



## Introduction to Sociology

SOC 1500 (07 – CRN: 42210; 08 – CRN: 42936)

Fall 2022: August 29 – December 17, 2022

Online, Asynchronous

### Contact Information

**Professor:** Dr. Amanda Fehlbaum

**Pronouns:** She/Her/Hers

**Office:** DeBartolo Hall 437

**Phone:** 330-941-2716 (Office) or 330-406-9490 (Google Voice/Text)

**Email:** afehlbaum@ysu.edu

**Preferred Contact Method:** Email

**Student Support Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 – 2 PM; Wednesdays from 1 to 4 PM.

I am also willing to meet by appointment (virtual or in person) at other times.

**Communication Expectations:** I typically respond to email within 24 hours on weekdays. I strive to grade assignments within one week.

### Catalog Description

An introduction to the science of human societies and groups: analysis of the structures, functions, and processes that bring about changes in societies, groups, communities, classes, and institutions.

### Course Description

This course is an introduction to sociology and is designed to give you an introduction to sociological theory, methods, and substantive areas. Among the topics we will cover are: what sociology is, what sociologists do, how to do sociology, social institutions, social stratification and inequality, and special topics in sociology. At the end of the course, you should be able to understand and discuss both the sociological perspective and the sociological imagination.

Introduction to Sociology is appropriate for sociology majors and minor, those who need to fill a social science requirement, and those who are merely curious about sociology. After completion of this course, you will be prepared to undertake more advanced work in sociology.

The Social Sciences General Education knowledge domain goal will be met. With the successful completion of this course, you will demonstrate understanding of the development, diversity, and complexity of human behavior, institutions, and culture.

### Course Materials

Required Textbook:

Wade, Lisa. *Terrible Magnificent Sociology*. 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. WW Norton. ISBN-13: 978-0393-876963

**InQuizitive (eBook) access is required.**

Students are required to have access to [Blackboard](#) as this course takes place online. These are the [computer lab locations](#) on campus.

### Course Learning Outcomes/Objectives

After successful completion of this course, students will understand:

- The sociological perspective, the theoretical foundations (Functionalism, Conflict, and Symbolic Interactionism), and the contributions of major theorists to the development of these perspectives.
- The ways in which sociologists gather, interpret, and evaluate data, including both quantitative and qualitative methodologies.
- The components of culture and their impact on shaping human behavior and world view.
- The elements of social structure and the organization of society
- The major theories of crime, deviance, and systems of social control.
- Systems of stratification, including global inequality, racial stratification, social class, and gender stratification.
- The major social institutions, such as marriage and the family, religion, politics, the economy, health care, and/or education.
- Additional topics such as population, urbanization, the environment, and, war/terrorism, and major theories of social change.

Students will also meet the Social Sciences General Education Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate understanding of contexts and development of human cultures and institutions.
- Demonstrate understanding of individual and social behavior.
- Demonstrate an understanding of methodologies used in the social sciences.

### Design of the Course

Our course “weeks” run from Monday through Sunday. Each week includes readings, lecture, a quiz, discussion, and an optional participation assignment. Students will also complete a syllabus quiz at the beginning of the course and two papers.

Students should expect to spend a minimum of 9 hours a week on reading and course assignments. Weekly assignments and quizzes must be uploaded no later than 11:59 pm on Sunday nights. Once the week is over, you can no longer go in and complete any assignments from the previous week. New assignments and discussion board questions will become available by 8:01 A.M. on Monday.

### Readings

Completing the assigned readings for each class is crucial to your success in this course. Exam questions are based, in part, on the assigned readings. By completing the readings in the InQuizitive eBook, you earn 10 points per InQuizitive assignment. Your lowest three InQuizitive grades will be dropped.

**Lectures**

In this class, I provide recorded Power Point presentations as videos. They are accessible through the through Blackboard with a link to Microsoft Stream or WebEx. You will have access to the presentations throughout the course, but I suggest taking notes while you are viewing the presentations, just like you would in the classroom. Lecture content will be in the quiz.

**Quizzes**

There are weekly quizzes in this class. Each quiz is 10 questions. In general, the quizzes are available for you to take from 8:01 A.M. on Monday to 11:59 P.M. on Sunday (Example: Quiz 1 opens on September 5 at 8:01 A.M. and closes on September 11 at 11:59 P.M.). Quizzes are formatted to include a combination of multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, etc. Quizzes cover all class material, presentations, assigned readings, and videos for that week.

**Quizzes are closed book and closed note.**

In the event there is a technological issue during the quiz, I will reset it for you once. You get one full reset due to technological issues per semester. Note: Blackboard does not always cooperate when quizzes are taken using smart phones. You are encouraged to take your quizzes on a computer. After taking the quiz, [you will receive a confirmation number that your submission was successful.](#)

If you have a problem with a quiz question, such as how it was worded or if you think the answers are incorrect or vague, you need to make an appointment or see me during my Student Support Hours to discuss it. I will not address quiz questions or answers during the quiz, over email, or in public.

Quizzes take the place of exams in this course. That is, you will not have a midterm exam or a final exam in the traditional sense.

**Syllabus Quiz**

In addition to the quizzes given during the course, a quiz worth up to ten points will be given. You have from the first day of class (August 29) to September 11 to take the syllabus quiz. The syllabus quiz grade cannot be dropped. For the quiz, you need to be familiar with the general policies, assignments, and expectations of the course.

**Papers**

You have a choice among eight paper assignments. You will sign up in advance to do two of the eight assignments using a Sign-Up link that is set up for this course. The instructions for each paper assignment are posted under the Papers link on Blackboard – press the “view assessment” button. After the Sign-Up has closed, a file titled “What Paper Did I Sign Up For?” will be posted under the Papers link on Blackboard as well in the event that you forget which assignments you signed up to complete.

### Summary of Paper Due Dates

Topic	Due Date	Topic	Due Date
Culture	9/18	People in Interaction	10/2
Deviance and Defiance	10/9	Structures	10/16
Economic Inequality	10/23	Institutional Racism	10/30
Gendered Oppression	11/6	Power of the People	11/20

Each paper must follow the *Written Assignment Guidelines* posted under the Papers link in Blackboard. Your paper must be two-to-three pages in length (one-and-a-half pages is not two full pages). Each paper is worth 50 points. Your paper must be submitted to the proper Safe Assign link by 11:59 P.M. on the due date.

You do not have to turn in a hard copy of your paper; however, I accept hard copied in addition to – not in lieu of – uploading your assignment to Blackboard. You must [upload your paper assignment to Blackboard](#), regardless of if you turn in a hard copy. I do not accept the hard copy alone. If you turn in more than two paper assignments, I will only grade the first two assignments. Turning in a third does not mean that you get extra points or that you can replace an earlier bad paper grade. If you are retaking this class to receive a higher/passing grade, you may not submit papers you previously submitted in the course.

Although this course is not a writing class, part of your assignment grade includes quality of writing and following directions. It is in your best interest to proofread your assignments for proper grammar and spelling as well as follow formatting directions. Neglect to follow formatting directions will also result in deduction of points.

Submitting Assignments to the Safe Assign Folder on Blackboard

The reason you must submit assignments to the Safe Assign link on Blackboard is so that a plagiarism check can be run on your assignment. If you turn in your assignment early and see that you had a high plagiarism rating in the originality report, you may have the opportunity to see what you did and correct the assignment before it is due. Plagiarism, regardless of intention, is taken seriously.<sup>1</sup>

Please make sure you are submitting to the correct assignment file for the assignment. **If you have problems submitting to the assignment file, you need to e-mail me and let me know well before the assignment is due (e.g., two days, not two minutes).** Assignments should be submitted as .doc, .docx, or .pdf files. Other file types and/or links will not be accepted. You are responsible for converting your document, if necessary, into an acceptable format. Unless otherwise noted, **do not just copy and paste the assignment into the text box!**

Blackboard has the option of [uploading from Cloud Storage](#) such as Google Docs and Cloud Drive. Submitting just a link to a Google Doc or OneDrive document – [unless you have uploaded on Blackboard using Cloud Storage](#) - will result in a grade of zero because it does not allow for the plagiarism check to take place.

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<sup>1</sup> See section on Academic Integrity

Please take care to ensure that your assignment properly uploaded to Blackboard.<sup>2</sup> After you submit your file to the Safe Assign folder, [you will receive a confirmation number that your submission was successful](#).

You may submit a rough draft via email or hard copy one week before an assignment is due. I will give you feedback and tell you if you are headed in the right direction.

### **Discussion Posts and Responses**

This course is designed to be interactive. Please come to the discussion boards having completed the assigned readings and prepared to actively participate. I encourage vibrant and respectful interaction. Discussion should be directed to the entire class in hopes of having a dynamic discussion that lasts. Discussion forum participation provides an opportunity for members of the class to learn from one another based on the readings, different life experiences, and unique perspectives gained from studying course materials. It also assists you in learning how to effectively communicate ideas to a group in a professional and respectful manner.

Discussion posts are worth 10 points each. You are expected to complete at least 5 discussion posts. Your top 5 discussion posts will count toward your grade (meaning, if you do not perform as well on one, you can replace your poor grade with a better one). **At least 2 discussion posts must be submitted by October 23. If you do not submit by that date, you will receive up to two zeros for the posts you missed.**

You must make a post to the discussion board to have the option of responding to classmates' posts. Unless otherwise noted, most responses are optional. Responses, if made for extra credit, must be more than "I agree." They should follow the 3CQ format (compliment, connect, comment, question). Please see "About Discussions" located at the top of the Discussion Board page for details.

### **Extra Credit**

There are some extra credit opportunities to earn extra credit in this class. More details will be announced well before the extra credit is due.

Two opportunities are throughout the class. You may receive two extra credit points for completing a participation assignment each week. You may also receive two extra credit points for responding to classmates' discussion posts (points are per Discussion assignment, not per response).

### **How to Succeed in This Course**

I truly want everyone in this class to succeed not only in this course but throughout their college careers. To succeed in this course, I expect students to attend class regularly, engage

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<sup>2</sup> [This video shows you how to upload an assignment](#)

with the course, complete the assigned readings for each class, participate in class discussion, complete assignments on time, proofread their assignments, and not plagiarize.

Levels of engagement can vary from above average to below average and may be reflected in your grade.

Above average engagement involves:

- Spirited intellectual engagement with the course readings and the class
- Conscientious and insightful preparation of assignments
- Assignments that make and support sophisticated arguments, are well-written and interesting to read, and are free of errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar
- Active and thoughtful participation in class discussion

Average engagement involves:

- Clear demonstration in papers and in class discussion of understanding the sociological concepts we explore
- Assignments with clear thesis statements and careful research
- Consistent participation in class discussion

Below average engagement involves:

- Work that shows minimal synthesis of concepts or original analysis
- Infrequent participation in discussion
- Assignments that are incomplete or late
- Assignments that are not well-researched or are presented carelessly (not proofread or contain many mechanical errors)

My Student Support Hours (Office Hours) are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 2 PM, Wednesdays from 1 to 4 PM, and by appointment. Please see me if you have any questions concerning the reading material, quizzes, assignments, study strategies, etc. If you are unable to meet me during these hours, but need to be seen, you can e-mail me to make an appointment

### **How to Get Help**

YSU is committed to your success. As a student you have access to several resources that may be instrumental in helping you succeed in this course and others. Please do not hesitate to utilize any of these [free support services](#) to support your academic success, physical and mental health, and help you navigate your time as a YSU student.

One such support service is the [Writing Center](#). They provide writing consultations for any discipline as well as basic computer literacy help.

If you are reading this sentence before the end of the second week of class, send me an email with the subject line “Water Bear, Don’t Care,” and include an image of a tardigrade. I will award you 5 points. Thank you for reading the syllabus.

## Attendance Expectations

[Youngstown State University's Attendance Policy](#) reads as follows:

The faculty believes that classroom activities are essential to learning. The student is responsible for knowing and meeting all course requirements, including tests, assignments, and class participation, as indicated by the course instructor. The responsibility for work missed during absence rests with the student.

The instructor has no obligation to give make-up graded coursework or to review other class work missed by a student because of absence apart from absences due to participation in university-sponsored events, government-related activities, religious observances, death of a family member, and documented personal illness.

As this is an asynchronous online course, I will not be taking attendance. You are, however, responsible for completing the content of the course in a timely manner. This means you are expected to regularly log-in to Blackboard to check for messages, complete assignments, and communicate with the class.

## Late Work Submission Policy

Late papers are eligible for credit according to the following schedule: one day past due = 75%, three days past due = 50%, one week past due = 25%. Papers cannot be accepted more than one week past the due date.

Your lowest two quiz grades and eight lowest discussion grades are dropped from final grade calculations. **Make-up quiz assignments, InQuizitive assignments, and discussion posts will not be given for any reason.** Quizzes will only be given during the window for the quiz – not before or after. The dropping of the lowest two quiz grades, lowest three InQuizitive grades, and lowest eight discussion post grades are designed to accommodate people who experience unavoidable emergencies or conflicts during the semester (including, but not limited to: work, religious holidays or celebrations, doctor's appointments, extracurricular events, etc.). If your schedule requires that you must frequently miss this window, it may be in your best interest to drop this course. You may want to set a calendar reminder or alarm to remember to take the quiz each week.

### Please Note

Technological difficulties are not considered a valid excuse for tardiness. Please contact me – email, call, text - well before an assignment (project assignment, quiz, etc.) is due if you are having technical difficulties. I will do my best to work with you to address the situation.

## Class Conduct

The American Sociological Association states, [“As sociological scholars and citizens, we have a responsibility to study and speak out regarding all forms of racism and injustice.”](#) I stand in solidarity and support the fight against systemic racism and the oppression of Black folks, Indigenous folks, and other People of Color, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and non-binary individuals.

In this class, we will discuss issues that are highly controversial. We all come from different perspectives on these issues. It is likely that we will disagree with one another. I welcome and encourage lively discussion, as that is necessary for true learning to occur. However, disagreements should not come in the form of personal attack. Mutual respect is required to maximize a healthy and fair learning environment. You may disagree with each other's ideas and the evidence used in the arguments, but you should respect each other as people.

I show several video clips from a variety of sources as part of the course curriculum and to aid your understanding of concepts that are sometimes abstract or hard to understand. If anyone is ever made to feel uncomfortable or feels something is inappropriate, I request that you talk to me about it to see if the issue can be resolved in a way that allows learning to occur on both of our parts.

## Communication Issues

### Email

I can best be reached by e-mail, but my response may not be immediate. Please indicate which course you are in when emailing me for the first time. You also need to always sign your emails at the end (write your name).

Students are expected to check their e-mail for university announcements or information from instructors, though announcements will typically be cross-posted on Blackboard. It is to your benefit to check your e-mail so that you have the most up-to-date information pertaining to this class. If you use an e-mail address other than your YSU account (in other words, it does not end in "@ysu.edu"), I cannot guarantee that I will receive your e-mail.

Emails that address the professor as Miss, Ms., Mrs., or by first name will not receive a response after an initial warning. Please address me as Dr. Fehlbaum, Professor Fehlbaum, or Prof. Fehlbaum.

### Phone

I have a phone in my office; however, I cannot always be relied upon to answer it. The number is 330-941-2716. You may call or text my Google Voice number - 330-406-9490. Regardless whether calling or texting, please identify yourself.

## Grading and Grading Scale

### Evaluation

A breakdown of the points available in this course is shown below:

Syllabus Quiz	10
Quizzes (13 total, 2 dropped, 20 points each)	220
InQuizitive Assignments (15 total, 3 dropped)	120
Discussion (Top 5, 10 points each)	50
Papers (2 total, 50 points each)	<u>100</u>
	500 points total



**Grading Scale**

Syllabus Quiz, Discussion	Quizzes	Papers	Total Raw Points	Letter Grade
9 - 10	18-20	45-50	450 - 500	A
8	16-17	40-44	400 - 449	B
7	14-15	35-39	350 - 399	C
6	12-13	30-34	300 - 349	D
0 - 5	0-11	0-29	0 - 299	F

**Final Grades**

Final letter grades will be assigned as follows:

- A: 450 - 500
- B: 400 - 449
- C: 350 - 399
- D: 300 - 349
- F: 0 – 299

YSU's Grading System can be found [here](#).

Final grades will be based on points, not percentage. **Final grades are non-negotiable.**

**Honors Contract Language**

The honors contract option is not available for this course.

**University Policies**

[University policies](#) can be found online and provide you guidance on your rights as a student in this course. The links below take you directly to a specific policy. Should you have any questions about a policy, please do not hesitate to contact me using the information at the top of the syllabus.

- [Statement of Non-Discrimination from the University](#)
- [Student Accessibility](#)
- [Incomplete Grade Policy](#)
- [Classroom Safety and Health Protocols](#)

**Academic Integrity**

As outlined in *The Student Code of Conduct*, all forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Youngstown State University. This includes plagiarism, the unauthorized use of tools or notes in taking tests or completing assignments, fabrication of data or information used for an assignment, working with others without permission from the instructor, and more. A student who is believed to have violated the [academic integrity policy](#) will meet with the instructor to discuss the allegations. The student may accept responsibility for the violation and any sanctions selected by the instructor, or they have the right to ask for a hearing before a hearing panel. The full Academic Integrity policy can be found in Article III. 1. of *The Student Code of*

*Conduct*, while further information on University procedures for alleged academic integrity violations can be found in Article V.

Note: Not adequately citing your sources, such as only listing sources at the end and not citing them within the assignment, is a violation of academic integrity. If you do this in an assignment, you will receive a zero on your assignment and will be reported for academic dishonesty.

If you are retaking this class to receive a higher/passing grade, you may not submit assignments you previously submitted in the course.

### **Title IX**

Title IX makes it clear that violence, discrimination, and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: Title IX Coordinator ([titleix@ysu.edu](mailto:titleix@ysu.edu)), Counseling Services (330-941-3737), YSU Police (330-941-3527), and Rape Crisis & Counseling Center (24-hour crisis line: 330-782-3936). More information can be found at <https://ysu.edu/title-ix/>.

### **Voluntary/Involuntary Medical Leave or Withdrawal**

[Medical leave/withdrawal](#) is available for all students with a documented physical or psychological illness of a serious nature that requires them to leave the university after the last day to withdraw with a grade of “W” without completing their coursework.

### **University Schedule of Operations**

Last Day to Add or Change a Grade Option:	Tuesday, September 6, 2022
Last Day for 100% Refund:	Sunday, September 11, 2022
Last Day for Withdrawing with a Grade of “W”:	Monday, September 12, 2022
No Class (Labor Day):	Monday, September 5, 2022
No Class (Veterans Day):	Friday, November 11, 2022
No Class (Thanksgiving):	November 24 –27, 2022

## Course Schedule

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning. For maximum benefit in this course, complete the readings by the assigned date to prepare for class

TMS = *Terrible Magnificent Sociology*

ESB = Everyday Sociology Blog

Date	Topic	Readings & Assignments
Week 1: August 29 – September 4	Introduction to Course	How to Use InQuizitive Science of Social Facts Sign Up for Papers Syllabus Quiz
Week 2: September 5 - 11	The Self	TMS: Ch. 1 View Presentation Discussion Board Quiz 1
Week 3: September 12 - 18	Culture & Construction	TMS: Ch. 2 View Presentation Discussion Board Quiz 2 Paper: Culture Due
Week 4: September 19 - 25	Our Identities	TMS: Ch. 3 View Presentation Discussion Board Quiz 3
Week 5: September 26 – October 2	People in Interaction	TMS: Ch. 4 View Presentation Discussion Board Quiz 4 Paper: People in Interaction
Week 6: October 3 - 9	Deviance and Defiance	TMS: Ch. 5 View Presentation Discussion Board Quiz 5 Paper: Deviance and Defiance
Week 7: October 10 - 16	Organizations, Institutions, and Structures	TMS: Ch. 6 View Presentation Discussion Board Quiz 6 Paper: Structures
Week 8: October 17 – 23 <sup>^</sup>	Economic Inequality	TMS: Ch. 7 View Presentation

Date	Topic	Readings & Assignments
		Discussion Board Quiz 7 Paper: Economic Inequality
Week 9: October 24 - 30	Institutional Racism	TMS: Ch. 8 View Presentation Discussion Board Quiz 8 Paper: Institutional Racism
Week 10: October 31 – November 6	Gendered Oppression	TMS: Ch. 9 View Presentation Discussion Board Quiz 9 Paper: Gender
Week 11: November 7 - 13	Elite Power	TMS: Ch. 10 View Presentation Discussion Board Quiz 10
Week 12: November 14 - 20	The Power of the People	TMS: Ch. 11 View Presentation Discussion Board Quiz 11 Paper: Power of the People
Week 13: November 21 - 27	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
Week 14: November 28 – December 4	Our Future on Earth	TMS: Ch. 12 View Presentation Discussion Board Quiz 12
Week 15: December 5 - 11	Preview of Other Sociology Courses	TMS: Conclusion ESB: Identities Beyond Gender Binaries ESB: Fears of Critical Race Theory View Presentation Discussion Board Quiz 13
Week 16: December 12 - 17	Conclusion to Course	<i>No Final Exam</i>

^ = You must submit at least two discussion posts by October 23