Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to introduce you to the basic concepts, theories, and methodological approaches of sociology. During this course you will learn how society influences and impacts the actions and well-being of individuals. Sociological concepts are examined including social relations, social interactions, and social structures. This course will also examine the impact of race, ethnicity, class, gender, social orientation within social institutions.

Contacting the Instructor

The best way to reach me is through email. I generally respond quickly, however please allow at least 24 hours for a response before emailing me again. Please note that I will only respond to emails from your ‘westga.edu’ account.

Remember when you contact me that you are communicating with a faculty member in an academic setting. Please use correct English grammar and normal capitalization.

Honor Code and UWG Policies

The University Honor Code is in effect for all exams, written assignments, quizzes, and discussion board posts. Please read the provisions for the Honor Code carefully, and make certain you understand and follow them. Violations of the code will not be tolerated. Any violations of this policy will result in a 0 for that exam/assignment/quiz/discussion post. Additional instances of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course.

In addition to the Honor Code, you should review the University’s policies on the Americans with Disabilities Act, email, and credit hours, as these change periodically.

You can review the Honor Code and other policies at: http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf
Technology Requirements

This course completely online and will use CourseDen exclusively. It is your responsibility to secure reliable access to a computer with an internet connection so that you are able to utilize CourseDen. If you have problems with the CourseDen system you should contact the Distance Learning center or ITS (855-933-8946).

Late Assignments and Make-ups

All course requirements must be completed and submitted on-time. Late discussion board posts will not be accepted. You will not be able to go back and post in discussion boards after the due date has passed. Makeup quizzes will be given only in extreme circumstances when there is a valid excuse for missing the scheduled exam and the reason for the absence is clearly documented (e.g., by providing bail papers, citations, hospital admission/discharge papers, police reports, etc.). Computer access or technical problems do not count as excusable reasons to justify a late submission or makeup quiz/exam. Those who have a valid excuse for missing a scheduled quiz will have to take a makeup quiz within one week of the original quiz date. The requirements and nature of makeup quiz will be different from the original exercise (i.e., essay questions instead of multiple choice).

Required Texts


Course Requirements and Evaluations

Your final grades will be based on the following required assignments:

- Discussion Board Posts/Responses (60 points)
- Quizzes (40 points)
- Writing Assignments (100 points)
- Exams (200 points)

Grading Scale Grades will be based upon your overall performance and assigned according to the following scale:

A 400-360   B 359-320   C 319-280   D 279-240   F 239-0
**Discussion Board Posts**

You are required to add a total of 12 discussion board posts. The 12 discussion board posts will be worth 4 points each for a total of 60 points.

**Your Discussion Board Posts:**

Each week you will be prompted with a question or an idea that you will have to respond to that coincides with the reading. The requirements and rubric are as follows:

- Must be a minimum of 200 words in length (1 point)
- Be grammatically correct and proofread for spelling errors (1 point)
- Need to mention 2 points from the reading’s in your postings (1 points)
- Critically analyze the content (1 point)

**Responses to Other Student Postings:**

There must be a total of 6 responses. You can choose the discussion posts you want to respond to. Be mindful of when and how many posts you have responded to. Check your grades to ensure you have responded to the 6. Each response is worth 2 points for a total of 12 points.

- Responses must be minimum 100 words in length.
- Be respectful of your fellow student’s ideas.
- Synthesize and incorporate quotes and ideas from other postings.
- Be grammatically correct and proofread for spelling errors.

**Quizzes**

There will be 8 quizzes assigned during the semester. Check the course schedule for dates and times they are due. Each quiz is worth 5 points for a total of 40 points. Each quiz will cover the readings for the chapters assigned.

**Writing Assignments**

There are a total of 4 writing assignments that are worth 25 points each. Each writing assignment will ask you to apply what you have learned from the readings. These will be between 1-2 pages in length. The assignment instructions will be given out later in the course.
**Exams**

There are a total of two exams this semester, a mid-term and a final. The final is not cumulative. The exams are worth a total of 200 points (100 for the mid-term and 100 for the final).

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**Course Schedule:**

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<th>Week</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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</table>
| 1    | August 10-14 | Introduction/The Study of Sociology | **Syllabus Review**  
Giddens  
- *Chapter 1 “What is Sociology”* | • Syllabus Quiz  (Due Aug 14, 11:59 p.m.)  
• Discussion Board  (Due Aug 14, 11:59 p.m.) |
| 2    | August 15-21 | The Study of Sociology       | **Giddens**  
- *Chapter 2 “Asking and Answering Sociological Questions”* | • Discussion Board  (Due Aug 21, 11:59 p.m.) |
| 3    | August 22-28 | The Individual and Society   | **Giddens**  
- *Chapter 3 “Culture and Society”* | • Quiz  (Due Aug 25, 11:59 p.m.)  
• Discussion Board  (Due Aug 28, 11:59 p.m.) |
| 4    | August 29 - September 4 | The Individual and Society | **Giddens**  
- *Chapter 4 “Socialization and the Life Course”* | • Discussion Board  (Due Sept 4, 11:59 p.m.) |
| 5    | September 5-11 | The Individual and Society | **Giddens**  
- *Chapter 5 “Social Interaction and Everyday Life in the Age of the Internet”* | • Discussion Board  (Due Sept 11, 11:59 p.m.)  
• Writing Assignment 1 opens Sept 5  (Due Sep 18, 11:59 p.m.) |
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| 6    | September 12-18 | The Individual and Society   | **Giddens**                       | Quiz (Due Sep 15, 11:59 p.m.)
|      |             |                                | • Chapter 6 “Groups, Networks, and Organizations” | Writing Assignment 1 Due (Sept 18, 11:59 p.m.) |
| 7    | September 19-25 | The Individual and Society   | **Giddens**                       | Quiz (Due Sept 22, 11:59 p.m.)
|      |             |                                | • Chapter 7 “Conformity, Deviance, and Crime” | Discussion Board (Due Sept 25, 11:59 p.m.) |
| 8    | September 26 - October 2 | Structures of Power | **Giddens**                       | MIDTERM EXAM                                           |
|      |             |                                | • Chapter 8 “Stratification, Class, and Inequality” |                                                       |
| 9    | October 3-9 | Structures of Power            | **Giddens**                       | Discussion Board (Due Oct 9, 11:59 p.m.)
|      |             |                                | • Chapter 9 “Global Inequality” | Writing Assignment 2 open Oct 3 (Due Oct 16, 11:59 p.m.) |
| 10   | October 10-16 | Structures of Power            | **Giddens**                       | Quiz (Due Oct 13, 11:59 p.m.)
|      |             |                                | • Chapter 10 “Gender Inequality” | Writing Assignment 2 Due (Oct 16, 11:59 p.m.) |
| 11   | October 17-23 | Structures of Power            | **Giddens**                       | Quiz (Due Oct 20, 11:59 p.m.)
|      |             |                                | • Chapter 11 “Ethnicity and Race” | Discussion Board (Due Oct 23, 11:59 p.m.) |
| 12   | October 24-30 | Structures of Power            | **Giddens**                       | Discussion Board (Due 30, 11:59 p.m.)
<p>|      |             |                                | • Chapter 12 “Aging” | Writing Assignment 3 open Oct 24 (Due Nov 6, 11:59 p.m.) |</p>
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<td>13</td>
<td>October 31 - November 6</td>
<td>Structures of Power</td>
<td><strong>Giddens</strong>&lt;br&gt;• <em>Chapter 13 “Government, Political Power, and Social Movements”</em></td>
<td>• Quiz (Due Nov 3, 11:59 p.m.)&lt;br&gt;• Writing Assignment 3 (Due Nov 6, 11:59 p.m.)</td>
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<td>Social Institutions</td>
<td><strong>Giddens</strong>&lt;br&gt;• <em>Chapter 14 “Work and Economic Life”</em></td>
<td>• Discussion Board (Due Nov 13, 11:59 p.m.)</td>
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<td>Social Institutions</td>
<td><strong>Giddens</strong>&lt;br&gt;• <em>Chapter 15 “Families and Intimate Relationships”</em></td>
<td>• Quiz (Due Nov 17, 11:59 p.m.)&lt;br&gt;• Discussion Board (Due Nov 20, 11:59 p.m.)</td>
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<td>November 21-27</td>
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<td><em>THANKSGIVING</em></td>
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<td>November 28 - December 4</td>
<td>Social Institutions</td>
<td><strong>Giddens</strong>&lt;br&gt;• <em>Chapter 16 “Education”</em></td>
<td>• Discussion Board (Due Dec 4, 11:59 p.m.)&lt;br&gt;• Writing Assignment 4 opens Nov 28 (Due Dec 4, 11:59 p.m.)</td>
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<td>December 5-9</td>
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<td><em>FINAL EXAM</em></td>
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