

# Syllabus

## SOCI 3001: Communicating Sociology

### Fall 2016

Monday and Wednesday 2:00pm to 3:15pm

Instructor:	Angela Brodsky	Classroom:	Pafford 106
Email:	<a href="mailto:abrodsky@westga.edu">abrodsky@westga.edu</a>	Class Meets:	M & W, 2pm-3:15pm
Office:	Pafford 209 B	Phone:	678.839.6336
Office Hours:	Monday & Wednesday, 11am-12pm, or by appointment		

#### Course Description:

This course will teach the necessary skills to succeed as a Sociology major, both in academic courses and in the labor market after you leave UWG. In this class, you will learn the necessary skills to communicate in multiple forms within Sociology classes. These skills will also aid you in your future coursework, as well as in your future career trajectory. Skills we will learn and practice in this class include academic research, academic writing, how to participate in class debate, class discussions, and successful class presentations. Because this class practices learned skills, attendance and participation are required and are a major part of your grade.

#### Learning Objectives:

Upon Completion of this course, students will:

1. Be able to properly complete effective academic research
2. Master understanding of the parts and structure of academic papers
3. Be able to write academic papers with proper structure, language, and citations, while avoiding plagiarism
4. Be able to engage in academic classroom discussions and debates
5. Be able to construct and present oral class presentations over research
6. Be able to participate in peer review activities

#### Required Texts:

- *The Sociology Student Writer's Manual* by Johnson Jr., Rettig, Scott, and Garrison. Sixth Edition, 2010. Prentice Hall: Boston, MA. ISBN 978-0-205-72345-4.
- *A Rulebook for Arguments* by Anthony Weston. Fourth Edition, 2009. Hackett Publishing Company: Indianapolis, IN. ISBN 978-0-87220-954-1.

**Note: The above listed textbooks are REQUIRED, not optional. Failure to acquire the textbooks, complete the required readings and accompanying activities will result in a failing grade.**

### **Other Required Texts & Materials:**

- *Introduction to Sociology 2e* (Open Text) by Keirns, Strayer, Griffiths, Cody-Rydzewski, Sacramuzzo, Sadler, Bry, Jones, and Vyain. OpenStax College, 2015. Access online or download a PDF here: <https://openstax.org/details/introduction-sociology-2e>.

*This textbook is free of charge. If you have another Introduction to Sociology textbook, or a Social Problems textbook that you would rather use, this is ok.*

- A Flash Drive (Thumb Drive)
- An Active Google Drive account linked to your @my.westga.edu email
- Microsoft Office
- A 3 ring binder with paper, and a folder
- Pens/pencils

### **Class Rules:**

1. Attend class.
2. Be punctual.
3. Participate.
4. Be Respectful of all others!
5. Do the work.

### **Grading Structure (weighted):**

Major Assignments: 50%

- Annotated Bibliography
- Literature Review
- Final Paper
- Midterm Exam
- Individual Research Presentations
- Final: Group Presentations

Minor Assignments: 10%

- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- Assignment 3

Class Activities/Participation: 40%

- Library Research Activities (2)
- Online Class Discussions (2)
- Class Discussion & Activities

- Peer Reviews (4)
- Various in-class exercises

**Grading Scale:**

90.00 to 100	A
80.00 to 89.99	B
70.00 to 79.99	C
60.00 to 69.99	D
59.99 and below	F

**Late Work Policy:**

I do not accept late work. Any work submitted past the deadline is considered late and will be graded as a 0.

The course schedule is attached to this syllabus. Keep it in a safe place and make any necessary notes and arrangements you need well in advance to complete your work.

**Course Web Site, Technology Policy & Requirements:**

You need to know how to use the following technology in order to take this course: Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint), the internet, internet browsers, Google Drive, CourseDen (D2L/BrightSpace), and YouTube. If you have questions about this, please contact Distance Education at 678.839.6248 or [online@westga.edu](mailto:online@westga.edu). Distance Education also has a 24-Hour Help: 1-855-772-0423 or search <http://D2Lhelp.view.usg.edu>

You must have a reliable computer and methods of accessing university Gmail, Google Drive, and Microsoft Office. UWG offers many computer labs for your convenience, and these are located in many different areas across campus. Technological failures/access are not excuses for missed work. Please make back-up copies of all work.

Login to CourseDen securely (D2L) by visiting <https://westga.view.usg.edu/>.

**Additional Information and Common Language for Syllabi:**

Please visit <http://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/>. It contains important material pertaining to university policies and responsibilities. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

## Accessibility Services

If you have a documented disability and require/need/desire accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, you should contact me at the beginning of the semester or when you are given an assignment for which an accommodation is required. All students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through Accessibility Services which is located in the Student Development Center, 272 Parker Hall, 678-839-6428. [http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index\\_8884.php](http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index_8884.php). Accessibility Services provides instructors with a SAR, which documents types of accommodations needed. Please note: Accommodations cannot be applied retroactively, so please be sure to access this services as soon as possible.

## Writing Center

Due to the nature of course grades, I encourage you to utilize the Writing Center on campus. This resource is very valuable. They provide on-site tutoring with an appointment, workshops on specific topics, CourseDen courses to assist you in passing the Regents exam, and a chat session for quick questions. Their website is also a great resource where you can learn how to properly cite research, requirements for the Regents exam, and how to avoid plagiarism pitfalls. The center is located in TLC 1201. Phone: 678-839-6513, <http://www.westga.edu/~writing>

I also encourage you all to use **SMARTHINKING**, an online writing help service that is very helpful in proofreading and helping you format your work. Please allow 2-3 days when using this service.

## Statement on Academic Dishonesty

In every incident of academic dishonesty I will fail the student for the course. I cannot stress the importance of this enough.

Plagiarism is defined in your student handbook (under the Honor Code, page 84) as “representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. Direct quotations must be indicated and ideas of another must be appropriately acknowledged.” There are also specific definitions of cheating and fabrication. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: copying from another’s paper or allowing another to copy from one’s own paper, and unpermitted collaboration. Writing collaboration is NOT permitted and students should be careful not to work directly from another classmate’s notes. Fabrication includes falsifying or unauthorized citations (an example might include using information from a website and passing it as one’s own thoughts/ideas). **If any of this is unclear, please ask well before an assignment is due.** Also, please consult the Honor Code and Appendix A of the UWG Connection and Student Handbook as I stand firmly by it. Breach of this code will result in a report to the Vice President of Academic Affairs AND a failing grade for the course, **no exceptions.**

Specifically, examinations and papers, which are in part or in full inadequately cited or copied from other students, books, or the Internet, will receive a grade of “F” (no credit) and you will fail the class regardless of point accumulation before the incident. Please note that signing in for someone else who is not in attendance has the same point earning effect as knowingly allowing someone to copy your work and it will be treated the same way. Points lost due to academic dishonesty may not be replaced through extra credit.

Students should familiarize themselves with the University’s policies on academic integrity:

<http://www.westga.edu/handbook/59.php>

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Readings/Activities	DUE:
1	8/10	Syllabus, Intro to Course	
<b>Friday, August 12, 4:00pm Last day to Drop</b>			
2	8/15	SSWM: Introduction Online readings: How to Read Articles	
	8/17	SSWM: Chapter 1: Writing	<b>Assignment 1</b>
3	8/22	SSWM: Chapter 5: Research Process	
	8/24	SSWM: Chapter 6: Sources of Info	<b>Assignment 2</b>
4	8/29	Online Readings: Plagiarism	
	8/31	ARA Chapter 1: Premises	
5	9/5	Labor Day: No classes	
	9/7	SSWM: Chapter 10.4: Annotated Biblio.	
6	9/12	Library Research: MacLab	
	9/14	Library Research: MacLab	
7	9/19	Peer Review 1: Annotated Bibliography	
	9/21	SSWM: Chapter 2: Competent Writing	<b>Annotated Bibliography</b>
8	9/26	SSWM: Chapter 10.3: Lit Reviews	
	9/28	ARA: Ch. 2 & 4, Appendix I: Logic	<b>Assignment 3</b>
<b>Friday September 30, 11:59pm: Last day to Withdraw with a "W"</b>			
9	10/3	Review: Class activities	
	10/5	Midterm Examination	
10	10/10	Peer Review 2: Lit Review	
	10/12	SSWM: Chapter 3: Formatting	<b>Literature Review</b>
11	10/17	ARA Chapter 8: Arguments and Answers	
	10/19	ARA Chapter 3: Working with Analogies ARA: Chapter 5: Causation	
12	10/24	Peer Review 3: Final Paper	
	10/26	Online readings: Successful Discussions	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Draft: Final Paper</b>
13	10/31	Class Discussions: ONLINE SESSION 1	
	11/2	Class Discussions: ONLINE SESSION 2	<b>Last Draft: Final Paper</b>
14	11/7	Online Readings: Class discussion	
	11/9	Online readings: Class Debate	<b>Individual Presentation</b>
15	11/14	Ind. Presentations on Research	
	11/16	Ind. Presentations on Research	
<b>November 21-25: No classes HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</b>			
16	11/28	Group Work: Class activities	
	11/30	ARA: Chapter 7	
Finals	Monday 12/5	Finals: 2:00pm to 4:00pm (w/PR)	<b>Group Presentations</b>

Note: As the instructor, I reserve the right to make changes to this schedule as necessary for best learning outcomes. Changes will be announced in class.