

SS24 SOC 100 005 & 006: Introduction to Sociology Recitation

Section 005: Fridays, 11:30am-12:20pm, in-person in C213 Wonders Hall

Section 006: Fridays, 9:10am-10:00am, in-person in C213 Wonders Hall

Contact Information

TA: Katrina “Kitty” Groeller, M.A (she/hers)

Email: groeller@msu.edu, 9am-4pm ET Monday-Friday excluding University breaks.

Include “SOC 100: (section)” in the subject line to ensure a quick response.

Office Hours: Fridays, 10:00-11:20 AM ET beginning in Week 2, and by appointment

Book your office hours meeting here: <https://calendly.com/katrinagroeller>

About the Class

This foundational course introduces you to the field of sociology and sociological inquiry. We will examine structural and cultural aspects of society and their impacts on individuals and communities. Sociology can be challenging as it requires you to interrogate your “common sense” social assumptions, which can be a difficult process. Your sociological imagination will develop in tandem with a reflexive and open mind, plus a motivated, engaged, and responsible attitude. By the end of the course, you will have the practical intellectual tools needed to reflect on the influence of society and culture on your life and the way you live.

By the end of this course, you will:

- Show understanding of social processes, institutions, and structures.
- Demonstrate connections between fundamental sociological concepts and daily life.
- Apply knowledge of theoretical perspectives to social phenomena.
- Evaluate your own cultural beliefs and values regarding social life.
- Develop the sociological imagination: connecting the personal and the political.

To succeed in this course, one should be an active learner, self-motivated, and organized. Plan accordingly:

- Read the syllabus fully and stay organized with a personal planner, to-do list, or calendar.
- Keep ahead of deadlines and avoid procrastinating coursework.
- Check D2L daily for announcements and ensure notifications are forwarded to one’s MSU email.
- Make connections with instructor(s) and other students. Form study groups!
- Read and study actively. Highlight, take notes, and do research about an article, topic, or author.
- Ask questions! There are no stupid questions – unless the answer is found on D2L or the syllabus. 😊

Course Materials

Your choice of a qualitative research study from a list provided at the beginning of the semester. Physical or electronic copies may be available via MSU Library, located [here](#), via InterLibrary Loan, found [here](#), via a public library, find one [here](#), and for purchase or rent on e-commerce sites.

Assessment

Written work is evaluated on your response to prompts, application of course content, and writing skills. You are expected to proofread and edit your work before submission. Pay attention to organization, grammar, syntax, citations, and source reliability. The Writing Center offers support in this area, available [here](#).

Monograph Journals (4 x 20 points each = 80 points)

Over the course of the semester you will read one qualitative research study from a list provided and write 5 20-point journals. Submissions are due via physical copy or D2L at the start of recitation. Your lowest grade is

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dropped. The total number of monograph journal points a student can receive is 80 points ($6 \times 20 = 120$, $120 - 20 = 100$).

Attendance (10 x 2 points each = 20 points)

Attendance and participation points are taken during every recitation, worth 2 points. Students may lose points if they are overly distracted or disengaged. Your lowest two grades are dropped. The total number of attendance points a student can receive is 20 points ($12 \times 2 = 24$, $24 - 4 = 20$).

Course Policies

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism, Cheating, and AI Usage

There is a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to academic dishonesty, which includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, facilitating the academic dishonesty of others, and submitting the work of another as if it were one's own.

Ignorance of citation and sourcing conventions is not an excuse for plagiarism, and students are responsible for preventing academic dishonesty across our course. Students can reference the resources available on our D2L course page, the MSU Library's Citation Guides [here](#), and Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL) [here](#) for citation assistance.

The use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools must uphold academic integrity, so be conservative in its use. Permitted use of AI tools in this course includes brainstorming, finding general information on a topic, and checking writing conventions. Using AI to generate writing or imagery, then submitting it as if it were your own, is a violation of academic integrity.

The first instance of academic dishonesty will result with an Academic Dishonesty Report (ADR) being filed, a failing grade for the assessment, and a 1.0 final grade deduction. Further incidents will result in additional ADRs, assessment failure, and an automatic 0.0 final grade for the course. See the *Academic Integrity* section under *University Policies*.

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend every class fully, with homework completed and ready to thoughtfully engage in the course session. As participation looks different for everyone, students should work to extend, not dominate, discussion. These expectations help our course community by equitably sharing the responsibility of learning.

If one cannot attend class, will be late, or need to leave early, one does not need to notify me in advance or provide an excuse after the fact. It is up to students to obtain notes from a classmate.

Assignment Submissions and Technology Failure

Submit all work, typed, in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format to the associated D2L dropbox. Other formats (.pages, images, etc) will result in a zero. Students can submit new files up to the closure of the assignment dropbox, after which the newest file will be used for grading. It is the students' responsibility to submit the correct file.

Students should plan for technology failure: **submitting work at the last minute is never a good idea**. Contact the D2L Help Desk by phone at 517-432-6200 or use their contact form, found [here](#), if students encounter issues. Only email me after the Help Desk confirms a system issue *and* it will disrupt on-time submission.

Children and Other Dependents

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Caregiving students are welcome to bring their loved one(s) to our learning community. Provide 3 days' notice so I can make any necessary accommodations and adjustments.

Communication

D2L and email are our main forms of communication and must always be polite, respectful, and efficient. Check both regularly and enable notifications. I make efforts to respond to email within 48 hours of my email availability. **Always include our course code and section in the subject line and check that the answer to the question cannot be found on the syllabus or on our course D2L page before emailing me.**

Extensions and Late Work

Short-term extensions are automatically available up to 2 weeks after original due dates. Each additional week receives a 10% deduction in maximum points that can be earned. These begin immediately after deadlines: **yes, even one minute!** Students do not need to notify me in advance or provide an excuse after the fact.

Long-term extensions past 2 weeks aren't available without an approved Grief Absence: see details below *University Policies*. All extensions cannot go past the last day of the course.

Grades and Grading Scale

Grades are updated regularly. To calculate a current course grade, use the formula and grading scale below. Efforts at grade-grubbing (requesting curves, rounding, extra extensions, resubmits, or regrades) are not allowed.

$$\frac{(points\ earned) + (extra\ credit\ points\ earned)}{points\ available} = percent = grade$$

Points	Percent	Grade
≥90	90-100%	4.0
85	85-89.99%	3.5
80	80-84.99%	3.0
75	75-79.99%	2.5
70	70-74.99%	2.0
65	65-69.99%	1.5
60	60-64.99%	1.0
≤0	0-59.99%	0.0

Honors Option

Honors Options require Honors level work, including attention to detail, well-researched evidence, and effective presentation. See the Honors Option Guidelines on the D2L course page.

Mental and Physical Health

In addition to the ongoing pandemic, students can experience layered issues that may interfere with academic success. Mental or physical health problems, plus personal issues, work against even the most dedicated students. Students are strongly encouraged to seek support through many available resources.

- Contact instructor(s) via email or during office hours if you are struggling with this class.
- Speak with an academic advisor if you are struggling in multiple classes, unsure whether you are making the most of your time at MSU, or unsure of what academic resources are available at MSU. Students can find their academic advisor and make appointments [here](#).
- Schedule a doctor's appointment through Olin Health Center by calling 517-353-4660. Olin Health Center is located at 463 East Circle Drive with four campus neighborhood locations for student convenience, details [here](#). Students have three free medical office visits each academic year, more information [here](#). Contact the 24-Hour Phone Information Nurse at 517-353-5557 if medical advice is needed after 5pm. There is more information about after hours care [here](#).
- Seek out MSU Counseling & Psychiatric Services (CAPS) by phone day or night at 517-355-8270 or online [here](#). CAPS is located on the 3rd floor of the Olin Health Center at 463 East Circle Drive.
- If a student is a survivor of sexual violence and would like support, contact MSU's Center for Survivors by phone at 517-355-3551, or visit their website [here](#). In a crisis, reach out to the Center for Survivors using

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their crisis chat from 10am-10pm by clicking [here](#), or call the 24/7 crisis hotline at 517-372-6666. The Center for Survivors is in Room 207A of the Student Services building at 556 East Circle Drive.

Office Hours

Office hours are an open time for students to ask a question, further discuss a topic, learn more about the course, plus guidance for sociology-related careers, graduate school, and general academic skills.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

I expect students to abide by the standards of academic honesty and integrity as laid out in the Spartan Code of Honor and Academic Pledge:

“As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor in ownership is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do.”

The principles of truth and honesty are fundamental to the educational process and academic integrity of any University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, facilitating the academic dishonesty of others, and submitting the work of another as if it were one’s own. This includes unauthorized usage of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology.

Plagiarism and other forms of submitting non-original work as one’s own is ethically wrong, morally corrosive, and undermines the development of one’s critical thinking, writing, and professional skills. More information about academic integrity can be found [here](#).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Requests for accommodations may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or online [here](#). If eligible for a Verified Individual Service Accommodation (VISA), present this form to instructor(s) at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date. Requests received after this date may not be honored. Accommodations cannot be implemented retroactively.

It is the student’s responsibility to explicitly notify instructors of intent to apply their accommodation letter reasonably ahead of time in regard to preferential seating, audio recording, notetaking assistance, departure from class, class absences, and extended time on assignments.

Change of Enrollment

The last day to add this course is **January 12th, 2024**. The last day to drop this course with a 100% refund and no grade reported is **February 1st, 2024**. The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is **March 4th, 2024**. Students should immediately make a copy of the amended schedule to verify they have added or dropped this course.

Grief Absences are available for students who have lost a loved one or experienced a serious tragedy. Review and follow the Policy, found [here](#). Students should submit a Student Grief Absence form, found [here](#), to the Associate Dean of their college within one week of knowledge of the event, provide appropriate verification, and complete all missed work on an agreed-upon timeline with the instructor.

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Late Drops are available for students who wish to drop a single course after the middle of the semester. Withdrawals are the dropping of all courses regardless of time within the semester. See details on Late Drops [here](#) and Withdrawals [here](#).

Medical Leaves are available for students who, due to a catastrophic medical condition, cannot remain enrolled during the semester. See details on the Medical Leave policy [here](#).

Incompletes are available upon instructor judgement when a student has completed 6/7 (~85%) of the semester in a satisfactory fashion but are unable to complete the course or take the final exam because of illness or other compelling reason. See details on the Incomplete policy [here](#).

Commercialization of Lecture Notes

Students are expected to respect the intellectual property of course instructors. All course materials presented to students are the copyrighted property of the course instructor and are subject to the following conditions of use:

- Students **may** record lectures or any other classroom activities and use them only for their own course-related purposes. Recordings **may** be shared with other students enrolled in the class, if they also use them only for their own course-related purposes.
- Students **may not** post the recordings or other course materials online or distribute them to anyone not enrolled in the class without the advance written permission of the course instructor and, if applicable, any students whose voice or image is included in the recordings.
- Any student violating the conditions described above may face academic disciplinary sanctions, including receiving a penalty grade in the course.

Grade Dispute/Appeal Policies

To appeal or dispute a final course grade, see the University Ombudsperson guidelines located [here](#).

Limits to Confidentiality

I must report the following information to University offices and the MSU Police Department if students share:

- Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when one was a child,
- Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment when they involve MSU students, faculty, or staff, and
- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with the student about the incident that they have shared. Most likely it will be the student's decision whether they wish to speak with that individual. To talk about these events in a more confidential setting seek out the MSU Center for Survivors, found [here](#), MSU Safe Place, found [here](#), or MSU Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS), found [here](#).

Course Schedule

We will follow this schedule closely though adjustments may be made to facilitate student understanding or to adapt to life circumstances. All changes will be communicated to students. Complete homework before class.

Week 1 (1/12): Getting Started

Topics: Meet your TA, introductions, and social facts

Week 2 (1/19): The Self

Topics: ASA citations, self-concept, and the Twenty Statement Test
Due: Observation fieldnotes

Week 3 (1/26): Culture, Construction, and Identities

Topics: Visual sociology, brief review for Exam 1
Due: Monograph Journal #1, Photo elicitation

Week 4 (2/2): Exam 1

NO RECITATION: EXAM WEEK

Week 5 (2/9): People in Interaction

Topics: Impression management, face work, and those among us
Due: Breaching experiment fieldnotes

Week 6 (2/16): Deviance and Defiance

Topics: Hiring restaurant staff
Due: Monograph Journal #2

Week 7 (2/23): Organizations, Institutions, and Structures

Topics: Structure of MSU, brief review for Exam 2
Due: bring a laptop to recitation!

Week 8 (3/1): Spring Break

NO RECITATION

Week 9 (3/8): Exam 2

NO RECITATION: EXAM WEEK

Week 10 (3/15): Economic Inequality

Topics: Life happens
Due: Monograph Journal #3

Week 11 (3/22): Institutional Racism

Topics: Redlining, spatial analysis
Due: Google maps exploration, bring a laptop to recitation!

Week 12 (3/29): Gendered Oppression

Topics: Children's literature
Due: Monograph Journal #4

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Week 13 (4/5): Elite Power & The Power of the People

Topics: Reacting to the past

Week 14 (4/12): The Power of the People

Topics: Community organizing

Due: Monograph Journal #5

Week 15 (4/19): Our Future on Earth

Topics: Brief review for Final Exam

Week 16 (5/3): Finals Week

NO RECITATION: FINAL EXAM