



**Course Number/Title:** SO176-112/Introduction to Sociology      **Term/Year:** Fall/2018

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Department:** Social Science

**Prerequisite:** None

**Required Text:** [Introduction to Sociology, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., OpenStax College. ISBN 1938168410](#)

**Instructor Email:** [michael.thompson@colbycc.edu](mailto:michael.thompson@colbycc.edu) (It's best to communicate using the Canvas inbox system, rather than email.)

## CCC MISSION

Challenge students to adapt to a diverse society. Create opportunities for student growth. Connect student learning with professional experiences.

## RATIONALE

This course fulfills a social science general education requirement.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the study of human beings, and will enable the student to explore their relationship to their environment and the nature of social groups, such as the family, race, class, religion and civilization.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Personal Introduction** - Students will be awarded up to 10 points, for a personal introduction on our first class session. The purpose of the introduction is to provide an opportunity for the students and the instructor to learn about each other, to know each other and to work at issues that may emerge from the course.

**Readiness Quiz** – Students will be awarded up to 10 points for the readiness quiz. The quiz reviews the students' knowledge regarding syllabus and course orientation information.

**Quizzes** - There will be twenty-one (21) quizzes of equal weight. These may be cumulative in that they may assume concepts and theories introduced in previous sections of the course. Tests may include various kinds of questions including multiple choice, short answer and discussion for a possible 210 points.

**Discussions** - Through in class discussion groups and/or online discussion threads, you will have the opportunity to analyze data relevant to the sociology and social institutions and activities that comprise the focus of this course. This analysis will not be a summary of what you read, but will instead consist of critiques, comments, observations, suggestions or ideas developed while preparing for your assignments. You will be asked to observe social interactions. And, you will

help one another and the instructor better understand society and culture at these levels. It should be fun, as well as informative. To get the most out of this class, you need to participate in all aspects of it, including Internet analysis, and class discussions. You are also expected to complete assignments and papers on time and to do your own work. Evidence of improvement in your work may also lead to an increase in your grade at my discretion. Students may earn up to 210 points on the discussion boards.

**Final Project Digital Story:** You will script, narrate and produce a digital story that is personal and reflects upon the contextual course material. This Digital Story will be worth up to 75 points in which you critically reflect upon and analyze your personal life experiences as they relate to a sociological concept or social commentary. This project is to be a self-conscious effort at thinking about what you are learning. Notes, reflections, insights, connections, and critiques from your life experiences, readings, other relevant courses or experiences are to be recorded in your project. Your stories should reflect a serious effort to synthesize theory and practice by including analytical observations and critical thought of the various social environments that we cover in class and discuss the main concepts that have interested/affected you. So, read, daydream, think of some questions that the reading left you with or think about how the reading made sense to you, explore your ideas by observation within the social environments. Your script should be no less than 300 words and no more than 500, the duration of the digital story should be no less than 2 minutes and not more than 3 minutes. For full credit your story must include: appropriate imagery, music and voice over. Additionally, you must publish your story to Youtube or Vimeo and to the class thread and present it on the final day of class. Specifically, reflect on the social interactions you have or observe. Reflect on the interactions of social structure, social class, inequalities of race, deviance, crime and community. Consider the political sociology of rural and urban America; reflect on inequalities of gender, race and family interactions. Remember this is a personal story – one only you can tell – **it is NOT a report and it is NOT a PowerPoint**. It must demonstrate creativity, critical thought and a connection and understanding of the course material.

**Final Projects:** Regardless of points earned in this class, the final project is required for a student to earn a grade of an A.

**Participation** - This is a hands-on course. It moves very quickly. It requires you to devote a significant amount of time outside of class and be prepared for each session. It is your task to impress me by playing an active role in class, and have thoughtfully read the assignments. Class time is for answering your questions and exploring ideas, **NOT LECTURING**. On the other hand if you never answered a question, make a comment or add your insights to the class discussion or if you are regularly absent, your grade will most likely suffer.

These exercises and assignments are intended to develop your critical reading and thinking skills, and will also serve as important feedback regarding what you are learning from the readings so that I can adjust our class activities to help you understand the material better. You will be graded on the critical thinking evident in your responses that indicate you carefully reflected on the assignment.

**Research and Writing Project (Extra Credit):** You will be assigned a general to specific topics to research, write and post on under your byline. The written portion of the assignment must be *approximately 600 words in length*, to complete the project you must include a *relevant image* and at least *2 references*. Students may earn up to 25 points for each essay, a maximum of 2 essays.

## COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The learning objectives and competencies detailed below meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Competency Project for this course, as sanctioned by the Kansas Board of Regents.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES AND COMPETENCIES

**Outcome 1:** To understand the basic concepts in sociology

**Competencies:** Upon completion of this unit, students will:

- Define social institution and identify the five major social institutions in contemporary societies (Family, State, Economy, Religion, Education, Media and Healthcare).
- Give an example of how systems of social stratification (e.g., class, race, gender, sexuality, age) organize the distribution of social advantages and disadvantages.
- Define the major components of culture, including the role of socialization, social norms and deviance.

**Outcome 2:** To understand the role of theory and research in sociology,

**Competencies:** Upon completion of this unit, students will:

- Recognize the main ideas of three of the following theoretical paradigms: Functionalism, Conflict Theory, Symbolic Interactionism, Post Modernism.
- Distinguish between qualitative and quantitative approaches to conducting sociological research.

**Outcome 3:** To understand how social structure operates,

**Competencies:** Upon completion of this unit, students will:

- Describe the relationship between social structure and individual behavior.
- Give an example of the social causes and consequences of a major social change (e.g. globalization, environment, technology, population shifts and social movements).
- Critically examine common assumptions about how society works using the sociological imagination.

## ASSIGNMENT AND TEST POLICY

When you first view your class, look over class requirements, assignments, and other class content to ensure that you wish to remain in the class. If you decide to drop the class, do NOT post in Canvas at all, as that counts as attendance per college policy, and you would be charged a portion of tuition for dropping after attending/posting.

Students are expected to be actively engaged in all class activities and communicate to the instructor when exceptions are imminent. Students are responsible for quality and timeliness of all assignments. Late work may not receive full credit. All assignments for this course will be submitted only in the manner and place set forth in the assignment instruction. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested before the due date. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment date except under extreme circumstances. If turning in work late please indicate your name and identify the lesson at the top of the assignment. There will be no makeup date or late acceptance of collaborative work. Bottom line, late assignments are not acceptable.

Students will be prepared to take an examination at the designated time and place, with all the necessary items fully prepared for usage and without unauthorized papers, books or other materials. Emergency situations will be handled on an individual basis. Student should inform the instructor or designated representative as soon as possible regarding an emergency. If you miss a scheduled test for any reason you must document the reason for the absence in order to take the makeup test. No students will be allowed to take a makeup exam without prior approval. The format of the makeup may differ significantly from the administered exam. If you fail to take the makeup, a zero will be recorded. There will be no makeup date for the Final Project or for collaborative or class assignments and work. Students must be present for the Final Exam unless excused in advance by the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Colby Community College views class attendance as a mandatory activity. As an online course the College has established certain assumptions regarding time spent online and the number of credit hours awarded for the class. Students are expected to spend a significant amount of time with online material as if it were in-class time. Additionally, students are expected to work off-line as if it were homework assignments. It is always the student's responsibility to notify instructors of any absence due to illness or any other reason.

### **NETIQUETTE POLICY**

This is a professional educational environment, and your emails should so reflect. Consequently, you should remember to type your first and last name at the close of every email so I know whom I am replying to.

When posting on the Discussion Board in your online class, you should:

- Make posts that are on topic and within the scope of the course material
- Take your posts seriously and review and edit your posts before sending
- Be as brief as possible while still making a thorough comment
- Always give proper credit when referencing or quoting another source
- Be sure to read all messages in a thread before replying
- Don't repeat someone else's post without adding something of your own to it
- Avoid short, generic replies such as, "I agree." You should include why you agree or add to the previous point
- Always be respectful of others' opinions even when they differ from your own
- When you disagree with someone, you should express your differing opinion in a respectful non-critical way
- Do not make personal or insulting remarks
- Be open-minded

### **METHOD OF EVALUATION:** *(Methods used to evaluate student performance).*

Evaluation of the student's success will be measured through a variety of graded assignments consisting of examinations, written work product, visual understanding assignments, discussions, practicums and class attendance/participation. Using this range of assessment will give me a fair evaluation of student performance in the course.

Evaluation of the student's success will be measured through examinations, class attendance, and participation and assignment management. Using this range of assessment will give me a fair

evaluation of student performance in the course. There is no grading curve, nor are there any expectations as to the number of A's, B's, C's, *etc.* are given in a particular class. Therefore you are not competing against others in the class. This means you will receive whatever grade you earn based upon the quality of your work, however excellent or poor that quality is. I believe every student is capable of earning a good grade in this course if they are willing to make the necessary commitment of tire and effort. I encourage you to be optimistic about your potential grade, however, at the same time you have realistic expectations given the level of commitment you are willing to devote to the class. I make every effort to be a fair and objective grader. I will never penalize you because you have a difference of opinion with me, as long as you support your opinion with well-reasoned arguments and evidence, which you believe, supports your opinion.

A final letter grade will be given based on the following criteria:

POINTS	LETTER GRADE
90%	A
80%	B
70%	C
69%	D
59% and below	F

**DO NOT CALL FOR YOUR GRADE!**

I **will not** give any information regarding grades over the telephone. Please do not call the office or my home.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:**

Colby Community College defines academic integrity as learning that leads to the development of knowledge and/or skills without any form of cheating or plagiarism. This learning requires respect for Colby's institutional values of quality, service and integrity. All Colby Community College students, faculty, staff, and administrators are responsible for upholding academic integrity.

**Cheating** is giving, receiving, or using unauthorized help on individual and group academic exercises such as papers, quizzes, tests, and presentations through any delivery system in any learning environment. This includes impersonating another student, sharing content without authorization, fabricating data, and altering academic documents, including records, with or without the use of personal and college electronic devices.

**Plagiarism** is representing or turning in someone else's work without proper citation of the source. This includes unacknowledged paraphrase, quotation, or complete use of someone else's work in any form. It also includes citing work that is not used and taking credit for a group project without contributing to it.

The following procedure will be used for students who violate the policy for the Academic Integrity Policy begins with the notification of the first infraction and continues throughout the student's tenure at Colby Community College:

- **First Offense** – Student will receive a zero for the assignment and the student will be reported to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.
- **Second Offense** – The student will receive a failing grade in the class and be reported to the Vice President of Academic Affairs and removed from the class in which the offense occurred.
- **Third Offense** – The student will be reported to the Vice President of Academic Affairs and dismissed from the college.

Any questions about this policy may be referred to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

### **ASSESSMENT:**

Colby Community College assesses student learning at several levels: general education, program, and course. The goal of these assessment activities is to improve student learning. As a student in this course, you will participate in various assessment activities. An example of your work, a paper, some test questions, a presentation, or other work may be selected for assessment. This process will not affect your grade, will not require you do additional work and your evaluation will be confidentially handled. Results of these activities will be used to improve teaching and learning at Colby Community College.

### **SYLLABUS INFORMATION DISCLAIMER**

I reserve the right to change any information contained in this document, when necessary, with adequate notice given to the student. Notice shall be given in the online classroom announcement or discussion board. No other notice is required. It is the students' responsibility to stay current with any changes, modifications, adjustments or amendments that are made to this document. Students should adhere to the attendance, cell phone, assignment, test and grading policies in the course syllabus.

### **TECH SUPPORT INFORMATION**

Canvas Support Hotline : 855-691-5024

You can access Canvas Support information by selecting the help button on the left hand menu.

Colby Community College Support

<http://support@colbycc.edu>

### **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

According to the Americans Disabilities Act, it is the responsibility of each student with a disability to notify the college of his/her disability and to request accommodation. If a member of the class has a documented learning disability or a physical disability and is requesting special accommodations, he/she should contact disability services at <http://disability@colbycc.edu>.

### **NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Colby Community College provides equality of opportunity to its applicants for admission, enrolled students, graduates, and employees. The College does not discriminate with respect to hiring, continuation of employment, promotion, tenure, other employment practices, application

for admission or career services and placement on the basis of race, color, gender, age, disability, national origin or ancestry, sexual orientation or religion. For inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies, contact the Vice President of Students Affairs, Title IX and ADA Coordinator, Colby Community College, 1255 S. Range Ave., Colby, KS 67701 (785) 460-5490).

## **ACCREDITATION**

Higher Learning Commission  
230 S. LaSalle St., Suite 7-500  
Chicago, IS 60604-1411  
(800) 621-7440 FAX (312) 263-4162  
[www.ncahlc.org](http://www.ncahlc.org)

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