Course Description and Goals

This course is designed to introduce you to the academic discipline of sociology. Sociology is the scientific study of human behavior and social life, groups and society. This course will provide you with an overview of both sociological knowledge of American society and the social theory that organizes and makes sense of that information.

We will cover a variety of topics, with a special attention to education, socialization, the lifecourse, status, inequality, group culture, differences of race and gender, the creation of cultural categories, and the causes of social change.

This class is designed to help you develop good habits of study and attendance that will serve you well in college, even in courses where you are not directly graded on participation. This class is also designed to encourage you to participate in both college and civic life.

Our class assignments are intended to help you understand sociology better by pushing you to adopt a sociological perspective in order to think about your own life and the lives of others. You will also practice basic sociological data collection techniques such as interviewing and ethnographic observation.
Classroom Etiquette

- I expect everyone attending class to have done the assigned readings and to be prepared to discuss them.
- Over the course of the semester, we will cover a number of controversial topics. I expect everyone to practice sensitivity and respect in all course discussions. You should feel free in class discussions to share as much as you are comfortable with, but you must keep in mind that your classmates’ beliefs and experiences may be different from yours and are equally deserving of respect. I also expect you to respect everyone’s race, gender, sexuality, nationality, religion, etc.
- We will begin and end class on time.
- Please turn off your cell phones, etc, during class.
- You may use computers during class only for course-related activities.
- Please check your email and CourseDen daily Monday - Friday. I will do the same.

Preparing for Class

For each hour spent in class, you will probably need to set aside at least two hours for work outside the class session, such as reading, reviewing your notes, and completing your assignments.

Readings are listed in the syllabus on the day they are due. It is your responsibility to prepare for class each day. I recommend doing the readings for each day before our class meeting, and then reviewing them briefly afterwards. Your readings are an important resource to succeeding in this course. You will need to be familiar with the terms and concepts we discuss, and periodically reviewing your readings is the best way to stay familiar with important ideas. In addition, you will find our discussions more meaningful if you spend some time before class to make some notes listing what you think are the main points or ideas of the reading, as well as any questions you have about the reading.

Credit Hour Policy

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction and two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).
**Americans with Disabilities Act**

Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given.

**Contacting the Instructor**

The best way to contact me outside of class is to visit my office hours. My office is in Pafford Social Science Building 209B, and my office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm and from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. If you can’t make these hours, please let me know and we can arrange to meet at another time. If you feel that you are having a problem, please come with specific questions so that I can help you.

For more complicated questions, I recommend that you contact me via email. My address is ahunter@westga.edu. I check my email at least once per day during the normal work week. I will typically respond to questions within 48 hours, although I may take longer if you have a complicated request, or if you email on a weekend or holiday.

Please **do not** email me using CourseDen. I may not receive, and will not respond to, emails that are sent using CourseDen rather than the official UWG email system.

Your email subject line should include the class number (SOCI 1101), either the section number (04) or class time (8:00), and a brief description of the nature of the email.

Remember when you contact me that you are communicating with a faculty member in an academic setting. Please address me by name at the beginning of the message, use correct English grammar and normal capitalization, and sign your own name at the end of the email.

**UWG Email Policy**

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student’s responsibility to check his or her e-mail.
Readings

There are three books assigned for our course. They are available for purchase at the university bookstore. I encourage you to acquire copies of these books as quickly as possible. Although we will not use all the books in class immediately, the bookstore will return unsold copies making them unavailable later in the semester. Other readings will be available on CourseDen.

- Privilege by Shamus Rahman Khan
- Gifted Tongues by Gary Alan Fine
- Ancestors and Relatives by Eviatar Zerubavel

University of West Georgia Honor Code

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student’s conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student’s account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions.

You can review the Honor Code and other policies at http://tinyurl.com/UWGSyllabusPolicies

Course Requirements and Evaluation

All written assignments must be turned in both on CourseDen and in hard-copy. I will not grade papers that I receive over email. If you are absent or otherwise cannot turn in work on the day it is due, you may turn it in for partial credit during my office hours prior to the next week’s class.

Grammar and composition are not a formal part of your assignment grades; however, both are necessary to clearly present your ideas and experiences in a relatively small number of pages. If I cannot understand what you are trying to say, it is as though you have not said it.
All assignments and projects must be printed in black ink on white paper, double-spaced, using 12 point Times New Roman font, with 1 inch margins.

Your final grade will be based on the following components:

- Attendance and Participation (10%)
- Reading Response Quizzes (20%)
- Book-Related Assignments (30%)
- Community Participation Assignments (15%)
- Exams (25%)

Regular class attendance and participation are necessary for achieving a good grade in this course, and both will be counted as a formal part of your grade. I will leave out a sign-in sheet before class; if you are late you may also sign in afterward. You will receive full credit for attending each class session starting Thursday, September 4. You will receive partial credit for each day that you are late or in which you violate the classroom etiquette.

We will have several in-class short answer quizzes. The quizzes are based on material covered in the readings and in-class discussions up to the day of the quiz. If you are absent or late to class on the day of a quiz, you may make it up for partial credit during my office hours prior to the following week’s class.

You will complete three short assignments that require you to complete some additional work outside of class. Each assignment is loosely based on one of our books. Additional details about these assignments will be posted to CourseDen.

You will also complete two additional assignments designed to encourage you to become an active and involved member of the university community. The first will require you to choose from among several options to participate in the civic and political life of Carrollton and Georgia. The second will require you to choose from among several options to participate in university life. These assignments both have variable due-dates, but must be turned in within two class sessions of being completed. Complete details for both assignments will be available on CourseDen.

There will be two exams. We will take a midterm exam on Thursday, October 2 and a final exam on Monday, December 8 from 8:00 to 10:30 am. These exams are not cumulative. The exams are designed to test your recall of important class concepts as well as your ability to apply them. The exams will combine multiple choice and short answer formats.

I do not grade on a curve. You will receive point values, but not letter grades, for individual tests and assignments. I will award final grades on the following scale:

A 90-100     B 80-89     C 70-79     D 60-69     F 0-59
**Class Schedule**

**WEEK 1 - August 26 & August 28**

**Tuesday**  
Introduction to the Class

**Thursday**  
Read “Picturing the Self”  
Read “Why Do People Get Tattoos?”

**WEEK 2 - September 2 & September 4**

**Tuesday**  
Read *Privilege*, introduction and chapter 1

**Thursday**  
Read *Privilege*, chapter 2

**WEEK 3 - September 9 & September 11**

**Tuesday**  
Read *Privilege*, chapter 3

**Thursday**  
Read *Privilege*, chapter 4

**WEEK 4 - September 16 & September 18**

**Tuesday**  
Read *Privilege*, chapter 5 and conclusion

**Thursday**  
Read “Chess, Cheerleading, Chopin: What Gets You into College?”  
Read “Roll Over Beethoven, There’s a New Way to be Cool”

**WEEK 5 - September 23 & September 25**

**Tuesday**  
Read “The (Mis)Education of Monica and Karen”  
Read “Race and the Social Science of Sincerity”  
*Assignment 1 Due*

**Thursday**  
Read “Generations X, Y, and Z: Are They Changing America?”  
Read “Growing Up is Harder to Do”
WEEK 6 - September 30 & October 2

Tuesday
Exam Review

Thursday
Midterm Exam

WEEK 7 - October 7 & October 9

Tuesday
Read *Gifted Tongues*, introduction and chapter 1

Thursday
Read *Gifted Tongues*, chapter 2

WEEK 8 - October 14 & October 16

Tuesday
Read *Gifted Tongues*, chapter 3

Thursday
Read *Gifted Tongues*, chapter 4

WEEK 9 - October 21 & October 23

Tuesday
Read *Gifted Tongues*, chapter 5

Thursday
Read *Gifted Tongues*, chapter 6

WEEK 10 - October 28 & October 30

Tuesday
Read *Gifted Tongues*, chapter 7

Thursday
Read *Gifted Tongues*, chapters 8 and 9
WEEK 11 - November 4 & November 6

Tuesday
Read “Breaking the Last Taboo: Interracial Marriage in America”
Read “How Cohabitation is Reshaping American Families”

Thursday
Read Ancestors and Relatives, chapters 1 and 2
Assignment 2 Due

WEEK 12 - November 11 & November 13

Tuesday
Read Ancestors and Relatives, chapter 3

Thursday
Read Ancestors and Relatives, chapter 4

WEEK 13 - November 18 & November 20

Tuesday
Read Ancestors and Relatives, chapter 5

Thursday
Read Ancestors and Relatives, chapters 6 and 7

THANKSGIVING BREAK - November 25 & November 27

WEEK 14 - December 2 & December 4

Tuesday
Read “Beyond Black and White: Remaking Race in America”
Read “Are Asian Americans Becoming ‘White?’ ”
Assignment 3 Due

Thursday
Exam Review

FINAL EXAM - Monday, December 8 (8:00 - 10:30 am)