

Intro to Sociology Syllabus

SOC1101 - Spring 2021

Course Information

- **Course times and location:** No required schedule meetings; all instruction occurs in Carmen each week.
- **Credit hours:** 3
- **Mode of delivery:** Distance Learning

Instructor

- **Name:** Erick Axxe
- **Email:** axxe.1@osu.edu
- **Office location:** [Zoom Room](#)
- **Office hours:** Mondays from 3-5 pm (Eastern) and Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 am (Eastern)
- **Preferred means of communication:**
 - My preferred method of communication for questions is through the **Course Q & A on Carmen**. For inquiries that are specific to you, please send me an **email**.
 - My class-wide communications will be sent through the Announcements tool in CarmenCanvas. Please check your [notification preferences](#) (go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) to be sure you receive these messages.

Course Description

Sociology is a scientific field interested in understanding and predicting the interactions among individuals, groups, and/or institutions. This course will serve as a foundation to the field – introducing students to its major theories, topics, analytic methods, and sources of data. Given the wide spectrum of knowledge which entails the field, this course is unable to introduce students to every aspect of Sociology. Instead, this course focuses on introducing students to the sociological perspective, as well as a variety of resources through which students can further delve into sociological ways of thinking.

This course is entirely asynchronous – there are no set times for meeting. During the semester, students are expected to contribute to a weekly discussion board, complete weekly quizzes, and complete one end-of-term writing assignment. Periodic synchronous Q-and-A's will be offered, and recordings of those sessions will be made available on Carmen.



Based on training I've received in online teaching and discussions I've had with colleagues, I have decided to limit the time you spend watching lectures that I record. Instead, each week I include a short video (15-30 minutes) in which I introduce the content, justify why I have you interact with certain content, and explain any concepts that are either hard to understand or that I think the content does a bad job of addressing. In replacement of those lectures, I include videos from professional content producers, interviews with varying sociological experts, podcasts, or other readings. Given that I do not lecture over all the content you will be interacting with, I ask that you please contact me if you are having trouble with any of the material.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Be able to understand the essence of sociological questions, understand major sociological paradigms, and frame their own sociological questions;
- Be critical consumers of sociological knowledge – with familiarity of different sources of sociological information, how to access those sources, and how to interpret the information provided by those sources;
- Be able to think sociologically as it relates to one's individual circumstances and larger society;
- Develop abilities to comprehend and assess individual and social values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

General Education Expected Learning Outcomes

As part of the Social Science category of the General Education curriculum, this course is designed to prepare students to be able to do the following:

ORGANIZATIONS AND POLITIES

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of organizations and politics.
2. Students understand the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts.
3. Students comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and politics and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

SOCIAL DIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES

1. Students describe and evaluate the roles of such categories as race, gender and sexuality, disability, class, ethnicity, and religion in the pluralistic institutions and cultures of the United States.
2. Students recognize the role of social diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values regarding appreciation, tolerance, and equality of others.

This course fulfills these learning outcomes by introducing students to several analytical lenses and a variety of empirical data on the above topics.

How This Online Course Works

Mode of delivery: This course is 100% online. There are **no** required sessions when you must be logged in to Carmen at a scheduled time.

Pace of online activities: This course is divided into **weekly modules** that are released at least one week ahead of time. Students are expected to keep pace with weekly deadlines but may schedule their efforts freely within that time frame.

Credit hours and work expectations: This is a 3 credit-hour course. According to [Ohio State bylaws on instruction](http://go.osu.edu/credithours) (go.osu.edu/credithours), students should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a grade of C average.

Attendance and participation requirements: Research shows regular participation is one of the highest predictors of success. With that in mind, I have the following expectations for everyone's participation:

- **Participating in online activities for attendance: at least once per week**
You are expected to log in to the course in Carmen every week. During most weeks you will probably log in many times. If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with me *as soon as possible*.
- **Zoom meetings and office hours: optional**
All live, scheduled events for the course, including my office hours, are optional. I will post recordings of synchronous sessions for those who cannot attend.
- **Participating in discussion forums: one or more times per week**
As part of your participation, each week you can expect to post at least once as part of our substantive class discussion on the week's topics.

For advice on taking courses online, see these resources:

- <https://blog.foster.uw.edu/online-class-tips/>
- <https://www.northeastern.edu/graduate/blog/time-management-tips-online-students/>
- <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/tips-studying-online-and-home-university-students>

Course Materials, Fees and Technologies

Required Materials and/or Technologies

- [A Sociology Experiment](#)
 - **DO NOT PURCHASE THE ENTIRE TEXTBOOK!** Chapters will be assigned one-by-one. The cost is \$1 per chapter. The chapters to be purchased will be announced beforehand.
- [Introduction to Sociology 2e](#)
 - Textbook is free to download through the above link.

Recommended/Optional Materials and/or Technologies

- *Style: The Basics of Clarity and Grace* by Joseph M. Williams
 - [An old version is available free online as a PDF.](#) Newer versions are available through Ohio State's library.

Other Useful Resources

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify me if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable me to provide any resources that I may possess.

- **Local housing shelters and women's shelters:** [Research](#), in fact, indicates that a number of low-income college students face homelessness or transient/insecure housing accommodations. Having a number or address to suggest could be helpful. [Affordable Colleges Online's website](#) provides statistics about college homelessness as well a ways to locate local services.
- **Buckeye Food Alliance:** [The Buckeye Food Alliance](#) is a non-profit, on-campus food pantry for OSU students. They are located in Lincoln Tower, Suite 150 and open selected hours in the week and by appointment.
- **Career Closet:** The [Career Closet](#) is open to students in need of professional attire and clothing. All items are free and dressing rooms are available for students to size clothing.
- **Zotero:** [Zotero](#) is a free citation management software.
- **OneNote:** I recommend all students use a note-taking software. There are many, but I can recommend [OneNote](#) as a good option.
- **Blue light filtering glasses:** Taking courses online requires you to look at screens for unhealthy amounts of time. I bought a pair of blue light filtering glasses years ago and I cannot recommend them more.
- **Grammarly:** [Grammarly](#) is a free software that automatically checks and suggests fixes to grammatical errors.

Grading and Faculty Response

How Your Grade is Calculated

Assignment Category	Percent of Grade
Weekly quizzes	60%
Weekly discussion board participation	20%
Op-ed	20%

See [Course Schedule](#) for due dates.

Descriptions of Major Course Assignments

Weekly Quizzes

Description: At the end of each week's module, you will be required to complete a short quiz to test your comprehension of the material. Quizzes will generally be due on *Saturdays at 11:59 pm*.

Academic integrity and collaboration: You must complete weekly quizzes yourself, without collaborating with your peers. You may use your notes and the resources made available through the course to answer the quizzes.

Weekly Discussion Board Posts

Description: Each week, you will be asked to respond to a discussion post on Carmen. The topics will vary, from reflecting on a task assigned during the course, to providing the instructor background knowledge you have of the week's topic. You will **not** be required to reply to your peers' posts, but discussion is encouraged. Posts are graded based on participation.

Academic integrity and collaboration: Your written assignments, including discussion posts, should be your own original work. In formal assignments, you should follow ASA style to cite the ideas and words of your research sources.

Op-Ed

Description: You will be required to write an Op-Ed in preparation for submission to a newspaper, online journal, blog, etc. Submission to an outlet is **not** required but encouraged. Further instructions will be disseminated later in the semester.

Academic integrity and collaboration: Your written assignments should be your own original work. In formal assignments, you should follow ASA style to cite the ideas and words of your research sources. You are encouraged to ask a trusted person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in but no one else should revise or rewrite your work. In general, you are prohibited in university courses from turning in work from a past class to your current class, even if you modify it. If you want to build on past research or revisit a topic you have explored in previous courses, please discuss the situation with me.

Late Assignments

Please refer to Carmen for due dates. Due dates are set to help you stay on pace and to allow timely feedback that will help you complete subsequent assignments.

Due to the collaborative nature of discussion posts, I am unable to grade posts submitted after the final weekly deadline for this assignment type.

Unexcused, late assignments will receive a maximum of 85% of the original grade. Assignments will not be accepted a week after the original deadline.

Instructor Feedback and Response Time

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. Remember that you can call [614-688-4357 \(HELP\)](tel:614-688-4357) at any time if you have a technical problem.

- **Preferred contact method:** If you have a question, please contact me first through our course's **discussion board Q & A**. If your question has not been addressed in the discussion board or if your question is specific to your particular situation, please email my Ohio State email address (axxe.1@osu.edu). I will reply to emails within **48 hours on days when class is in session at the university**.
- **Class announcements:** I will send all important class-wide messages through the Announcements tool in CarmenCanvas. Please check [your notification preferences](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) (go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) to ensure you receive these messages.
- **Discussion board:** I will check the discussion boards once per week. Depending on the information I request from the post, I will either incorporate your responses into that week's lecture or read through them to check for comprehension of the material. Discussion posts are graded as complete or incomplete.

- **Grading and feedback:** For assignments submitted before the due date, I will try to provide feedback and grades within **seven days**. Assignments submitted after the due date may have reduced feedback, and grades may take longer to be posted.

Grading Scale

93–100: A

90–92.9: A-

87–89.9: B+

83–86.9: B

80–82.9: B-

77–79.9: C+

73–76.9: C

70–72.9: C-

67–69.9: D+

60–66.9: D

Below 60: E



Course Schedule (Refer to the Carmen for up-to-date due dates.)

Week	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Due Dates
1 (1/11 – 1/15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to the Course and Sociology • Foundations of Social Science
2 (1/19 – 1/22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Sociological Research is Conducted • Contemporary Sociological Research
3 (1/25 – 1/29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Structure and the Individual • Socialization
4 (2/1 – 2/5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture • Groups and Organizations
5 (2/8 – 2/12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Class, Inequality, and Poverty
6 (2/15 – 2/19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender, Sex, and Sexuality
7 (2/22 – 3/5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race and Ethnicity
8 (3/8 – 3/12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Religion
9 (3/15 – 3/19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family and Marriage • Economy and Work
10 (3/22 – 3/26)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Medicine • Media and Technology
11 (3/29 – 4/2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urbanization and Environment • Globalization, Migration, and Population Studies
12 (4/5 – 4/9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Change and Movements • Deviance and Criminology
13 (4/12 – 4/16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging and the Life Course • To be chosen based off student interests
14 (4/19 – 4/22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Op-ed assignment (due 4/24 at 11:59 pm)



Other Course Policies

Discussion and Communication Guidelines

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style:** While there is no need to participate in class discussions as if you were writing a research paper, you should remember to write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. A more conversational tone is fine for non-academic topics.
- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across online. I will provide specific guidance for discussions on controversial or personal topics.
- **Citing your sources:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the title and page numbers. For online sources, include a link.
- **Backing up your work:** Consider composing your academic posts in a word processor, where you can save your work, and then copying into the Carmen discussion.
- **Synchronous sessions:** I will periodically offer synchronous Q-and-A sessions. Students are encouraged to review the class material before or during that time so that they may contact me with any questions. If students call in via Zoom, they are encouraged to display their full name and, if possible, a picture of themselves. The sessions will be recorded and uploaded to Zoom.
- **Absences:** If during the semester you are unable to meet assignment deadlines, students are required to inform me as soon as possible. For the most part, weekly assignments will be made available Sunday nights and are due the following Saturday night. I rarely check my emails on Saturday, so students should make every effort to contact me for extensions before the day assignments are due.

Academic Integrity Policy

See [Descriptions of Major Course Assignments](#) for specific guidelines about collaboration and academic integrity in the context of this online class.

Ohio State's Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the university's [Code of Student Conduct](http://studentconduct.osu.edu) (studentconduct.osu.edu), and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in

the university's *Code of Student Conduct* and this syllabus may constitute "Academic Misconduct."

The Ohio State University's *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the university's *Code of Student Conduct* is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the *Code of Student Conduct* and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by university rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the university's Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- [Committee on Academic Misconduct](http://go.osu.edu/coam) (go.osu.edu/coam)
- [Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity](http://go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions) (go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions)
- [Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity](http://go.osu.edu/cardinal-rules) (go.osu.edu/cardinal-rules)

Copyright for Instructional Materials

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a community to reflect diversity and to improve opportunities for all. All Buckeyes have the right to be free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy (childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities,

academic programs, admission, and employment. Members of the university community also have the right to be free from all forms of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation.

To report harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation and/or seek confidential and non-confidential resources and supportive measures, contact the Office of Institutional Equity:

1. Online reporting form at equity.osu.edu,
2. Call 614-247-5838 or TTY 614-688-8605,
3. Or email equity@osu.edu

The university is committed to stopping sexual misconduct, preventing its recurrence, eliminating any hostile environment, and remedying its discriminatory effects. All university employees have reporting responsibilities to the Office of Institutional Equity to ensure the university can take appropriate action:

- All university employees, except those exempted by legal privilege of confidentiality or expressly identified as a confidential reporter, have an obligation to report incidents of sexual assault immediately.
- The following employees have an obligation to report all other forms of sexual misconduct as soon as practicable but at most within five workdays of becoming aware of such information: 1. Any human resource professional (HRP); 2. Anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students, or volunteers; 3. Chair/director; and 4. Faculty member.

Your Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. No matter where you are engaged in distance learning, The Ohio State University's Student Life Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) is here to support you. If you find yourself feeling isolated, anxious or overwhelmed, [on-demand mental health resources](https://go.osu.edu/ccsondemand) (go.osu.edu/ccsondemand) are available. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at [614- 292-5766](tel:614-292-5766). **24-hour emergency help** is available through the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline website](https://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org) (suicidepreventionlifeline.org) or by calling [1-800-273-8255\(TALK\)](tel:1-800-273-8255). [The Ohio State Wellness app](https://go.osu.edu/wellnessapp) (go.osu.edu/wellnessapp) is also a great resource.

Required Equipment

- **Computer:** current Mac (MacOS) or PC (Windows 10) with high-speed internet connection
- **Webcam:** built-in or external webcam, fully installed and tested
- **Microphone:** built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone
- **Other:** a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) to use for BuckeyePass authentication

If you do not have access to the technology you need to succeed in this class, review options for technology and internet access at go.osu.edu/student-tech-access. Please let me know if technology is unavailable to you.

Required Software

Microsoft Office 365: All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365. Visit the [installing Office 365](https://go.osu.edu/office365help) (go.osu.edu/office365help) help article for full instructions.

CarmenCanvas Access

You will need to use [BuckeyePass](https://buckeyepass.osu.edu) (buckeyepass.osu.edu) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you do each of the following:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the [BuckeyePass - Adding a Device](https://go.osu.edu/add-device) (go.osu.edu/add-device) help article for step-by-step instructions.
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- [Install the Duo Mobile application](https://go.osu.edu/install-duo) (go.osu.edu/install-duo) on all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service.

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at [614-688-4357 \(HELP\)](tel:614-688-4357) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

Technology Skills Needed for This Course

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- [Navigating CarmenCanvas](https://go.osu.edu/canvasstudent) (go.osu.edu/canvasstudent)
- [CarmenZoom virtual meetings](https://go.osu.edu/zoom-meetings) (go.osu.edu/zoom-meetings)

Technology Support

For help with your password, university email, CarmenCanvas, or any other technology issues, questions or requests, contact the IT Service Desk, which offers 24-hour support, seven days a week.

- **Self Service and Chat:** go.osu.edu/it
- **Phone:** [614-688-4357 \(HELP\)](tel:614-688-4357)
- **Email:** servicedesk@osu.edu

Accessibility Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Requesting Accommodations

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions, **please let me know immediately** so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with [Student Life Disability Services \(SLDS\)](#). After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university's request process, managed by Student Life Disability Services.

Disability Services Contact Information

- Phone: [614-292-3307](tel:614-292-3307)
- Website: slds.osu.edu
- Email: slds@osu.edu
- In person: [Baker Hall 098, 113 W. 12th Avenue](#)

Accessibility of Course Technology

This online course requires use of CarmenCanvas (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations as early as possible.

- [CarmenCanvas accessibility](http://go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility) (go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility)
- Streaming audio and video
- [CarmenZoom accessibility](http://go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility) (go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility)

Covid Related Procedures

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university's [request process](#), managed by Student Life Disability Services. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical

conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue