

SOC 201: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (FALL 2022)
SOCIAL WORK & SOCIOLOGY
DAEMEN UNIVERSITY

Faculty: Diane R. Bessel, PhD, LMSW, CNM	Office Location: Curtis Hall West Wing; Room 203
Phone: 716-566-7876	Office Hours: By Appointment
Zoom: https://daemen.zoom.us/j/8594189381	E-mail: dbessel@daemen.edu

"The Sociological Imagination enables us to grasp history and biography and the relations between the two within society."
C. Wright Mills

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Every day, our actions, beliefs, and ways of looking at the world are influenced by cultural, historic, economic, and social contexts. People have, for a long time, been interested in understanding these influences through the systematic study of human interactions and social life. While disciplines such as economics, political science, and psychology are interested in a narrower scope of human behavior, nothing is above the scrutiny of the sociologist.

Sociology is the systematic and scientific study of social behavior as well as the processes of social change. It focuses primarily on the influence of social relationships upon people's attitudes and behaviors as well as how societies are established, maintained, and transform. In this introductory course, students will be exposed to the vast field of sociology and will become acquainted with C. Wright Mills' concept of the "sociological imagination." Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to re-examine the social world through this lens to gain a greater appreciation of the reciprocal relationship between individual and society.

The course will be divided into four units:

- Unit One will introduce the foundational theories and research techniques used by sociologists to understand and explain social behavior. We will begin by defining the sociological imagination; discussing sociology's origins; and presenting various theoretical perspectives that will be examined throughout the course. We will also outline the basic steps of the scientific method and discuss techniques used by sociologists to collect and examine data.
- Unit Two will focus on the study of social life within human groups and societies by examining the basic element of any society: its culture. We will consider cultural development and meaning, while also examining cultural universals and diversity. We will also examine socialization - lifelong process through which we acquire understanding of social relationships and structures.
- Unit Three will emphasize social stratification— with emphasis on inequality based on racial and/or ethnic identity, class, gender, sexuality and sexual orientation, and other social categories with specific emphasis on recent cultural events.
- Unit Four will include an exploration of the impact institutions have on social behavior including the family, education system, religion, economies, and political structures. The unit concludes with a discussion of societies' attempts to create change through social movements as well as its efforts to enforce social norms and to control behavior that violates them.

This course is designed to:

1. Provide students with a general overview of the discipline of sociology by introducing key concepts and theoretical perspectives;
2. Enable students to use the tools of sociological research to explore data and detect patterns of behavior;
3. Explain how the individual is influenced by others through socialization and interaction;
4. Explore ways that categories of race/ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality affect opportunities;
5. Demonstrate how individuals influence social structures and institutions through their actions and behaviors; and
6. Challenge students to critically evaluate ideas, information, and the world around them.

TEXTBOOK

Conerly, T. R., Holmes, K., & Tamang, A.L. (2021). *Introduction to Sociology 3e*. OpenStax.

The required textbook is available for [free online at OpenStax](#). It can be viewed online or downloaded as a PDF. Hard copies of the book are also available through Amazon.com ([Amazon Affiliate link benefitting OpenStax](#)).

COURSE FORMAT

This is a seated course with in-class lectures and course content delivered through Daemen's Blackboard learning management system. Students may access Blackboard by going to my.daemen.edu and logging-in with their Daemen ID credential and password. Students will find a link to Blackboard on the "My Courses" section of the "My Daemen" page. They may also locate Blackboard using the "Quick Tools" sidebar menu. Students should click on the appropriate link to access the course site.

Readings, lecture content, videos, and/or other materials will be made available in weekly modules on "Course Content" page. Updated content will typically be posted no later than 9am on Mondays and will include specific learning objectives. The "Assignments" page is where students will secure information about assignments and submit them for grading.

Students are encouraged to log into the Blackboard site at least once a week, if not more frequently, to secure materials.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students will need access to a computer with the following to access in Daemen University course content:

- A processor of 2.4GHz or faster
- 4 GB of RAM
- A high-speed Internet connection (1.5 Mbps upload and download required; 4 Mbps or better preferred)
 - *Caution: The use of public access computers (for example, at restaurants) or employer-provided computers may result in slowness or errors (timeouts or access problems) when accessing course materials. Public access computers may restrict access to certain course materials or systems due to security limitations.*
- Monitor and video card with 1024 x 768 or greater resolution
- Keyboard and mouse (or equivalent i/o device)
- Speakers/Headphones and a Microphone
 - Noise-canceling headphones typically preferred
- A web camera capable of video web conferencing

Operating System

- Microsoft Window 10 or newer
- Apple macOS 10.12 or newer

Web Browser

- [Google Chrome](#), the latest version, is recommended.
- [Browser check](#) provided by Daemen's Learning Management System, Blackboard.

Software/Applications

- [Microsoft Office](#) is available for all Daemen students via Office365.
- [Adobe Reader](#), the latest version, is recommended.
- [Antivirus software](#), updated regularly, is strongly recommended.
- [Zoom](#) will be used for any synchronous meetings and is available via phone, tablet, or computer.

Content Filters

- Content filters may need to be disabled in order to view certain types of academic-related content.

COMPUTER LITERACY REQUIREMENTS

At a minimum, students should have the basic computer literacy skills found in [Daemen University's Basic Computer Requirements Policy](#). These include, but are not limited to: using a keyboard and mouse; selecting, copying, and pasting text; sending and receiving email; saving and retrieving files in different formats (.docx, .pdf, .pptx., etc.); using a text editor (changing fonts, inserting links, using spell check, etc.); attaching and upload files; accessing the Internet using a web browser; and resetting basic web browser settings (clearing cache/history, cookies, etc.).

COURSE MEETINGS

Material will include short lectures, reflecting critical content or topics of discussion as well as interactive activities.

Student will also be able to ask questions related to lectures and/or assignments via email or through Blackboard discussion boards. Following this, students should anticipate participating in various learning activities to assess their knowledge of content and aid in the development of critical thinking skills.

FACULTY COMMUNICATION

Students with questions about course content and/or assignments are asked to contact their instructor via email for best response. Please allow the instructor up to 24 hours to respond. It is not necessary to send repeated messages to the instructor during that time. If the instructor is out of office or is otherwise delayed in responding to emails, students will receive a message indicating when they can expect to hear from the instructor.

Faculty members who are sick or otherwise unable to hold a class meeting are required to provide notice to students with as much advanced notice as soon as possible. Notice of class cancellations will be communicated via Blackboard Announcement, email, and through the "My Daemen" page.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to contribute to the creation of an environment that is conducive to learning by actively engaging with all required course content.

Students anticipating prolonged disengagement from class (three or more days) due to extended illness, injury, relocation, or loss, must inform their instructor with as much advanced notice as possible. The instructor will determine if an exception can be made on a case-by-case basis. If deemed possible and appropriate, the instructor will discuss options for completion of assignments and/or activities. Students are responsible for any content covered during their disengagement and should make arrangements with their classmates or instructor to secure any notes or supporting materials.

Students who do not provide adequate notice of prolonged disengagement from the course are subject to deductions in their final course grade at the discretion of the instructor.

WORKLOAD

This 3-credit course requires approximately 8-10 hours of student engagement each week for approximately 15 weeks. Due to the nature of course content, these hours may be exceeded in a given week. Student work may include but is not limited to completion of required reading, viewing, and/or audio content; participation in discussion boards or other interactive activities; written assignments; online or library research; and completion of examinations.

INSTRUCTION METHODS

The course will utilize a variety of teaching techniques including lectures and interactive activities. Documentary films, special readings, guest speakers, and/or supplemental videos may be selected for inclusion of specific content relative to identified topics and to foster the integration of theory with practice.

ASSIGNMENTS

- ✓ **In-Class Activities:** You are expected to attend all class sessions. To encourage your attendance and active participation, there will be several graded in-class activities given throughout the course. These informal assignments will serve as your response to the material covered in class as well as current events and course readings. In-class activities may include responses to case studies, group problem solving exercises, quizzes, mini presentations, debates, or individual reflections. Students will not be told when these activities will occur. In-class activities are worth 20% of your final course grade.
- ✓ **Examinations:** There will be a total of four (4) examinations given in this course via the course website (Blackboard). Each examination will consist of twenty (20) multiple-choice/true-false questions. Once an examination is begun, students must complete it within the time allotted (30 minutes). **Students must work alone on each examination but may use their texts and/or personal notes to complete them.** Students are cautioned, however, to prepare in advance of taking the examination to avoid running out of time. Should you have any difficulty completing an examination during the time provided, please contact me immediately. Examinations are worth 20% each, for a total of 80% of your final course grade.

SUBMISSION OF WORK

Assignments are due on the day and time specified and must be submitted via Blackboard. Please be aware that all deadlines are based on Eastern Standard (or Daylight) Time.

Students should submit assignments using the following these guidelines:

- Sign into Blackboard site and click on Assignments page
- Locate the appropriate link
- Review assignment requirements
- Complete response in word processing software to avoid unanticipated interruptions
- Proofread and edit assignment to ensure readability
- Attach materials and click submit
- Ensure that you have received a notice from Blackboard advising that the assignment has been submitted.

Students completing online examinations should follow these guidelines:

- Identify location where interruptions are limited
- Sign into Blackboard site and click on Examination page/link
- Review instructions including information about tools allowed in testing environment
- Determine time allotted for examination or examination and ensure your availability to complete it
- Clear workspace of all external materials and silence any devices
- Complete examination per directions given
- Finalize and click submit
- Contact your instructor immediately if you experience a disruption/error while completing examination

If you are unable to submit your work on time, please contact the instructor to discuss the possibility of an extension with as much advanced notice as possible. The instructor will determine if an extension can be provided on a case-by-case basis. If deemed possible and appropriate, the instructor will discuss options for completion of assignments and/or activities.

Any assignment submitted after the deadline, without prior permission from the instructor, will be considered late at a penalty of 5% per day. Technical difficulty is not considered an acceptable excuse for not submitting work on time.

GRADING POLICY

Grades are determined based on criteria articulated in the assignment description and/or rubric. This standard applies to all students in the class.

There are no individual extra credit options available for this course. Individual extra credit is discouraged because participating students are graded on different criteria, which is unfair.

There are no exceptions to the rules stated above. Students facing life issues that may hinder their performance in the course are strongly encouraged to contact their instructor as soon as possible to discuss the situation. Please do not wait until after the crisis is over or until the end of semester as instructors are typically more limited in their ability to assist students at that time.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

In-Class Activities	20%	Points Earned:	_____
Examination One	20%	Points Earned:	_____
Examination Two	20%	Points Earned:	_____
Examination Three	20%	Points Earned:	_____
<u>Examination Four</u>	<u>20%</u>	<u>Points Earned:</u>	<u>_____</u>
Total	100%	Total Points Earned:	_____

GRADING STANDARDS

93-100 = A	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+
90-92 = A-	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	63-66 = D
	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	62 or below = F

ACCESS TO GRADES

Instructors will strive to grade assignments within seven (7) days of their due date. If this is not possible, instructors will inform students about any delays via Blackboard Announcements and email.

Posted grades can be found on the Blackboard course site by clicking “My Grades” on the Tools page. Students can expect to see direct feedback from their instructor on any given assignment within two days of grade posting. This may include feedback provided via the Blackboard site, electronic or scanned copies of assignments with instructor comments, and/or recorded (video/audio) feedback.

GRADE APPEALS POLICY

Students who feel that they have been graded unfairly may appeal their grade to the instructor in writing (email will suffice) within two weeks of grade posting. Verbal grade appeals will not be considered. By providing a written appeal, students have an opportunity to present their case for a better grade fully, clearly, and concisely, and the instructor can reflect on their arguments.

In their appeal, students should state the specific reasons why they feel they deserve a higher score on the assignment based on the written instructions and material submitted. Instructors are unlikely to respond to arguments about the amount of time spent preparing materials or other life commitments. Instead, please identify how the assignment meets course requirements.

OTHER GRADING POLICY

There will be no incomplete grades given for this course except in the most extreme circumstances (e.g., death in family, prolonged illness/hospitalization). Students must be passing the course (with a grade of C or better) and must have substantial equity in the course at the time of their request for an incomplete grade.

Written documentation and a plan for course completion will be required prior to the submission of an incomplete grade. This documentation and plan must be submitted to the instructor as well as the Social Work & Sociology Department Chair.

COURSE EVALUATIONS

Students are provided an opportunity to provide feedback about their experience through course evaluations. Students will receive notification from their instructor about the opportunity to complete the CampusLabs IDEA evaluation survey at semester end. Participation is completely confidential and no names or identifying characteristics are provided to the instructor.

Summary reports are produced for classes with three or more participants. These reports are made available to the instructor only after final grades have been submitted. To learn more about course evaluations, please use this link: [CampusLabs IDEA Course Evaluation Policy](#).

SYLLABUS CHANGES

The policies and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the course instructor. Notice of such changes will be communicated via the Blackboard Announcement, email, and by changes to the course syllabus posted on Blackboard.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Daemen University expects its students to obey all applicable federal, state, and local laws; to behave in moral, ethical, civil, and courteous ways; and to observe the specific policies, procedures, regulations, rules, and standards that are promulgated by the university for conducting its own affairs.

Daemen University reserves the right to dismiss or request the withdrawal of any student whose academic standing, conduct, or manner renders his/her continued attendance undesirable. Similarly, unprofessional and/or disruptive behavior during instruction is not permissible and may, at the instructor's discretion, result in the student being asked to leave a class meeting.

Students are expected to know what conduct is permitted or prohibited by reading the [Student Handbook](#), the University Catalog, [Student Code of Conduct](#), and all other University policies pertaining to students behavior. See the [Daemen University Student Handbook](#) for a list of the basic rules governing a person's behavior on campus and in their courses including non-discrimination. Violation(s) of these rules, or other conduct which reflects unfavorably on the student or the University, may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY

Daemen University's Sociology & Social Work Department seeks to help each student engage in self-reflection and assessment and to develop their critical thinking skills, creativity, and confidence through the exploration of course content. To ensure all participants have a chance to excel, faculty will promote the development of a learning community which seeks to preserve the freedom of thought and expression of all its members. A culture of civility and mutual respect that honors the rights, safety, dignity, and worth of every individual is essential to preserve such freedom.

The Sociology and Social Work Department affirms respect for the rights and well-being of all members by:

- rejecting bigotry, discrimination, violence, or intimidation of any kind;
- maintaining a practice of personal and professional integrity and expecting it from others; and
- promoting the diversity of opinions, ideas, and backgrounds that is the lifeblood of the academic experience.

Students are asked to commit to creating a learning context in which understanding and respect for diversity and difference is practiced including:

- Being open to the views of people different from themselves by recognizing that each and every voice is important and brings with it a wealth of experiences, values, and beliefs;
- Honoring the uniqueness of classmates and appreciating opportunities to learn from each other; and
- Respecting opinions of others and refraining from personal attacks or demeaning comments of any kind.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Students are encouraged to participate in regularly held office hours and/or scheduled appointments with their instructor should they have trouble with course content, materials, or assignments.

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

The Daemen University S.M.A.R.T. Squad Helpdesk is available to help students with their technology needs. This free service is available to help students with any technical issues they may encounter while pursuing their academic programs at the university. Students may contact them by phone (716-566-7865) or email (smart.squad@daemen.edu).

Students experiencing difficulties navigating Blackboard may wish to visit the [Student Support for Blackboard](#) page to access the Blackboard User's Guide, tips sheets, instructional videos, and help desk ticketing.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

From [Daemen University's Student Handbook Section Seven: Academic Policies](#):

Academic dishonesty, of which, cheating and plagiarism are the most common examples, is a serious violation of the principles of higher education. Daemen University takes the position that academic honesty is to be upheld with the highest degree of integrity. The University has a responsibility to support individual thought and the generation of new ideas. This cannot be done when violations of academic honesty go unchallenged.

Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

- use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations;
- dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; or
- the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the University faculty or staff.

Examples of plagiarism includes, but are not limited to:

- the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement;
- the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling or distributing of term papers or other academic materials; or
- submitting previously or simultaneously submitted work - in whole or in substantial part - from another course for academic credit in a second course, without prior and expressed consent of the instructor.

In an instance where there has been a violation of the principles of academic honesty, the instructor may choose to follow one or more possible alternatives including but not limited to: (1) automatic failure of the work; (2) automatic failure of the entire course; (3) recommending expulsion from the degree program; or (4) recommending expulsion from the University. The student may appeal the instructor's determination in accordance with the Grade Appeal Procedure.

When a faculty member determines a violation of academic honesty has occurred, he/she will first notify the student in writing. A copy of this letter, together with a written description of the case with supporting evidence will also be submitted to the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs (Associate Dean of the University). Should there be no additional notifications of academic dishonesty, the initial record will be destroyed one year after the student's graduation from Daemen University.

Upon receipt of additional reported offenses, the Associate Dean will formally present the materials in the file to the Committee on Academic Standards for review and recommendation of any additional sanctions beyond those imposed by the instructor. The Associate Dean will also notify the student that the materials will be the subject of CAS deliberation and will recommend that the student write a letter regarding the offense to the CAS for purposes of clarification, explanation or denial. CAS review will be held in a timely manner as determined by CAS. All faculty members who have reported offenses on the part of the student will be invited to participate in the deliberations. In cases where expulsion is recommended, either from the degree program or the University, final authority rests with the Dean of the University.

SOC 201: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY COURSE OUTLINE

(Subject to Slight Modification)

DATES	CONTENT
Week of September 11 th	Introduction to the Course Topics Covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Course Syllabus• Use of Blackboard
Week of September 18 th	Sociology and the Sociological Imagination Topics Covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is Sociology?• The Sociological Imagination Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter One
Week of September 25 th NO CLASS ON SEPTEMBER 26th	Sociological Perspectives Topics Covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Early Sociologists• Key Theoretical Perspectives in Sociology Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter One
Week of October 2 nd EXAM ONE DUE: TUESDAY OCTOBER 11th	Sociological Research Topics Covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sociology as Science• Approaches to Sociological Research Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter Two
Week of October 9 th NO CLASS ON OCTOBER 10th	Culture and Socialization Topics Covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is Culture?• Elements of Culture• Agents of Socialization Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter Three• Chapter Five
Week of October 16 th	Social Structures Topics Covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defining Social Structure• Societies, Groups, and Organizations• Social Construction of Reality Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter Four• Chapter Six
Week of October 23 rd EXAM TWO DUE: TUESDAY NOVEMBER 1st	Deviance and Social Control Topics Covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deviance• Mechanisms of Social Control• Stigma Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter Seven

<p>Week of October 30th</p>	<p>Social Stratification</p> <p>Topics Covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Social Stratification? • Social Stratification and Mobility in the United States • Global Stratification and Inequality <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter Nine • Chapter Ten
<p>Week of November 6th</p> <p>NO CLASS NOVEMBER 11th</p>	<p>Race and Ethnicity</p> <p>Topics Covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race and Ethnicity in the United States • Prejudice, Discrimination, and Racism <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter Eleven
<p>Week of November 13th</p> <p>EXAM THREE DUE: TUESDAY NOVEMBER 22nd</p>	<p>Gender, Sex, and Sexuality</p> <p>Topics Covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex, Gender, Identity, Expression • Sexuality • Gender Inequality (Case Study: Caregiving) <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter Twelve
<p>Week of November 20th</p> <p>NO CLASS NOVEMBER 23rd AND NOVEMBER 25th</p>	<p>Relationships, Marriage, and Family</p> <p>Topics Covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining Family • Changing Household Structures in the United States <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter Fourteen
<p>Week of November 27th</p>	<p>Education and Work</p> <p>Topics Covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature of Schooling • Contemporary Issues in Education • Nature of Work • Rationalization and McDonaldization <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter Sixteen • Chapter Eighteen
<p>Week of December 4th</p>	<p>Economic and Political Systems</p> <p>Topics Covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Globalization • Economic Systems • Political Systems • Power and Authority <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter Seventeen
<p>Week of December 11th</p> <p>EXAM FOUR DUE: MONDAY DECEMBER 19th</p>	<p>Social Movements and Social Change</p> <p>Topics Covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Movements • Social Change <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter Twenty-One

