SOC 100: Introduction to the Sociological Perspective

Winter J-Term 2021

Instructor: Dr. Alana Bibeau, abibeau@uri.edu
Zoom Personal Meeting Room: https://uri-edu.zoom.us/my/alanabibeau

Course Meets: This course will be taught fully online and all work will be completed asynchronously. You will read, write, and watch videos independently through our interactive web text *Discovering Sociology* and have a chance to interact with peers through discussion forums. Office hours will be held virtually by appointment in my Zoom Personal Meeting Room. Please contact me through Brightspace email to schedule.

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. The Access Code is available for purchase at the URI Campus Store. For instructions on purchasing the Access Code directly from the publisher, Connect For Education, see our course Brightspace site.

Course Overview

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 encompass a wide range of theoretical approaches, as well as a dizzying body of research. Therefore, this course does not seek to cover all that sociology has to offer; instead, I hope exploring the topic during J-term will inspire more in-depth study in the future. Even if students do not elect to pursue any formal study of sociology beyond this course, they will leave class with a greater appreciation for how useful a sociological imagination can be even in everyday life.

Through weekly readings, short videos, written assignments, section quizzes, and class discussions, students will gain a meaningful overview of sociological concepts and a deeper understanding of themselves.

> **URI national accreditation requires that each course credit be accompanied with two hours of outside work. Since this is a 3-credit course, you should expect to spend ~30 hours/per week on this class during the Winter J-term.**

Student Learning Outcomes

After taking SOC 100, students enrolled in the course will be able to:

1. Describe how social structures influence our individual experiences
2. Understand how inequality operates on both the macro and micro levels of society
3. Think critically about the the relationship between individuals and the world we inhabit
4. Know how the sociological imagination can enhance our understanding of ourselves and each other

URI General Education Area and Outcome

A2 - Understand the theories and methods of the **social and behavioral sciences**. To meet the social science knowledge requirement, you will be learning key dodviological facts and concepts, and more importantly how to apply those concepts and use them to analyze social problems and propose solutions.

Course Requirements and Grading

Technology Requirements

To be successful in the course you will need access to the following tools:

- **A desktop or laptop computer or smart phone with internet access.** You will need to watch videos, open PDF files, access web links, and complete assignments. Daily access is necessary and required to successfully complete the course.
- **A Brightspace username and password**. To access the course site. I will send updates and announcements out on Brightspace.
- **Adobe Reader or Preview**. For opening PDF files.
- **Microsoft Word or Google Docs**. To complete written assignments.

In addition to these tools, there are certain technical things you should be comfortable doing:

- **Playing a Video on YouTube.** Our course videos are not delivered in this way but if you know how to play and pause a video on YouTube, then you'll be able to easily access our videos.
- **Writing and saving documents in common word processing software**.
- **Opening and accessing PDF files.**

Brightspace and Connect For Education Help

Here is the link to access Brightspace https://brightspace.uri.edu as well as the Brightspace resource page https://web.uri.edu/brightspace/.

For this online course, the *Discovering Sociology* interactive web text is our "classroom." Please refer to the Getting to Know C4E video tutorial before you get started and refer back to it as a resource as needed while you complete this course.

Grading

The course is divided into 10 distinct learning modules, or sections, each with its own assigned reading, quizzes, discussions, and assignments. Students will proceed through each module according to the schedule and complete all requirements for that module by the due date listed on the syllabus.

The grade breakdown looks like this:

10 Quizzes @4% each	40%
15 Section Assignments (including Discussion Forum posts and written assignments) @ 4% each	60%
TOTAL	100%

Final Grade Breakdown:

A	90-100	B-	80-82	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
				F	< 63

Course Policies

Accessibility

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.

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 with sensitivity. University policies on harassment and discrimination outline behaviors that will not be tolerated. Please talk with us if you feel threatened or disrespected in online discussion. Focus on issues, not people. Please contact us about any concerns, confusion, or difficulties. An open mind is essential.

Responsibility

Online learning requires 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 no credit. 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 online learning is demanding. You are responsible to check in daily and be self-motivated. Building and maintaining a collaborative online classroom is everyone's responsibility.

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. The following are examples of academic dishonesty.

- Using material, directly or paraphrasing, from published sources (including *Discovering Sociology*) without appropriate citation
- Claiming disproportionate credit for work not done independently
- Unauthorized possession or access to quizzes
- Unauthorized use of another's work or preparing work for another student
- Taking an quiz for another student
- Altering or attempting to alter grades
- The use of notes or electronic devices to gain an unauthorized advantage during quizzes
- Fabricating or falsifying facts, data or references
- Facilitating or aiding another's academic dishonesty

Student Resources

Counseling Services

If your success in this course is being negatively affected by stress, mental health, personal or family issues, you can contact the URI Counseling Center (https://web.uri.edu/counseling/)

Title IX Policy

The University of Rhode Island seeks to maintain a learning community free from any form of sexual harassment of any member of the URI Community, including sexual violence of any kind. Confidential assistance is available for students.

Health Services

Butterfield Rd 401.874.2246
email: health@uri.edu
health.uri.edu/appointments/
Drop-in Monday through Friday 8:00am - 8:00pm Saturday, Sunday, & Holidays 10:00am - 4:00pm

Pastoral/Chaplain Services URI Chaplains Association

6 Fraternity Circle
401.874.2740

Rhody Outpost

The Rhody Outpost food pantry was created to help address food insecurity at URI. The pantry is stocked with canned goods, pasta, pasta sauce, mac and cheese, peanut butter and jelly, toiletries, household items, cleaning supplies, and much more. They also offer eggs, bread, and fresh vegetables on Fridays.
https://web.uri.edu/rhody-outpost/

Meal Sharing Program

Students experiencing food insecurity may request meal passes. Read the eligibility requirements before completing your application.
https://web.uri.edu/rhody-outpost/share-a-swipe-for-hope-campaign/

Students First Fund

The Students First Fund has been established to provide additional emergency support to URI students with demonstrated financial need. Eligible applicants must: 1) be in good academic standing (2.0 cumulative GPA), 2) have applied for financial aid, 3) have exhausted all financial aid options (e.g. subsidized and unsubsidized loans) and 4) have sought employment.
https://web.uri.edu/rhody-outpost/students-first-fund/

Course Schedule

Section 1 (Awakening the Sociological Imagination)
MO 01/04: Read Module 1 in *Discovering Sociology* by logging in to Connect 4 Education with your Access Code; Complete Quiz 1 by 11:59 pm
TU 01/05: Section 01, Assignment 01 – Discussion Forum: Diana and Rob due by 11:59 pm; Section 01, Assignment 02 – Writing Assignment: Understanding Who I Am due by 11:59 pm.

Section 2 (In Search of Human Freedom and Fulfillment)
WE 01/06: Read Module 2, Sections 2.01-2.10; Section 02, Assignment 01 - Discussion Forum: Marx due by 11:59pm.
TH 01/07: Read Module 2, Sections 2.11-2.19; Section 02 Quiz due by 11:59pm; Section 02, Assignment 03 - Written Assignment: Durkheim due by 11:59pm.

Section 3 (Science in Action)
FR 01/08: Read Module 3; Section 3 Quiz due by 11:59 pm; Section 03, Assignment 01: Written Assignment – Your Demographic Profile and an "Average" American due by 11:59 pm.
MO 01/11: Section 03 Assignment - Written Assignment: Local Ethnography due by 11:59pm.

Section 4 (Institutions and the Construction of the Social Self)
TU 01/12: Read Module 4; Section 04 Quiz due by 11:59pm
WE 01/13: Section 04 Assignment - Discussion Forum: Preschool in Three Cultures Video due by 11:59pm.

Section 5 (Deviance and Social Control)
TH 01/14: Read Module 5; Section 05 Quiz due by 11:59pm; Section 05, Assignment - Written Assignment: Read and Reflect due by 11:59pm.

Section 6 (Intimacy and Private Lives)
FR 01/15: Read Module 6; Section 06 Assignment - Written Assignment: Relationship Counseling due by 11:59pm; Section 06 Quiz due by 11:59pm.

Section 7 (Inequality and Mobility in the U.S.)
MO 01/18 Read Module 7; Section 07 Quiz due by 11:59pm; Section 07 Assignment – Discussion Forum: Brandon due by 11:59pm.

Section 8 (Sex and Gender)
TU 01/19: Read Module 8; Section 08 Quiz due by 11:59pm; Section 08 Assignment - Written Assignment: Gender Identification due by 11:59pm

Section 9 (Race and the Persistence of Racial Inequality)
WE 01/20: Read Module 9; Section 09 Quiz due by 11:59pm;
TH 01/21: Section 09, Assignment 01 - Written Assignment: Write Your Own Op Ed due by 11:59pm.

Section 10 (Culture, Meaning. and Power)
FR 01/22: Read Module 10; Section 10 Quiz due by 11:59pm; Section 10, Assignment – Discussion Forum: Social Tools due by 11:59pm.