

BE SURE TO PRINT A COPY OF THIS SYLLABUS.  
YOU WILL NEED TO RETURN TO IT OFTEN OVER THE COURSE OF THIS SEMESTER.

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**Sociology 10000:004: Introductory Sociology  
ONLINE via Blackboard Vista  
Fall 2010 at Purdue University North Central**

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**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Carla A. Pfeffer

**OFFICE ADDRESS:** Schwarz 30G

**OFFICE TELEPHONE:** (219) 785-5264

**EMAIL:** Please send all course-related correspondence via Blackboard Vista Mail. In an emergency, or if the Blackboard Vista system is down/you cannot access the system, you may contact me at cpfeffer@pnc.edu or cpfeffer@umich.edu

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays and Wednesdays 4pm-6pm (or by appointment)

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Sociology is a social science seeking to better understand how individuals, groups, social systems/structures and cultures shape (and are shaped by) one another. Some of the social institutions we will study include race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, politics, medicine, the family and education. A primary goal of this course is to introduce you to the perspectives, research methods and empirical findings of sociology. Equally important is the goal of cultivating your skills for analyzing the social situations and events that you encounter in your everyday lives. Throughout this course, emphasis will be placed on developing critical and integrative ways of thinking about sociology, social processes and their relevance to everyday life.

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**COURSE GOALS:**

After completing this course, you should be able to:

- define what sociology is and what sociologists do, as well as to distinguish it from other related, but different, social sciences (e.g., psychology and anthropology).
  - define the concept of “sociological imagination.”
  - describe the methods that sociologists use to study social phenomena, structures and processes.
  - name at least five key figures in the development of sociology, including those who are well-known and those who are not as well-known.
  - formulate critical and analytic responses to media depictions of social processes and events (including social values and social norms).
  - distinguish “folk wisdom” from empirical evidence, with the ability to analyze and critique each form of knowledge.
  - better understand the ways in which race, gender, class, sexuality, age, ability and other factors shape the experiences of individuals and groups.
  - describe social and cultural factors and processes that lead to both social stratification and social/cultural change.
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### **SOME NOTES ABOUT THIS ONLINE COURSE:**

This is a fully online course. This means that we do not meet in class and you are responsible for completing all instruction online. Online courses are a unique format of instruction and are not “easier” than traditional format courses; they are not appropriate for all learners. If you have difficulty managing your own time or working/studying independently, you may wish to enroll for a non-online or hybrid (which blends traditional and online instruction) version of this course. The reading expectations for this course are reasonable (approximately 35 pages/week), but you will be asked to read this material closely and carefully. It is critical, for your success in the course, to make sure that you keep up with the readings so as not to fall behind. PowerPoint Chapter in Review slides will be available to you for each week of instruction and you should review, print and make notes on these lecture slides. You should feel free to utilize office hours whenever you would like face-to-face instruction or have questions about the course materials that would be best answered in person. The PowerPoint Chapter in Review slides for this course supplement the readings. This class is heavily oriented toward online class discussion of central course concepts, as well as integration of media resources that exemplify course concepts. You are expected to master the material presented in the readings, PowerPoint Chapter in Review slides, media resources and online class discussions. Your success in this course will depend on carefully reading all assigned chapters, actively participating in online class discussions and learning activities, and asking questions, or for clarification, when material is unclear.

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### **BLACKBOARD VISTA:**

You will be using Blackboard Vista extensively in this course and your access to a reliable and fast internet connection, several times each week, is essential to your success. You will access Chapter in Review PowerPoint slides, the syllabus and other course-related materials directly from the Blackboard Vista site for our class. You will always have access to the syllabus, course assignments, your grades and lecture slides via Blackboard Vista. This system does occasionally crash and, in those instances, you may contact me directly at [cpfeffer@pnc.edu](mailto:cpfeffer@pnc.edu) or [cpfeffer@umich.edu](mailto:cpfeffer@umich.edu).

- You must view the online Blackboard Vista Learning Module the first week of classes.
  - Please send emails to me only through the “Mail” tab under Blackboard Vista (unless you cannot access Blackboard Vista).
  - For any technological issues that you are experiencing with Blackboard, please contact Information Services directly at (219) 785-5511.
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### **TEXTBOOK:**

*Sociology Now* (2009 Edition) by Michael S. Kimmel and Amy Beth Aronson  
ISBN: 0-205-40442-1. Two copies of this textbook are on reserve (two-hour loan) at the Library.

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### **ACCOMMODATIONS:**

If you have a disability that may affect your performance or active participation in this class, please speak with me about accommodations. I am happy to work with you to make this class more accessible. Please contact Disability Services at (219)785-5374; SWRZ 38, if you have particular questions or concerns.

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## COURSE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND GRADING

### GRADING SUMMARY:

Your final grade in this course will be based on your achievements on course requirements weighted in the following manner:

<b>Online Weekly Reflection Papers (2% each, 15 papers due over term)</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Active Participation in Online Class Discussions</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Exam #1: Online Thursday Sep 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10am - Friday Sep 24<sup>th</sup> at 10pm</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Exam #2: Online Thursday Oct 28<sup>th</sup> at 10am - Friday Oct 29<sup>th</sup> at 10pm</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Exam #3: Online Monday Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am - Tuesday Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 10pm</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### GRADING SCALE:

Final letter grades are based on standard percentages, not curves, as follows:

97 - 100% ... A+	93 - 96% ... A	90 - 92% ... A-
87 - 89% ... B+	83 - 86% ... B	80 - 82% ... B-
77 - 79% ... C+	73 - 76% ... C	70 - 72% ... C-
67 - 69% ... D+	63 - 66% ... D	60 - 62% ... D-
<60% ... F (those who receive this course grade will not receive credit for taking the course)		

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## THE DETAILS ABOUT GRADES / FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

### EXAMS

#### **How many exams will I take in this course?**

There are three online exams in this course.

#### **How much of my grade is each exam worth?**

Each exam is worth 15% of your final grade in the course (so exams comprise 45% of your final grade in the course).

#### **What is the format of the exams?**

Each exam will contain forty multiple-choice questions from material presented in the readings, PowerPoint Chapter in Review slides, media resources and online class discussions. You will have forty minutes to answer the forty questions.

#### **Are the exams cumulative?**

No, the exams are non-cumulative.

#### **When will I take the exams?**

Exams will be held *online* according to the following schedule:

Exam 1: Available online Thursday Sep 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10am - Friday Sep 24<sup>th</sup> at 10pm.

Exam 2: Available online Thursday Oct 28<sup>th</sup> at 10am - Friday Oct 29<sup>th</sup> at 10pm.

Exam 3: Available online Monday Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am - Tuesday Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 10pm.

#### **How do I take the exams?**

You will access each exam under the “Assessments” tab in Blackboard Vista. Extensions will not be granted for technological issues or troubles with internet access—so be sure to take the exam as early as possible during the exam period in case you encounter technological difficulties. Please contact Information Services at (219) 785-5511 if you

do encounter any technological difficulties. You will have only one chance to take each exam. You cannot start the exam and then finish it later. You will have only forty minutes to complete each exam.

**What if I miss taking an exam?**

Make-up exams will not be given. Exceptions to this rule are made only in dire, unavoidable circumstances (e.g., serious illness or emergency) that are fully documented (e.g., with official correspondence from physicians) and preferably with advance arrangements made directly with the instructor. Make-up exams, when offered, are essay exams. Again, technological difficulties do not constitute an adequate excuse for missing an exam, so be sure to take the exam early enough in the exam period to ensure that you are able to resolve any potential technological issues before your examination period expires.

**How can I raise my exam scores?**

I have created an optional chapter quiz for you to take at the end of each week (available on Friday each week). On Fridays (or Monday on the week of an exam), you should check the “Assessments” tab and take the ten-question multiple-choice quiz. Taking this quiz will help you to develop a better sense of the information about which you’re still unclear in each chapter. You will not receive a grade or any credit for taking these weekly quizzes—they are solely for your own benefit. Once you discern where your weak spots are, you can devote more time to studying those sections of the chapter.

**ONLINE WEEKLY REFLECTION PAPERS**

**What are Reflection Papers?**

Reflection papers provide an opportunity for you to reflect on the course materials each week. They also provide a way for me to ensure that you are completing your readings in a timely fashion. Because they are posted to the Discussion portion of Blackboard Vista, they also provide another opportunity for students to interact with one another as well as to encounter differing perspectives and opinions on the class materials.

**How much of my grade are they worth?**

Reflection papers are worth 30% of your final grade for this course. Each Reflection Paper is worth, therefore, 2% of your final grade. Your papers will each be scored as 0, 1 or 2 points, depending on how well they demonstrate critical reflection and synthesis of that week’s materials.

**When are Reflection Papers due?**

You are required to submit a Reflection Paper every week for this class. You must submit each reflection paper online no later than FRIDAY at 11pm for the week under study. For example, if I wish to post a Reflection Paper on the material from week 1 (Chapter 1), I must submit that paper no later than 11pm on Friday August 27<sup>th</sup>.

**How do I submit my papers?**

These reflection pieces should be posted under the Discussion thread chapter/topic for the appropriate week on Blackboard Vista. Write and save your paper in Word or Works and then post it to the discussion thread as an attachment so that it is easier to read. If you feel the material you would like to discuss is too personal or private to submit online for your classmates to see, you may submit the paper to the instructor privately via Blackboard Mail.

**What should these papers be about?**

Each Reflection Paper should incorporate your analysis of the readings, in-class discussion, online discussion and/or media resources covered that week. It is very obvious when students have not read the material closely and carefully (or have only skimmed the chapter). Each paper should offer a critical summary of many of the theories, ideas, terms, and concepts discussed in the textbook and the PowerPoint Review slides for that week. You must also bring in examples from your life and/or the news/real world to demonstrate these course theories, ideas, terms and concepts.

**What format should I use for my papers?**

Your papers should be single-spaced, 1-2 pages, 1-inch margins, and in 12-pt. Times New Roman font. It is very difficult to receive the full 2 points if you only submit one page. Most papers that receive full credit are two, single-spaced pages and demonstrate close engagement with much of the material covered in the chapter. You will receive zero credit for papers that are not at least one full page, according to the guidelines, above. Do not use fancy spacing or large headers with your name/date/class/assignment to take up space.

**What if I miss a paper?**

Late papers will receive zero credit and there are no makeup papers.

**ACTIVE PARTICIPATION:**

**What is Active Participation?**

Despite the fact that this is a fully online class, you will be required to actively participate in class discussions on the course materials and to meet with me at least twice over the course of the semester during office hours.

**How much of my grade is Active Participation worth?**

Active participation is worth 25% of your final grade for this course.

**How do I actively participate?**

Active participation will be determined by both the quantity and quality of your contributions to online class discussions and/or course engagement in other ways (e.g. coming to office hours, posting course-related comments and responses online via the Blackboard Vista Chat or Discussion features). *In general, you should make at least three substantial posts to the Discussion board each week* (in addition to posting your Reflection Paper or a Peer Response Paper). I encourage you to both *create* new Discussion topics as well as to add to ongoing Discussion topics. Often, Discussions can be created by focusing on how Learning Module activities (such as video clips, news stories, or brief written exercises) connect with the themes and topics from that week's readings.

**Is there anything I need to consider when participating actively in this class?**

Voicing your ideas and perspectives can be difficult for many people. You are encouraged to push beyond your own comfort zone in this course and to think more deeply and critically about course materials. You should note, however, that voicing your opinions will not be enough; you must also support your reasoning and ideas with empirical evidence (research) from the textbook and/or external documented sources. In addition, we will discuss a number of controversial topics in this course and you are expected to be both thoughtful and respectful when discussing these topics. Please

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remember to critique ideas and perspectives, not individuals or the people who voice these ideas and perspectives. Inconsiderate or inflammatory posts will be deleted in order to maintain a non-hostile learning environment and you may be asked to come to office hours to discuss any such postings.

**Am I required to attend office hours as part of my Active Participation grade?**

Each student must come to office hours at least once over the course of the semester—I want to meet each one of you in person and discuss how the course is going for you. Not coming to office hours at least once over the course of the semester will negatively impact your class participation score for this class. I strongly encourage each of you to make use of my office hours whenever there is material that you would like to review or cover in-person rather than online. I would be more than happy to talk with you about any ideas, challenges and/or concerns you might have about the course material, and about sociology more generally.

**When are office hours and where are they held?**

Every Monday and Wednesday from 4-6pm (or by appointment) in Schwarz 30G

**Do I need an appointment to come to office hours?**

No, you can drop in anytime from 4-6 pm every Monday and Wednesday. However, if these days/times do not work for you, I would be happy to schedule an appointment with you at a day/time that works better in your schedule.

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**COURSE TOPIC SCHEDULE, REMINDERS & READINGS BY WEEK**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FOCUS TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
<b>WEEK #1</b>	<b>What is Sociology?</b>	<b>Chapter 1</b>
Aug 23-Aug 27		pp. 3-37
<b>WEEK #2</b>	<b>Culture and Society</b>	<b>Chapter 2</b>
Aug 30-Sep 03		pp.39-67
<b>WEEK #3</b>	<b>Society: Interactions, Groups, and Organizations</b>	<b>Chapter 3</b>
Sep 06-Sep 10		pp. 69-101
<b>WEEK #4</b>	<b>How Do We Know What We Know? The Methods of the Sociologist</b>	<b>Chapter 4</b>
Sep 13-Sep 17		pp. 103-137
<b>WEEK #5</b>	<b>Socialization</b>	<b>Chapter 5</b>
Sep 20-Sep 24	EXAM THIS WEEK ON CHAPTERS 1-5 ONLINE SEP 23 (10am) – SEP 24 (10pm)	pp. 139-165
<b>WEEK #6</b>	<b>Deviance and Crime</b>	<b>Chapter 6</b>
Sep 27-Oct 01		pp. 167-203
<b>WEEK #7</b>	<b>Stratification and Social Class</b>	<b>Chapter 7</b>
Oct 04-Oct 08		pp. 205-241
<b>WEEK #8</b>	<b>Race and Ethnicity</b>	<b>Chapter 8</b>
Oct 11-Oct 15		pp. 243-277
<b>WEEK #9</b>	<b>Sex and Gender</b>	<b>Chapter 9</b>
Oct 18-Oct 22		pp. 279-313

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**COURSE TOPIC SCHEDULE & READINGS BY WEEK**

<b>WEEK #10</b>	<b>Sexuality</b>	<b>Chapter 10</b>
Oct 25-Oct 29	EXAM THIS WEEK ON CHAPTERS 6-10 ONLINE OCT 28 (10am) – OCT 29 (10pm)	pp. 315-345
<b>WEEK #11</b>	<b>Age: From Young to Old</b>	<b>Chapter 11</b>
Nov 01-Nov 05		pp. 347-379
<b>WEEK #12</b>	<b>The Family</b>	<b>Chapter 12</b>
Nov 08-Nov 12		pp. 381-415
<b>WEEK #13</b>	<b>Economy and Work</b>	<b>Chapter 13</b>
Nov 15-Nov 19		pp. 417-453
<b>WEEK #14</b>	<b>Take a Break!</b>	<b>Enjoy!</b>
Nov 22-Nov 26	No Reading/Assignments Due This Week	
<b>WEEK #15</b>	<b>Politics and Government</b>	<b>Chapter 14</b>
Nov 29-Dec 03		pp. 455-485
<b>WEEK #16</b>	<b>The Body and Society: Health and Illness</b>	<b>Chapter 16</b>
Dec 06-Dec 10		pp. 521-553
<b>FINAL EXAM PERIOD</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>
Dec 13–Dec 17	EXAM THIS WEEK ON CHAPTERS 11-14, 16 ONLINE DEC 13 (10am) – DEC 14 (10pm)	NA

## CHECKLIST FOR DOING WELL IN THIS COURSE

Doing well in this fully online course will require that you keep very organized and on top of your readings and course requirements. Here is a quick checklist to keep you on track each week. Just cross off each task (or place a check in the box) as you complete it.

WEEK / DATE	READING	CHECK BLACKBOARD			POST DISCUSSION ITEMS ON BOARD			COMPLETE POSTED ACTIVITY	POST REFLECTION PAPER	COMPLETE EXAMS			PRINT/STUDY POWERPOINT SLIDES	OPTIONAL WEEKLY QUIZ	ATTEND OFFICE HOURS ONCE
		MON	WED	FRI	1	2	3			1	2	3			
WEEK 01 AUG 23 – AUG 27	Chapter 01														
WEEK 02 AUG 30 – SEP 03	Chapter 02														
WEEK 03 SEP 06 – SEP 10	Chapter 03	NA													
WEEK 04 SEP 13 - SEP 17	Chapter 04														
WEEK 05 SEP 20 - SEP 24	Chapter 05									SEP 23-23					
WEEK 06 SEP 27 - OCT 01	Chapter 06														
WEEK 07 OCT 04 - OCT 08	Chapter 07														
WEEK 08 OCT 11 - OCT 15	Chapter 08	NA	NA												
WEEK 09 OCT 18 - OCT 22	Chapter 09														
WEEK 10 OCT 25 - OCT 29	Chapter 10										OCT 28-29				
WEEK 11 NOV 01 - NOV 05	Chapter 11														
WEEK 12 NOV 08 - NOV 12	Chapter 12														
WEEK 13 NOV 15 – NOV 19	Chapter 13														
WEEK 14 NOV 22 - NOV 26	TAKE A BREAK!	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
WEEK 15 NOV 29 - DEC 03	Chapter 14														
WEEK 16 DEC 06 - DEC 10	Chapter 16														
FINALS WEEK DEC 13 - DEC 17	NONE				NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			DEC 13-14	NA	NA	NA