

## **Introduction to Sociology Fall 2011**

Socio211-G, # 13435  
August 22/December 9  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
1:30-2:20  
Throckmorton Hall 1014

Instructor: Nicole John  
Office: Water 255  
Telephone: 785-532-4967  
[Email: nikia@ksu.edu](mailto:nikia@ksu.edu)  
Office Hrs: Monday 2:30-3:30  
(and by appointments)

### **Required Material:**

Social Studies W/ Readings & Virtual Access. Witt, John 2009. ISBN 9780077583385.  
McGraw-Hill

### **The text is available for sale at:**

Clafin Books, 1814 Clafin Rd #140, Manhattan, KS, (785) 776-3771,  
[www.clafinbooks.com](http://www.clafinbooks.com)

OR

Varney's Book Store, 623 N. Manhattan Ave or KSU Union, (785) 539-0511, (800)362-1574, [www.varneys.com](http://www.varneys.com)

**\*\*Please note that you are required to purchase this version of the textbook and to bring it to class. Tear-out activities are located in the back of the text and may be used from time to time for in-class assignments and/or participation points.**

See John Witt's blog at <http://soc101.wordpress.com/>

### **Supplemental:**

1. John J. Schulz. 2008. *Please Don't Do That! The Pocket Guide to Good Writing*. Spokane: Marquette Books LLC. Available at Varney's Bookstore.
2. Sociology, Barcharts ISBN 978-1-57222-647-0 Study Aid

### **Course Description:**

Introduction to Sociology centers on the development, structure, and functioning of human groups; social and cultural patterns; and the principal social processes. This course provides participants with scientific tools to analyze the social world and their place in it. Students study social facts; and they learn to apply, question, and challenge social facts, often debunking commonly held myths about society.

### **Statement for Copyright Notification**

Copyright 2010 Sociology program, Kansas State University as to this syllabus and all lectures. During this course students are prohibited from selling notes to or being paid

for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the instructor teaching this course.

*Jon Witt (p. 1) refers to a line from the film, It's a Wonderful Life, quoting the angel Clarence: "One person's life touches so many others, when he or she's not there, it leaves an awfully big hole."*

*Witt continues, "The film is also about the power of community, of family, and...ways in which the options available to us are limited by position and circumstance."*

### **Course Goal:**

The above excerpt from your textbook refers to the "**sociological imagination.**" The goal of the course is to examine our social world with a scientific lens called the sociological imagination – a unique perspective that includes the person, groups made up of persons, and the entire stage that accounts for social life. To use a common metaphor, we acknowledge the importance of trees but stress characteristics of the forest, which is, arguably, infinitely more complex and intriguing. Indeed, as we will see, society is much more than the sum of its individual parts.

### **University General Education**

The intent of the UGE program is to expand students' breadth of education at K-State. This course carries the designation of University General Education (UGE). Students' UGE experiences should inspire them to appreciate differing viewpoints, consider openly new and divergent thinking, weigh ideas with careful skepticism, challenge conventional wisdom, and explore for more accurate and more useful knowledge. UGE courses are to incorporate an active learning environment, an experiential context for whatever is studied, and an opportunity for students to connect ideas.

### **Course Objectives:**

- To distinguish between personal troubles and public issues (sociological imagination)
- To understand diversity and social interaction (social complexity)
- To learn how social position influences life outcomes (social inequality)
- To question and critique (critical thinking)

### **Course Requirements:**

In particular, 10% (as minimum) of the course evaluation is devoted to **written assignment(s)**, through which the student receives feedback from the instructor with regard to critical thinking and communication skills. Second, at least 10% of the course evaluation comes from an assignment in which the **student actively participates** in the social world. Third, another 10% (minimum) of the assessment is based on the student's **active engagement in classroom and/or online discussion** of social issues. Throughout these assignments, students are given the opportunity to connect the sociological perspective to other ideas and disciplines.

We all learn in different ways, and this course design accommodates various learning strategies. Class members are expected to read assigned material **prior to** its listing on the course outline, to be prepared for daily participation in class and/or online discussions. **Online quizzes, two major exams, and writing projects provide a range of opportunities for interactive learning and assessment** of knowledge gained. **Attendance is expected and monitored.**

### COURSE EVALUATION: POINT SYSTEM

Active Learning and Participation	
Weekly Online Quizzes (10) .....	100
Journal Responses (12 at 5 points each).....	60
Message Boards/Participation.....	60
Social Experiments.....	80
Exams	
Midterm Exam .....	50
Final Exam .....	100
Group/Individual Project	
Written component .....	150
Presentation .....	50
Movie/Documentary/Book	
Review .....	100
<b>Total Points Possible: .....</b>	<b>750</b>
A=90%-100% .....	680
B=80%-89% .....	600
C=70%-79% .....	530
D=60%-69% .....	450
F=50% and below.....	380

### Explanation of Graded Assignments:

**Weekly on-line quizzes:** These quizzes cover the reading material and are administered via K-State On-Line (KSOL). Each quiz will open at 8 a.m. on the Monday preceding class coverage of the reading material, and will close at 1 p.m. on Monday afternoon before class (**for example, Quiz #1 will open at 8 a.m. on Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> and close at 1 p.m. on Monday August 29<sup>th</sup>**). This ensures that you have ample time to complete the assigned readings prior to class sessions, and prepares you to engage with course material. **The quizzes are untimed, but you will only be able to access each quiz once.** This means that when you open the quiz, you must complete it in that one sitting. If you logged out of the quiz without completing it, you will receive only partial credit. **ONLY OPEN THE QUIZZES WHEN YOU HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO FINISH THEM IN ONE SITTING.** You may use your text and

notes to answer the quiz questions. All questions are multiple-choice, and each quiz consists of ten questions: KSOL will randomly assign questions from a large test bank. All quiz scores are counted toward your final grade.

**Weekly journal assignments:** These journals will provide you with an opportunity to apply course material to your own lives and social contexts and make connections between these and broader social forces (**these journal assignments are worth up to sixty points**). In most cases I will pose one or more questions designed to get you thinking more deeply about making such connections, and you will be asked to respond through your journal entries. There will be one journal per week which will be administered on random days. Questions will be provided in class.

**Message board and Participation:**

Students who post their entries on the message board via K-State on-line and actively participate in class discussion will be awarded participation points. Points will be awarded to students who comment CONSTRUCTIVELY on others' postings (NOTE: to receive points for commenting on others' entries, you must yourself post an entry on the message board) as well as for in class discussions. **A total of sixty points are possible for these two forms of participation.** To score maximum points, please submit frequent responses to the message board and actively participate in class discussions.

**The Experiential Learning Assignment/Research Paper:**

There is one research paper required for this course. Students may choose an independent project or work as a group. For the independent project, you will research a social issue of interest and/or concern to you, formulate a research question, explore how other scholars have examined your question to present and design a research study based on your research question or, you may engage in a group project. For the group project, students will be doing a basic content analysis exploring several sociological constructs such as race, gender norms, processes of socialization, ageism/age inequality etc., within media outlets of animated films and children's books throughout the decades. Students will give short presentations of their projects. Further guidelines for these assignments will be provided and discussed in class.

**Social Experiments:** Throughout the semester you must conduct **4 social experiments** and write a **500-word reaction paper** (double spaced) to the experience of conducting the experiment yourself. Details on what each experiment entails will be announced in class. You will have approximately 10 days from the time the experiment is announced to conduct, write and submit it. Each assignment is worth 20 points. These experiments will be provided in class.

**Exams:** These will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. Both the Midterm and Final Exams will be administered during the designated exam period (see below). I will provide you with scantrons. Final exam is comprehensive.

**Documentary/Book Review:** Throughout the semester you will look at a series of documentaries and read an assigned book (Zeitoun-Dave Eggers). You will relate core

sociological issues discussed in lecture material and write a one page, single-spaced reaction paper for each documentary/book. **The documentaries will not be replayed or loaned to students. Therefore, it is important to attend all class sessions.**

**Extra Credit:** Each week, you may write a reaction paper to a New York Times article (use your student ID card to access a free copy on campus, or consult the on-line version). You may also finish watching certain movies referenced in class and write a one-page (single space) reaction paper for extra credit. Additional opportunities will be discussed in class. **You may submit a maximum of 12 such reaction papers throughout the semester but only one per week.** These papers are due at the beginning of class on Friday, and must be submitted in hard copy.

## **Kansas State University Policies:**

### **Campus Safety Statement**

Kansas State University is committed to providing a safe teaching and learning environment for student and faculty members. In order to enhance your safety in the unlikely case of a campus emergency make sure that you know where and how to quickly exit your classroom and how to follow any emergency directives. To view additional campus emergency information go to the University's main page, [www.k-state.edu](http://www.k-state.edu), and click on the Emergency Information button.

### **Statement Defining Expectations for Classroom Conduct**

All student activities in the University, including this course, are governed by the Student Judicial Conduct Code as outlined in the Student Governing Association By Laws, Article VI, Section 3, number 2. **Students who engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment may be asked to leave the class. For more specific guidelines, please refer to the full Student Code of Conduct statement, as follows: <http://www.k-state.edu/osas/conductcode.htm>**

### **Statement Regarding Academic Honesty**

Kansas State University has an Honor System based on personal integrity, which is presumed to be sufficient assurance that, in academic matters, one's work is performed honestly and without unauthorized assistance. Undergraduate and graduate students, by registration, acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Honor System. The policies and procedures of the Honor System apply to all full and part-time students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus, off-campus, and via distance learning. The honor system website can be reached via the following URL: [www.ksu.edu/honor](http://www.ksu.edu/honor). A component vital to the Honor System is the inclusion of the Honor Pledge which applies to all assignments, examinations, or other course work undertaken by students. The Honor Pledge is implied, whether or not it is stated: **"On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work."** A grade of XF can result from a breach of academic honesty. The F indicates failure in the course; the X indicates the reason is an Honor Pledge violation.

### **Statements for Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Any student with a disability who needs a classroom accommodation, access to technology or other academic assistance in this course should contact Disability Support Services (dss@k-state.edu) and/or the instructor. DSS serves students with a wide range of disabilities including, but not limited to, physical disabilities, sensory impairments, learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, depression, and anxiety.

**Non-discrimination:** Kansas State University is committed to a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, or other non-merit reason, in admissions, educational programs or activities, and employment (including employment of disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam Era), all as required by applicable laws and regulations. Responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries, including those concerning Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, has been delegated to, Clyde Howard, Director of Affirmative Action, Kansas State University, 214 Anderson Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-0124 (785-532-6220).

Also see university policies on affirmative action, sexual harassment, racial harassment, and other forms of discrimination. <http://www.kstate.edu/affact/Policies/index.htm>

### **Class Policies:**

**K-State Online.** Please check K-State Online for various kinds of information usually provided in handouts or other kinds of feedback. **It is your responsibility to check these sources for any announcements or information pertinent to class and class assignments.**

**Class attendance.** Nonattendance will negatively affect your grade. Please show your respect by arriving on time and not leaving early. **Habitual latecomers will be asked to drop the course as well as people who sleep during class. In the event of an emergency that interferes with your ability to attend class sessions, please inform your instructor as soon as possible. Please turn off cell phones and other electronic equipment during class.**

**Late Assignments.** *In most cases, no late assignments will be accepted. Under the 'best' of circumstances, any late assignment will be penalized **10% for each day past due.***

**Makeup work.** **No makeups for exams or other assignments will be given unless you have a university-approved reason, in writing; prior approval, except in dire emergency,** must be arranged. You are expected to notify me at least one week in advance if you must miss a scheduled exam. Except for the final, graded assignments are to be picked up in class or will be returned electronically through K-State Online.

**Office hours and conferences.** I will hold office hours following class on Monday afternoons from 2:30-3:30 p.m. This is a time when you can drop in to talk about whatever you want -- questions you have about the material, how you're doing in the course, things that you find particularly interesting (or irritating). Please do not hesitate to use this time. I also encourage e-mail communication. If you are unable to meet at the time, please contact me via email to schedule an appointment.

**Borderline grades, curves, and other grade inflators.** Grades for this course will not be curved or inflated. I do not grade on the basis of need. If you need an A in this course, note the total number of points necessary to earn an A. Please do not come to me and ask me to change your final grade unless you suspect a mathematical error has been made.

**Incompletes.** A grade of incomplete will be considered only under extraordinary (emergency) circumstances; an expected incomplete must be arranged prior to the end of the semester. In no case will an incomplete be given to a student who simply fails to attend class and complete assignments.

**Student rights.** Information regarding your rights and responsibilities may be found in the undergraduate general catalog. If you have any condition, such as physical or learning disabilities, which will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as outlined, and/or require special accommodations, please notify the instructor during the first two weeks of class.

### Course Outline

Week	Dates	Topic	Reading Assignment	Assignments/ Announcements	Notes & Due Assignments Due Dates
<b>The Sociological Perspective</b>					
1	8/22 8/24 8/26	Introduction to the Course		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journal #1 (Personal Biography)</li> <li>• Quiz 1 open</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Extra credit due</li> </ul>
2	8/29 9/31 9/2	Sociological Imagination	Ch. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journal #2</li> <li>• Quiz 2 open</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Social Experiment announced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz 1 due 8/29</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Extra credit due</li> </ul>
3	9/5 9/7 9/9	Sociological Research	Ch. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journal #3</li> <li>• Quiz #3 open</li> <li>• Library Presentation</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Student instructor conference held in class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> Extra credit due</li> <li>• Quiz 2 due 9/5</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Social Experiment due 9/9</li> </ul>
<b>Social Groups and Social Control</b>					
4	9/12 9/14 9/16	Culture; Music and Culture	Ch. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journal #4</li> <li>• Quiz #4 open</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4<sup>th</sup> Extra credit due</li> <li>• Quiz 3 due 9/12</li> </ul>
5	9/19 9/21 9/23	Socialization Sex v. Gender; Social Construction of Gender	Ch. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journal #5</li> <li>• Quiz# 5 open</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Social Experiment announced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> Extra credit due</li> <li>• Quiz 4 due 9/19</li> </ul>
6	9/26 9/28 10/30	Social Structure and Social Interaction Breaching Experiments/ breaking social norms	Ch. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz # 6 open</li> <li>• Journal #6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6<sup>th</sup> Extra credit due</li> <li>• Quiz 5 due 9/26</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Social Experiment due 10/30</li> </ul>
7	10/3 10/5 10/7	Deviance & Social Control Group research on death penalty and incarceration rates	Ch. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz #7 open</li> <li>• Journal # 7</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup> Extra credit due</li> <li>• Quiz 6 due 10/3</li> </ul>

8	10/10 10/12 10/14	Exam Review & Instructor/student conferences	Chs. 1-6	<b>Midterm Exam: in class/Friday October 14</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz 7 due 10/10</li> </ul>
<b>Social Inequality</b>					
9	10/17 10/19 10/21	Social Class in the U.S. Life at the poverty line	Ch. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz # 8 open</li> <li>• Journal # 8</li> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> Social Experiment announced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8<sup>th</sup> Extra credit due</li> <li>• Documentary reviews</li> </ul>
10	10/24 10/26 10/28	Inequalities of Gender/Sexuality and Age  Social and Cultural construction of aging	Ch. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz # 9 open</li> <li>• Journal # 9</li> <li>• Guest Lecturer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8<sup>th</sup> Extra credit due</li> <li>• Quiz 8 due 10/24</li> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> Social Experiment Due 10/28</li> </ul>
11	11/31 11/2 11/4	Inequalities of Race and Ethnicity	Ch. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz # 10 open</li> <li>• Journal # 10</li> <li>• Guest Lecturer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9<sup>th</sup> Extra credit due</li> <li>• Quiz 9 due 11/31</li> </ul>
12	11/7 11/9 11/11	Global Inequality	Ch. 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journal # 11</li> <li>• 4<sup>th</sup> Social Experiment announced</li> <li>• Student/Instruc tor conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10<sup>th</sup> Extra credit due</li> <li>• Quiz 10 due 11/7</li> <li>• Guest Lecturer Global sex trafficking</li> </ul>
<b>Social Institutions</b>					
13	11/14 11/16 11/18	Marriage and Family Who will you date?	Ch. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journal # 12</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11<sup>th</sup> Extra credit due</li> <li>• Book review</li> </ul>
	11/21 11/23 11/25	<b>STUDENT/ THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</b>			
14	11/28 12/30 12/2	Education Student presentations	Ch. 8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Research Projects due 11/28 at the beginning of class</li> </ul>
15	12/5	Conclusion and			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12<sup>th</sup> Extra</li> </ul>

	12/7 12/9	Review			credit due • 4 <sup>th</sup> Social Experiment due 12/5
<b>Comprehensive Final Examination: Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:50 to 1: 40 p.m.          in Throckmorton Hall Rm 1014</b>					

**\*This outline provides a tentative schedule. I may find it necessary or beneficial to change the course outline from time to time. Any changes will be announced in class prior to the next week's assignment.**

**Final Comments:**

It is my goal to make this course worth your time and effort. Therefore, I will do all that is reasonable and within my power to ensure that you learn and succeed. If you are concerned with any aspect of this course please contact me. You owe it to yourself to talk with me as I can only assist if I know there is a problem or concern.