Borough of Manhattan Community College
City University of New York
Department of Social Sciences and Human Services

Introduction to Sociology

SOC 100 Section 1700 [WI]
Monday/Wednesday 5:30-6:45 pm, F307
Spring 2016
3 credits

Professor: Dr. Soniya Munshi
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Office N651J; phone: 212-220-8000 x 5260

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 12:30-2:00 p.m. and by appointment

Course Description
Sociology gives us tools to examine and think differently about society, communities and ourselves. Sociologists challenge assumptions about the world, and study issues, ideas, and practices of everyday life that often go unrecognized.

This course examines the social world, focusing on the interactions that individuals have with social forces, structures, and institutions as well as the ways in which these interactions shape everyday lived experiences. We will use different theoretical and methodological approaches to study issues such as: culture, class, race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, family, prisons, and education, from a sociological perspective. Questions of power, inequality, and social change are central to this course.

Students who take this course will:
1) Be able to explain the main sociological theories, concepts and methods as presented in class.
2) Be able to apply sociological concepts and theories to the social world and to everyday life.
3) Employ sociology as a form of critical thinking and analysis.

This is a Writing Intensive course that fulfills the WI requirement for graduation. Writing intensive courses pay special attention to developing critical reading, writing, and analytic skills to prepare students for college-level coursework in general. Both informal and formal writing will be designed to maximize your understanding of the subject matter. Formal writing assignment, at least 10-12 pages total, account for a significant portion of your grade and will include opportunities for revision.

Technology: Course Website
I will use a course website to communicate all course announcements, post homework questions, and share materials such as additional readings. This site is public—you do not need an account to view it.

You should subscribe to the website so that you will get a notification every time I post a new message. You can find the website at: http://bmccsociology100munshi.wordpress.com/

Some of the pages on this website are password protected.
The password for these pages is: fall16

Required Text, Readings, and Supplies

This book is available at the BMCC bookstore, through online booksellers, and on reserve at the library.
ALL other readings will be available on the course website. The readings will be on a password protected page called “Readings.” Again, the password is fall16

I expect you to bring the readings to class, so you must print out a copy. It is not acceptable to pull the reading up on your phone. There are many places at BMCC to print at no cost but you need to plan ahead:
https://ccc.bmcc.cuny.edu/Site/Computers/Students/Printing

**Course Requirements and Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay #1 (1-2 pages)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #2 (4-5 pages)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #3 (5-6 pages)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Reflections/Homework</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation (including journals)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Essays (10% + 20% + 20%= 50% TOTAL):** There are three essay assignments in this class. They are all connected and part of a larger project that asks you to conduct sociological research and analysis. For the second and third essays, you will first turn in a draft version to me for feedback. Your essay grade will be based in part upon your completion of the draft as well as your effort to revise the essay according to the feedback you are given. The details of the assignments will be given out during the semester, and the due dates are on the Course Outline.

**Final Presentation (10%):** During the last two sessions of the class, you will conduct short (~5 minutes) presentations on your research. I will give you guidelines for the presentations later in the semester.

**Reading Reflections/Homework (20%):** Throughout the semester, I will give you weekly assignments that ask you to answer questions about the reading and/or other homework assignments. All of these assignments must be completed on the date due, and no late assignments will be accepted. If you miss class, or are late, on the day of a pop quiz, you can not make it up. Over the course of the semester, you will have 13 Reading Worksheets, graded on a scale of 0-2. You can miss three Reading Worksheets without any penalty to your grade, and if you complete more than ten, I will drop the lowest grades.

**Class Participation (20%):** Class participation entails meaningful and active presence in discussions, completion of in-class assignments such as free writes or journal writing, and general respect for the collective environment.

*All written assignments must be turned in as a hard copy at the start of the class session. I do not accept assignments over email. All assignments must follow guidelines of citation of sources—we will discuss this in class and I will hand out information and resources about how to correctly give credit to all sources you use in your writing. It will be your responsibility to avoid plagiarism. Any plagiarized paper runs the risk of receiving an automatic F with no option for re-submission.*

I will enter grades in the Blackboard Grade Center, so you can keep track of your grade through the semester. Grades will be calculated using the following scale:

- 93-100 = A
- 90-92 = A-
- 87-89 = B+
- 83-86 = B
- 80-82 = B-
- 77-79 = C+
- 73-76 = C
- 70-72 = C-
- 67-69 = D+
- 63-66 = D
- 60-62 = D-
- Below 60 = F
Course Outline
All course readings (except Tang’s book) are available under the Readings tab on the Course Website. The password is fall16. Readings are subject to change. All changes will be announced in class and on the blog.

What is Sociology?

Mon Aug 29 Introduction and Syllabus Review

Wed Aug 31 Sociological Lens: How does sociology see the world?
Read: excerpt from The Sociological Imagination, C. Wright Mills (1959)
Due: Reading Worksheet #1

Mon Sept 5 NO CLASS
Due: LETTER #1

Wed Sept 7 Sociological Questions and Answers: Theory
Read: excerpt from Marx (1848), The Communist Manifesto
Due: Reading Worksheet #2

Mon Sept 12 Sociological Questions and Answers: Theory
Read: excerpt from DuBois (1903), The Souls of Black Folk

Wed Sept 14 Sociological Questions and Answers: Theory
Due: Reading Worksheet #3

Intersectionality: Race, Gender, and Class

Mon Sept 19 Read: excerpt, Omi and Winant (1986), Racial Formations in The U.S. and excerpt, Tatum (1997), Why are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?
Due: Essay #1

Due: Reading Worksheet #4

Mon Sept 26 Read: excerpt, Greer (2013), Black Ethnics: Race, Immigration and the Pursuit of the American Dream; Asian American Writers Workshop Open City series (2012)

Wed Sept 28 Read: excerpt, Bayoumi (2009); How does it Feel to be a Problem: Being Young and Arab in America
Due: Reading Worksheet #5

Mon Oct 3 NO CLASS


**Monday Schedule**

Due: Reading Worksheet #6

Mon  Oct 10 NO CLASS

Wed  Oct 12 NO CLASS


Due: Reading Worksheet #7

Wed  Oct 19 **Read:** excerpt from Mantzsos (2012), “Class in America-2012”


Due: Reading Worksheet #8

Wed  Oct 26 **Read:** V. Rotondaro & M. Ewing (2013), “The Ins & the Outs”

DUE: Essay #2 DRAFT

Case Study: *Unsettled: Cambodian Refugees in the NYC Hyperghetto*


Due: Reading Worksheet #9

Draft of Essay #2 returned

Mon  Nov 7 **Read:** Tang (2015), *Unsettled*, Chapter 1 (“War/Time”), pp. 28-51

DUE: Essay #2 FINAL

Wed  Nov 9 **Read:** Tang (2015), *Unsettled*, Ch. 2 (“Housed in the Hyperghetto”), pp. 52-76

Due: Reading Worksheet #10


Due: Reading Worksheet #11

Wed Nov 23  Read: Tang (2015), Unsettled, Ch. 5 (“Sweatshops […] Neoplantation”), pp. 114-134  
Due: Reading Worksheet #12

Mon Nov 28  Read: excerpt, Richie (2012), Arrested Justice, pp. TBA.

Wed Nov 30  Read: Tang (2015), Unsettled, Chapter 6 (“Motherhood”), pp. 135-156  
Due: Reading Worksheet #13

Mon Dec 5  Read: Tang (2015), Unsettled, Conclusion (“‘Unsettled’”), pp. 157-179  
DUE: Essay #3 DRAFT

Wed Dec 7  Class Presentations

Mon Dec 12  Class Presentations  
Draft of Essay #3 returned

Mon Dec 19  DUE: Essay #3 FINAL

Additional Notes and Policies

Classroom environment: We are all responsible to ensure that this classroom is a respectful learning environment in which everyone can participate. Please try to learn your classmates’ names, pronounce them correctly, and refer to them by the pronouns they use. Being respectful also means being on time, awake and present during class and not engaging in side talk when others are speaking. We will have a lot of discussion in this class. It is okay for us to disagree with one another as long as we do this with kindness and compassion so as to keep the conversation as open and informative for everyone as possible.

Electronic devices: I do appreciate the value of electronic devices, but I do not allow their use during class. This includes ALL cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc. The temptation to multi-task is too great, and the screens can distract not just you but your neighbors as well. If you are expecting a very important call—where three hours will make a difference—you must notify me about it in advance. In general, I expect you to turn your phones all the way off (on silent, not vibrate) and put them away. If I see you using your phone, tablet, or laptop in class I will mark you absent for that class session. If you have a documented disability that requires you to use an electronic device, please speak to me about this.

Communication: I will communicate all course announcements, including changes to the syllabus, through the course website. You are responsible to check the site to keep up with all information posted. Subscribing to the website is a good way to make sure that you are notified about all new posts.

I will collect your preferred email address at the beginning of the semester, and will use this email address if I need to communicate with you in between class sessions.

The best way to communicate with me is in person, during my office hours or by appointment. I can also be reached by email or by phone. (As I am not on campus every day, however, phone is the least preferred communication method.) I will respond to emails as soon as possible, but always within 48 hours (not including weekends and holidays). I generally will not respond to emails before 9am or after 5pm. If you send me an email and you do not hear back within 48 hours, assume that there was a technology glitch and please follow-up with another email.
Please keep in mind basic guidelines for email etiquette when corresponding with me (or any professor): Make sure that the answer to your question is not found on the syllabus. Use appropriate capitalization, spell out words completely, and sign your complete name. The subject line should be in the following format SOC100: the topic of your email. (“hello,” “question,” etc is not acceptable). Please address me with “Dear Professor Munshi” or “Professor” and not “hey.” If you have substantive questions about course content, please set up a time to see me so that we can talk more productively.

The following policies are in accordance with City University of New York guidelines:

**BMCC Attendance Policy**
At BMCC, the maximum number of absence hours is limited to one more class than the contact hours as indicated in the BMCC college catalog. In the case of excessive absence, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an “F” or “WU” grade.

Our course meets for 2.5 hours once a week so you are allowed to miss 3.5 hours of class, which amounts to 2 missed classes without penalty. **I will extend this to a total of 3 missed classes without penalty and without explanation.** Beyond that, if you miss an additional class, I may drop your grade by a letter (e.g. B to C) or assign you a WU grade. If you have extenuating circumstances, please come and talk to me about your situation.

Classes begin promptly at the times indicated in the Schedule of Classes. Arrival in classes after the scheduled starting time constitutes lateness. Latecomers may, at the discretion of the instructor, incur an official absence. **In our course, 2 instances of lateness will constitute 1 absence.** If you come in late, it is your responsibility to make sure that you are marked present before you leave class.

In general, I recommended that you avoid being absent, if at all possible. If you do have a genuine unavoidable emergency, you should bring an official note to me before your absence, or in the case of an emergency, bring it to the next class you attend (notes will not be accepted later). **These notes do not "erase" an absence,** but I do take them into consideration. Make sure that notes are original, from licensed practitioners, and written on official letterhead, with proper contact information.

Please come to my office hours to talk with me if you have problems or circumstances that may negatively affect your ability to perform your best in your academic work. You should not wait until the end of the semester to inform me of your circumstances.

**BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement**
Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one’s own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism. Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has some guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's website, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. Note: If a case of plagiarism is identified, you may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion from college.

**BMCC Writing Center**
The BMCC Writing Center (S500W) serves registered BMCC students and faculty in courses from most disciplines on campus. The Writing Center's mission is twofold: 1) to help students develop confidence as writers by learning to think critically, write actively, revise mindfully and proofread carefully, and 2) to provide support for faculty who are incorporating these writing skills and practices into their curricula. The Writing Center also provides BMCC students with guidance on personal essays, statements for scholarships, college transfer essays, and admission
applications. Tutoring is offered on a scheduled, drop-in, or on-line basis. Visit their e-tutors at http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/etutoring/

**Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities**
Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Accessibility at 212-220-8180. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

**Mental Health Resources at BMCC**
The BMCC Counseling and Advisement Center provides free, confidential counseling services and referrals to services in your community. They are open Monday through Fridays from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM and Saturdays from 9 AM to 4 PM. Feel free to visit them at S-330 in the main building or call to make an appointment at (212) 220-8140.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pathways Learning Outcomes for Individual and Society</th>
<th>Measurements</th>
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| *By the end of the semester, students should be able to:* | *This will be measured in the following ways:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view</td>
<td>Class discussion, informal &amp; formal writing assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically</td>
<td>Class discussion, informal &amp; formal writing assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions</td>
<td>Class discussion, informal &amp; formal writing assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of the sociology discipline, exploring the relationship between individual and society</td>
<td>Class discussion, informal &amp; formal writing assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify and engage with local, national, or global trends or ideologies, and analyze their impact on individual or collective decision-making</td>
<td>Class discussion, informal &amp; formal writing assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examine how an individual’s place in society affects experiences, values, or choices</td>
<td>Class discussion, informal &amp; formal writing assignments</td>
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<tr>
<th>Writing Intensive Student Outcomes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Students will be able to complete (a) formal writing assignment(s) of at least 10-12 pages in length that have gone through the revision process.</td>
<td>Informal &amp; formal writing assignments, including three essays that will undergo revision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students will be able to generate pieces of informal writing in response to a variety of prompts, concerns, situations, or reading assignments</td>
<td>In-class writing assignments</td>
</tr>
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