beginning of class on the due date.

### Participation

You will be expected to participate! This will be worth 100 points of your final grade.

### **Graded work and how you are doing in the class:**

I will grade your work and post it in the grade book promptly. I will also send back your graded work. I am pretty good about entering grades quickly and sending back your graded assignments. This allows you to know how you are doing in the course. I will send out an email telling you to check the grade book to make sure you have received credit for everything you have turned in. I also post this information in the announcements in the class. So look for these emails and announcements. Also, make sure you keep copies of all of your work.

**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! You can expect me to answer your emails within 24 hours unless over the weekend. I am excellent at getting back to you. I get your assignments graded within a 48 hours after the due date. If it takes

me longer I always let you know by posting an announcement or sending an email.

### Grade Breakdown

Participation	100 points
Final paper/project	150 points
Exams	150 points
Reading response questions/Review Papers	100 points
Homework	300 points

720-800	A
640-719	B
560-639	C

480-559	D
Under 480	F

### V. Final Comments/ Course Policies:

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

**RESPECT** of others is expected and essential for creating a positive learning experience. We don't all have to agree on everything, but we do need to express ourselves in a positive manner.

#### 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>.

**Special Needs Notification:** Red Rocks Community College in compliance with federal guidelines, is committed to equal educational opportunity by assuring otherwise qualified students with disabilities equal access to RRCC programs and activities that are provided to students without disabilities.

An otherwise qualified person with a disability is a student who meets the academic and technical standards required for admission or participation in all educational programs and activities.

### **Eligibility**

Red Rocks Community College will provide accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. To request accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services at your earliest convenience. The Office of Disability Services is located in the Learning Commons Room 1185. Please contact the office at 303.914.6733, V/TDD at 303.914.6737, or email at [ODS@rrcc.edu](mailto:ODS@rrcc.edu) if you have any questions.

**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).

**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.

## **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: **Deborah Houser, Assistant Director of Human Resources/Deputy Title IX Coordinator, 303-914-6224 or [Deborah.houser@rrcc.edu](mailto:Deborah.houser@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 [rrpd.dispatch@rrcc.edu](mailto: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 Coordinator, 303-914-6224 or [Deborah.houser@rrcc.edu](mailto:Deborah.houser@rrcc.edu)**

Further information may be found on the College web site: <http://www.rrcc.edu/human-resources/sexual-misconduct>

## **Schedule**

### **VI. ANTICIPATED CALENDAR**

#### **WEEK 1: June 23rd-June 24th**

- Introductions & getting familiar with course
- Orient yourself to the textbook and syllabus
- Chapter 1 - **An Introduction to Sociology (please read prior to first day of class)**
- Answer Chapter 1 questions- you can find the Dropbox - due June 24<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class.
- Chapter 2 - **Social Science Research Methods**

- Chapter 3 - **Society and Culture**
- Culture assignment through discussion
- "Babies" Movie
- Begin Chapter 4 - **Socialization**
- Dramaturgical Analysis---through discussion
- *Discuss final paper/project topics*

**WEEK 2: June 30<sup>th</sup>- July 1<sup>st</sup>**

- Babies Review Paper Due
- Complete Chapter 4 - **Socialization**
- Chapter 5 - **Social Structure and Social Interaction**
- Discussion- McDonaldization
- Chapter 6 - **Groups Networks and Organizations**
- Group Power, Group Membership, Homogeneity, Dynamics
- Discussion-Presentation of Self
- Chapter 7 - **Deviance and Social Control**
- Deviance, Social Norms, Behaviors
- Chapter 8 **Social Stratification in the United States and the World**

**WEEK 4: July 7<sup>th</sup>-July 8<sup>th</sup>**

- Read Chapter 9 - **Race and Ethnicity**
- **Watch "Hotel Rwanda "**
- Movie Discussion
- Hotel Rwanda Paper Due (Beginning of Class 7/16)
- **Final Exam Packet Due (Beginning of Class 7/16)**
- **Presentations**

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

\*\*\*\*\*I will be assigning HW both in D2L and in class. Once again, it is very important that you are present for class. It is extremely fast, however will be incredibly fun and thought provoking. I am looking forward to meeting each and every one of you. Please email me with any questions. ~

Janene\*\*\*\*\*

