SOC 100: General Sociology
University of Rhode Island
J-Term 2017

Dr. Alana Bibeau
abibeau@mail.uri.edu

Office: Chafee 504
Office Hours: By appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an introduction to the discipline of sociology, which is the scientific study of human social life, groups, and societies. Predictably, such a broad field of study encompasses a wide range of research methods and theoretical approaches, as well as a dizzying array of substantive areas of focus. Therefore, this course does not seek to cover all that sociology has to offer; instead, my goal is that you leave the class with a sense of how to think sociologically. My hope is that even if you do not decide to pursue sociology further, you will have gained an appreciation for how useful a sociological imagination can be even in everyday life.

This course will be taught using a hybrid format - you will work online, asynchronously, for the first four days of each week, and we will meet face-to-face each Friday from 9:30-12:30 in Swan Hall, Room 309. This means you will be completing much of the work independently and in conversation with each other. In this course, you are expected to communicate constantly with your classmates via email and discussion forums, cooperatively learn concepts, solve problems, and complete projects. These will be a major component of the learning experience. Attendance at all face-to-face meetings is required to pass the course.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS
To participate in the course, you will need to purchase an Access Code for Discovering Sociology, the interactive web text we will be using in the course, from Connect For Education. For instructions on purchasing the Access Code, see our course Sakai site.

GENERAL EDUCATION AREAS AND OUTCOME
This course fully meets the requirements for “Social and Behavioral Science Knowledge” outcome. To meet the social science knowledge requirements, you will be learning key sociological facts and concepts, and more importantly how to apply those concepts and use them to analyze social problems and propose solutions to them.
INSTRUCTOR’S EXPECTATIONS

• **Respect:** In order for everyone to benefit from this course, we will need to remain open and discuss ideas respectfully. We are fortunate to have a diverse group of students in this class, making it even more important to treat the topics that come up with sensitivity. University policies on harassment and discrimination outline behaviors that will not be tolerated. Please talk with me if you feel threatened or disrespected in online discussion. Focus on issues, not people. Please contact me about any concerns, confusion, or difficulties. An open mind is essential.

• **Responsibility:** Hybrid and online courses require you to take the initiative and login on a regular basis. You are expected to keep track of deadlines and participate in discussions. If you wait until the last minute to complete assignments or only login once a week you will not be able to effectively participate in discussions or receive the valuable feedback from other students in the course. Additionally, waiting until the last minute to complete assignments does not leave time to arrange a “plan B” if your Internet is down, or your computer is having problems.

• **Due Dates:** All assignments are due by noted dates, no exceptions by midnight. Late assignments will receive a ZERO. Time management is a necessary skill. Assignments are due on time, and it is your responsibility to be sure they are completed. There is no way to make up a discussion after the class has moved on to another topic or after the class has ended. The nature of this course is demanding. You are responsible to check in often and be self-motivated. I won’t badger you to do it since building and maintaining a collaborative online classroom is everyone’s responsibility.

• **Plan Ahead.** Assignments in this class take time and thought. You will not do well if you wait until the last minute.

• **Give the Proper Amount of Effort.** This class requires time on task. Don’t shortchange your colleagues or me – but especially yourself – by not devoting the time necessary to study the subject.

• **Read carefully.** Enough said.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students are expected to be honest in all academic work. A student’s name on any written work, quiz or exam shall be regarded as assurance that the work is the result of the student’s own independent thought and study. Work should be stated in the student’s own words, properly attributed to its source. Students have an obligation to know how to quote, paraphrase, summarize, cite and reference the work of others with integrity.
SPECIAL SERVICES
Any student with a documented disability is welcome to contact me as early in the session as possible so that we may arrange reasonable accommodations. As part of this process, please be in touch with Disability Services for Students Office at 330 Memorial Union, 401-874-2098.

This is a challenging course. Success requires that you keep pace with the work, understand course concepts, and study effectively. The Academic Enhancement Center (www.uri.edu/aec) is a great place to do this. At the AEC you can work alone or in groups, and tutors and professional learning specialists are available to help you to learn, manage your time and work, and study well. They're open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Fridays until 1 p.m. All services are free (the coffee is free as well!), and no appointment is needed. You can call them for complete information at 874-2367, or just stop by the center on the fourth floor of Roosevelt Hall.

GRADING GUIDELINES

The course is divided into distinct learning modules, or sections, each with its own assigned reading, quizzes, discussions, and assignments. You will proceed through each module at your own pace within the assigned week and complete all requirements for the module by the due date listed on the syllabus. The grade breakdown looks like this:

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In calculating final course grades, a fixed grade scale is used, so that it is possible for everyone to do well:

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| Jan 2 | Mon | Read Module 1  
Section 01 Quiz  
Section 01 Quiz due by 11:59pm |
| Jan 3 | Tue | Section 01 Assignment - Discussion Forum: Diana and Rob Case Study  
Section 01, Assignment 02 - Written Assignment: Understanding Who I Am due by 11:59pm |
| Jan 4 | Wed | Read Module 2, Sections 2.01-2.10  
Section 02 Assignment: Discussion Forum: Marx due by 11:59pm |
| Jan 5 | Thu | Read Module 2, Sections 2.11-2.19  
Section 02 Assignment: Weber  
Section 02 Quiz  
Section 02 Assignment: Durkheim due by 11:59pm |
| Jan 6 | Fri | In Class Assignment: Your Demographic Profile and an "Average" American  
In Class Quiz due by 12:30pm |
| Jan 8 | Sun | Section 03 Assignment - Written Assignment: Local Ethnography due by 11:59pm |
| Jan 9 | Mon | Read Module 4  
Section 04 Quiz due by 11:59pm |
| Jan 10 | Tue | Section 04 Assignment - Discussion Forum: Preschool in Three Cultures Video  
Section 04 Assignment - Discussion Forum: Roles due by 11:59pm |
| Jan 11 | Wed | Read Module 5  
Section 05 Quiz  
Section 05, Assignment - Written Assignment: Read and Reflect due by 11:59pm |
| Jan 12 | Thu | Read Module 6  
Section 06 Assignment - Written Assignment: Relationship Counseling due by 11:59pm |
| Jan 13 | Fri | In Class Quiz due by 12:30pm |
| Jan 16 | Mon | Read Module 8  
Section 08 Quiz due by 11:59pm |
| Jan 17 | Tue | Section 08 Assignment - Written Assignment: Gender Identification due by 11:59pm |
| Jan 18 | Wed | Read Module 9  
Section 09 Quiz due by 11:59pm |
| Jan 19 | Thu | Section 09 Assignment 01 - Written Assignment: Write Your Own Op Ed due by 11:59pm |
| Jan 20 | Fri | In Class Quiz due by 12:30pm |