

Borough of Manhattan Community College
The City University of New York
Department of Social Sciences, Human Services,
and Criminal Justice
Sociology 100
Section 0501
Spring 2021
3 Credits

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Introduction to Sociology

This is a fully online asynchronous course on Blackboard

Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 3:00-4:30pm by email or phone

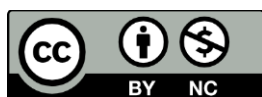
Course Description: Sociology is a social science that focuses on the systematic understanding of social interactions, organizations, institutions, and change. Major themes in sociology include the interplay between the individual and society, how society is both stable and changing, the causes and consequences of social inequality, and the social construction of human life. Understanding sociology helps students discover and explain social patterns and to see how social patterns change both over time and in different settings. By illuminating the social basis of everyday life, sociology also helps students develop critical thinking by revealing the social structures and processes that shape diverse forms of human life.

Course Catalogue Description: This course analyzes the structure, processes and products associated with group living. Attention is focused on the concepts of social organization, culture, groups, stratification, major social institutions, and significant trends in group living.

Learning Goals: This course is designed to prepare you to:

1. Understand and apply sociological concepts, methods, and theories to the world we live in.
2. Become an effective oral and written communicator of themes that affect society and interpersonal relationships.
3. Critically evaluate social life from a sociological perspective.

Course Readings: This course participates in the CUNY Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) program which offers students courses that do not require the purchase of any books. This program is intended to make college more affordable to all students. All the readings for this course are on Blackboard, distributed throughout the course modules.



Course Requirements:

This course has 15 weeks which are called modules. Each module has two parts or lessons. Each lesson has at least one reading, a quiz on the reading, an activity or assignment, and a discussion board you need to post to. Please make sure to complete all of these parts of the course.

This course is FULLY ONLINE, which means all of the coursework and exams will occur on Blackboard. If you need to be away during the semester, you will need access to the internet and stay involved in the course. Absence from weekly Discussion Board participation WILL negatively impact your grade! You have to be “in class”—which means logging on and participating in the Discussion Board at least two days each week.

Please be sure to activate your BMCC email address and use it as this is the email I will be using throughout the semester. Failure to do so may result in grade penalties. You must check into your BMCC email account regularly throughout the semester. I will respond to your emails from whatever email address you send me, but the emails I initiate will ONLY be sent to your BMCC email, so please check at least twice weekly.

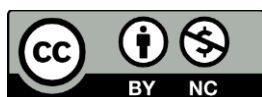
Grading System:

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
F	59% and below

Grading Scheme:

Class participation	25%
Quizzes	25%
Exams (Midterm 20%, Final 30%)	50%

BMCC Class Participation Policy: Participation in the academic activity of each course is a significant component of the learning process and plays a major role in determining overall student academic achievement. Academic activities may include, but are not limited to, attending class, submitting assignments, engaging in in-class or online activities, taking exams, and/or participating in group work. Each instructor has the right to establish their own class participation policy, and it is each student’s responsibility to be familiar with and follow the participation policies for each course.



Class Participation for this Course:

Posts to My Questions: Since this class will meet virtually, we will employ different methods for measuring attendance and participation. Your grade for attendance and participation will be established according to the frequency, punctuality and substance of your posts on the discussion board. Each week, you will be required to post a response to any and all questions that are put up on the discussion board. The posts should be approximately **150-250 words**. The posts must be substantive—that is, they must be meaningful and thoughtful. They cannot be “Yes, I agree”, or “because that’s what I think”. Such posts will not qualify for credit. Our “week” begins on every Monday. **EACH WEEK, YOU MUST POST YOUR RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS BY WEDNESDAY 11:00 PM.**

Responses to Fellow Student Comments: In addition to posting to my questions, for each discussion board you will need to respond to one other student’s comments. The responses should be approximately 100 words. Once again, your responses should be thoughtful and meaningful. **THESE RESPONSES MUST BE POSTED BY SATURDAY, 11:00 PM.** In the case of three modules (modules 4, 6, and 8) given the sensitive nature of the questions asked and in order to make students most comfortable expressing their thoughts, only the professor can see what you write for these posts and students will not respond to others’ posts. These forums are called journals rather than discussion boards.

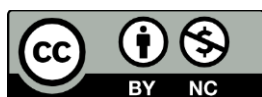
I will begin to grade your posts and responses to the Discussion Boards each Sunday. So, it is essential that you stick to the schedule in order to get points for your efforts.

For examples of satisfactory and unsatisfactory posts and responses to fellow students, read the document “How to Write a Substantive DP post and response,” found in the “Supplemental Materials” link in the left-hand course menu. In addition, you can consult the “Discussion Board and Journal Grading Rubric” and the “Grammar and Usage Guide” also located in the “Supplemental Materials” link. Please remember to **be respectful** in your posts and responses. Any objectionable language or discriminatory remarks will not be tolerated. As a rule of thumb, what is appropriate in the classroom, face-to-face, is appropriate on-line. If you wouldn’t say something out loud in class, please do not write it.

Quizzes: Each module will have two quizzes on the readings of that module. Each week’s quizzes should be completed by Saturday night 11PM.

Exams: The midterm and final will take place online and will consist of a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, true/false, and short answer questions. The final is not cumulative.

Office Hours by Email or Phone: I have regular office hours each week when I am available to students by email or phone. Office hours are an important opportunity for the student to speak to the professor one-on-one about their performance in the course. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor her or his progress. Thus, I strongly encourage you to come speak with me during office hours at any time throughout the semester to discuss your progress.



If you are contacting me by email, *you must include your full name and identify your course and section number in your email*. I teach multiple courses, so please let me know which class you are in. I check email frequently throughout the week and I will try to reply within 24 hours of your email. If you are expecting a response from me, be sure to check your email within 24-48 hours for my response. If you would prefer to talk on the phone, I am happy to arrange that.

Please Note: I will make every effort to stick to the syllabus as written. However, I reserve the right to make any changes deemed necessary for the benefit of the course.

Course Modules and Readings:

Module 1 Introduction and the Sociological Imagination

January 29-
February 7 C. Wright Mills, "The Promise"

Module 2 Culture & Ethnocentrism

February 8-
February 14 Horace Miner, "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema"
Marvin Harris, "India's Sacred Cow"

Module 3 Socialization

February 15-
February 21 "Socialization," Openstax textbook chapter
Erving Goffman, "The Presentation of Self"

Module 4 Crime

February 22-
February 28 Emile Durkheim, "The Functions of Crime"
Mark Fishman, "Crime Wave as Ideology"
Jamelle Bouie, "Guess What? The 'Knockout Game' Is America's Latest Phony Panic," *The Daily Beast*

Module 5 Conformity and Deviance

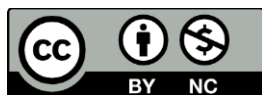
March 1-
March 7 Stanley Milgram, "Behavioral Study of Obedience"
David Rosenhan, "On being Sane in Insane Places"

Module 6 Race

March 8-
March 14 *Buzzfeed* article, "How Not To Talk About Race And Genetics"
R.C. Lewontin, "Confusions About Human Races,"
Rashawn Ray, "If Only He Hadn't Worn the Hoodie...": Selective Perception and Stereotype Maintenance

Module 7 Midterm

March 15- Midterm Review and online Midterm Exam



March 21

The midterm will be available from Monday March 15th at 11am to Sunday March 21st at 11pm. **Once you begin taking the exam you will have one hour to complete it.**

Module 8

Sex and Gender

March 22-
March 26

Openstax textbook chapter, “Gender, Sex, and Sexuality”
Peggy Orenstein, “What’s Wrong with Cinderella?” from *Cinderella Ate My Daughter*

March 27-
April 4

Spring Break

Module 9

Education

April 5-
April 11

Jesse Hagopian, “The Testocracy versus the Education Spring”
Nancy Heitzeg, “Education Or Incarceration: Zero Tolerance Policies And The School To Prison Pipeline”

Module 10

Class

April 12-
April 18

Erik Olin Wright, “But At Least Capitalism is Free and Democratic, Right?” *Jacobin Magazine*, April 12, 2016
Matthew Desmond, “Americans Want to Believe Jobs are the Solution to Poverty: They’re Not,” *The New York Times*, September 11, 2018

Module 11

Politics

April 19-
April 25

Erik Olin Wright and Joel Rogers, “Democracy: How It Works,” from *American Society: How it Really Works*
Thomas Ferguson and Paul Heideman, “Money Still Rules US Politics,” *Jacobin Magazine*, November 6, 2018

Module 12

The Media

April 26-
May 2

Edward S. Herman and Noam Chomsky, “A Propaganda Model,” from *Manufacturing Consent*
Jean Kilbourne, “Jesus is a Brand of Jeans”

Module 13

The Environment

May 3-
May 9

Mary Annise Heglar, “I Work in the Environmental Movement. I Don’t Care if You Recycle,” *Vox*
Bill McKibben and Jacqueline Patterson, “Climate Change is a Civil Rights Issue,” *Yes Magazine*



Module 14 Social Change

May 10- George Ritzer, “The McDonaldization of Society”
 May 16 Frances Fox Piven and Richard A. Cloward, “Poor People’s
 Movements and the Structuring of Protest” from *Poor People’s
 Movements*

Module 15 Final Exam

May 19- Final Review and online Final Exam
 May 23

The final exam will be available from May 19th at 11am to
 May 23rd at 11pm. **Once you begin taking the exam you
 will have one hour to complete it.**

Other Policies and Information

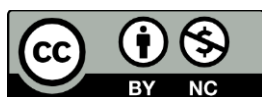
BMCC is committed to the health and well-being of all students. It is common for everyone to seek assistance at some point in their life, and there are free and confidential services on campus that can help.

Advocacy and Resource Center <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/student-affairs/arc/>, room S230, 212-220-8195, arc@bmcc.cuny.edu. Students can receive assistance to address barriers affecting their abilities to succeed in college. The Advocacy and Resource Center offers services that include food assistance, finance consultation, health insurance and other services that may address challenges students experience. All of the services that are offered at the Center are FREE! Assistance is also available through the Office of Student Affairs, S350, 212-220-8130, studentaffairs@bmcc.cuny.edu.

Counseling Center www.bmcc.cuny.edu/counseling, room S343, 212-220-8140, counselingcenter@bmcc.cuny.edu. Counselors assist students in addressing psychological and adjustment issues (i.e., depression, anxiety, and relationships) and can help with stress, time management and more. Counselors are available for walk-in visits.

Office of Compliance and Diversity <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/about-bmcc/compliance-diversity>, room S701, 212-220-1236. BMCC is committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive learning environment free of unlawful discrimination/harassment, including sexual harassment, where all students are treated fairly. For information about BMCC's policies and resources, or to request additional assistance in this area, please visit or call the office, or email olevy@bmcc.cuny.edu, or twade@bmcc.cuny.edu. If you need immediate assistance, please contact BMCC Public Safety at 212-220-8080.

Office of Accessibility www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility, room N360 (accessible entrance: 77 Harrison Street), 212-220-8180, accessibility@bmcc.cuny.edu. This office collaborates with students who have documented disabilities, to coordinate support services, reasonable



accommodations, and programs that enable equal access to education and college life. To request an accommodation due to a documented disability, please visit, call the office or email.

BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism. Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's Web site, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

Ask for Help: If for any reason you are having trouble completing the assignments in this course, please let me know, so I can help you do well.

Learning Outcomes and Assessments

Pathways Outcomes and Assessment: Individual and Society

- **Outcomes:** Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.
Assessment: Discussion boards, quizzes, exams
- **Outcomes:** Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically.
Assessment: Discussion boards, quizzes, exams
- **Outcomes:** Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.
Assessment: Discussion boards, quizzes, exams
- **Outcomes:** Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring the relationship between the individual and society, including, but not limited to, anthropology, communications, cultural studies, history, journalism, philosophy, political science, psychology, public affairs, religion, and sociology.
Assessment: Discussion boards, quizzes, exams
- **Outcomes:** Examine how an individual's place in society affects experiences, values, or choices.
Assessment: Discussion boards, quizzes, exams
- **Outcomes:** Identify and engage with local, national, or global trends or ideologies, and analyze their impact on individual or collective decision-making.
Assessment: Discussion boards, quizzes, exams

