

**Foundations of Sociological Analysis**  
**Sociology 200**  
**Fall 2018**  
**Tuesday and Thursday 12:40 - 2:05PM**  
**Room: Wimberly 211**  
**Professor: Dr. Peter Marina**

**Office:** 437K Wimberly Hall

**Phone:** 608-785-6770

**Office hours:** Monday 12-1pm; or by appointment

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**Teaching Assistant:** TBA

**Course Description**

Designed for sociology majors, this course focuses on: (1) learning to think sociologically, including deeper comprehension of core sociological perspectives and concepts; (2) understanding the scientific methods in sociology; (3) the formulation of sociological research questions; (4) the resources and skills needed to effectively write a critical literature review; and (5) professionalization including how to build a curriculum vitae/resume, careers in sociology, presenting at professional conferences, and applying to graduate school. Sociology majors should take this course as soon as possible after completing SOC 110, as the skills taught in this course will benefit students in their upper division sociology courses.

*Prerequisite:* SOC 110. Open to sociology majors only. Offered annually.

**Course Objectives**

The course objectives follow below:

- ◆ Demonstrate a basic understanding of core sociological concepts including the central theoretical perspectives and methodologies that shape and guide sociological analyses;
- ◆ Understand the importance of utilizing your critical thinking skills and sociological imagination in the classroom and in everyday life;
- ◆ Recognize the impact of social location (i.e. race/ethnicity, gender identity/gender expression, sexuality, religion, disability status, etc.) on the way individuals see, understand, and experience the world around them;
- ◆ Distinguish between social facts and social myths using empirical evidence grounded in the scientific method;
- ◆ Formulate a sociological research question and compose an effective literature review;
- ◆ Be able to construct a resume and/or curriculum vitae;
- ◆ Identify the process for applying to graduate school;
- ◆ Identify ways to make yourself marketable for future careers;
- ◆ Identify the process for presenting student research at professional meetings

**Required Books:**

Belcher, Wendy. 2009. *Writing your Journal Article in 12 Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success*.

*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, Eighth Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing)  
University of Chicago Press; Eighth Edition (March 28, 2013)

### Recommended Readings:

Mills, C. Wright. [1959] 2000. *The Sociological Imagination*.

American Sociological Association. 2010. *American Sociological Association Style Guide, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.*

Washington, DC: American Sociological Association. \*NOTE: The department recommends that you purchase this text from the bookstore or online at:

<http://asa.enoah.com/Bookstore/ReferenceMaterials/tabid/13632/BKctl/ViewDetails/SKU/ASAOE701S10/Default.aspx> \*- The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, which contains the majority of the same information, is available in pdf form on the course D2L page.

### Outside Readings

Outside readings from scholarly books and articles may be included to compliment and elaborate on critical concepts offered in the main textbook and class discussions. Additional readings will also be available through the D2L course page.

### Weekly Agenda

All students must participate in weekly class discussions on class readings and assignments. It is important to read all class readings and assignments prior to class lectures and discussions. We will also have discussions in class on both academic topics as well topics related to professionalization within the discipline of sociology.

### Course Requirements, Evaluation, and Grading:

400 total possible points:

Requirements	Points
Literature Review (11/20)	50 points
Midterm Exam (10/18)	100 points
5 Mini-Assignments (See course Outline)	50 points
Research Proposal (Due 12/14)	150 points
Participation	50 points
<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS</b>	<b>400 POINTS</b>

Grade	Total Points
A	372-400
AB	356-371
B	332-355
BC	316-331
C	280-315
D	240-279
F	239 or less

#### Literature Review (50 points)

Students will complete a literature leading the way towards the completion of their research proposal.

This literature review is part of the final research proposal. Exact guidelines for the literature review will be discussed in class.

#### Midterm Exam (100 points)

There will be one exam this semester that will offer a variety of components including multiple choice, short answer, and essay.

#### Five Mini-Assignments (50 Points)

Students will complete five two-page paper assignments on the following topics: (I) Reflection Paper (designed to provide an opportunity to practice writing and critical thinking skills, to stimulate class discussion, and to help apply lessons learned in class to life experiences to develop a sociological imagination); (II) Short Essay: The Sociological Imagination; (III) Applying Theory to Research; (IV)

Interview with a Sociology Major; (V) Thoughts on the Future. Details for these assignments will be discussed in class. All papers should be 2 typed, double spaced pages using 12-pt. font and 1" margins.

### Research Proposal (150 Points)

The major assignment this semester is a research proposal. While this task may at first seem daunting, it is an assignment that students will work on exclusively for over half the semester, including individual meetings with me and participation in a workshop in which students will work with their peers to edit and finalize papers. Further, students will be expected to give an oral presentation of their literature reviews at the end of the semester. Students will write a ten-page research proposal that involves the following sections: (1) Introduction- Explains the research topic, statement of the problem, key definitions and significance of the investigation, (2) Literature Review- Shows what we already know about the topic and where the research question fits within the existing literature, (3) Methods Section- Explains the proposed process of collecting and analyzing data, (4) Theoretical Overview- Explains the theoretical lenses best to situate the research, and (5) Questions and/or hypotheses- Offers proposed explanations before the methodology of a project is conducted, but after provided the opportunity to develop background knowledge (found in the literature review). This section will also include possible or expected findings from the research and the possible implications and importance of such findings.

### Participation (50 points)

Attendance is imperative to do well in this course. Discussion is a critical component; 50 points of the final grade will be based on class attendance and participation. It is the student's responsibility to obtain any information missed as a result of an absence or lateness. To get credit for participation students must pay attention in class, respond to questions, and contribute to group and class discussions.

**Make-up Policy:** Students with an approved written excused absence may be allowed to take make-up exams but cannot make up in-class writing assignments.

### **Other Course Requirements**

Attendance: It is important to attend class. Excess lateness and absence may result in grade reduction.

Reading Assignments: Read all required class literature prior on the date assigned. Class lectures and discussions are primarily designed around the scholarly literature assigned for the class.

Writing Assignments: All class writing assignments must have a 12-size regular font and double spaced paragraphs with your name, title, date, and page numbers.

Participation: Participate in class discussion and lectures through active listening, questions, comments, and so on.

### **Class Structure**

The course structure involves lectures and discussions primarily related to the scholarly literature, current debates, controversial issues, and current events relevant to sociology. Students may be selected on certain weeks to present course material or debate in class. At times during lectures, a modified version of the Socratic method is used to stimulate critical thinking.

**Class Schedule:** (Subject to Modification)

\*Note: Classes listed in italics represent proposed *Professionalization in Sociology* days.

**Week One: Introduction to Sociological Foundations**

9/4: Introduction to Sociological Foundations

9/6: An Invitation to Sociology

**Week Two: Understanding the Sociological Imagination**

9/11: What is the Sociological Imagination?

9/13: The Sociological Imagination: Personal Troubles vs Structural Issues; Agency vs. Structure

**Week Three: Research Proposal and Literature Review**

9/18: Planning for the Research Proposal and Literature Review - Guidelines

\*9/20: *Professionalization*: Faculty Panel Discussion on Research and Teaching

\***Assignment I:** Reflection Paper (Due 9/21)

**Week Four: Three Broad Perspectives of Sociology**

9/25: Three Broad Perspectives of Sociology

9/27: Structure of Research Proposal, Research Questions, and Literature Reviews

\* **General Topic for Research Proposal** (Due 9/27)

\***Assignment II:** Applying the Sociological Imagination (Due 9/27)

**Week Five: Major Classical Sociology Theorists**

10/2: Marx and Weber

10/4: Durkheim and Simmel

\***Assignment III:** Applying Theory to Research (Due 10/5)

**Week Six: Practical Information for Budding Sociologists**

10/9: How to Utilize Library Resources – **Class Meets at the Library**

10/11: *Professionalization: Panel Discussion with Sociology Majors to Discuss Careers, Internships, Graduate School, and Research*

**Week Seven: Starting the Research Proposal**

10/16: Developing a topic and research question; Structure of Research Proposal; Exam Review

10/18: **Midterm Exam**

**Week Eight: The Literature Review**

10/23: Conducting and Writing the Literature Review- Types of scholarly literature

\*10/25: Careers/Grants/Internships in Sociology

\***Assignment IV Due:** Interview with a Sociology Major (Due 10/23)

**Week Nine: Research Methods**

10/30: Types of research Methods

11/1: Ethnography

**Week Ten: Individual Meetings with Students**

11/6: Individual Meetings with Students

11/8: Individual Meetings with Students

**Week Eleven: Presenting the Literature/Opening and Concluding the Research Proposal**

11/13: Class Workshop: Research Question, Literature Review, and Proposal

11/15: Mini-presentations of Literature Review

Other possible topics:

*Professionalization: Building a Curriculum Vitae/Resume and Presenting Research at Professional Conferences*

*Professionalization: How to Apply to Graduate School*

**\*Due: Literature Review:** First Draft (Due 11/15)

**Week Twelve: Presenting Research at Professional Conferences**

\*11/20: *Professionalization: How to Apply to Graduate School and What is it Like?/Types of Academic Conferences and Presenting Research at Professional Conferences*

11/22: Thanksgiving (no class)

**\*Due: Literature Review:** Final Draft (Due 11/20)

**Week Thirteen: Presentations of Research Proposals**

11/27: Finalization of Research Proposals

11/29: Presentations of Research Proposals

**\*Assignment V Due:** Thoughts on the Future (Due 11/27)

**Week Fourteen: Presentations of Research Proposals**

12/4: Presentations of Research Proposals

12/6: Presentations of Research Proposals

**Week Fifteen: Final Presentation/Conclusion**

12/11: Presentations of Research Proposals/ Semester Wrap-Up and Unanswered Questions

**\* Research Proposal Due** (December 14 before midnight)

**Final Exam:** Friday, December 14, 4:45-6:45 p.m.

**Enjoy Winter break!**

## **Other UWL Syllabus Related Policies**

### ***Academic Misconduct (Cheating and Plagiarism)***

Academic misconduct is a violation of the ASA code of ethics and the student honor code (<http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/academicpolicies/studentconduct/>). Plagiarism, including inadequate referencing or citation of other research is unacceptable. All work handed in for this class must be the students' own individual work. Plagiarism or cheating in any form may result in failure of the assignment or exam, failure of the course, and may include harsher sanctions. Academic misconduct is unacceptable. All work handed in for this class must be the students' own individual work. Plagiarism or cheating in any form may result in failure of the assignment or exam, failure of the course, and may include harsher sanctions. Refer to the Eagle Eye at <http://www.uwlax.edu/Student-Life/Student-handbook/#14.01> for a detailed definition of academic misconduct. For helpful information on how to avoid plagiarism, go to <http://www.uwlax.edu/catl/readiness/ethics.html>. You may also visit the Student Life Office if you have questions about plagiarism or cheating incidents. I encourage you to discuss any concerns regarding plagiarism or cheating with me directly and well before any assignments are handed in. Failure to understand what constitutes plagiarism or cheating is not a valid excuse for engaging in academic misconduct.

### ***Communication about Class Interruptions***

In the event of a campus incident that impacts the availability of teaching spaces, any changes or cancellations will be communicated to you via your university email. Depending on the incident, some or all of the information might be posted on the UWL home page.

### ***Writing Center***

The Writing Center, which is located in the Murphy Learning Center, provides trained peer tutors who can help you with any writing task (e.g., papers, proposals, research projects, summaries, reports, letters, application essays) at any stage of the process — understanding assignments, planning papers, organizing ideas, making revisions, improving sentences, using sources, etc. For current hours or to schedule an appointment, visit <http://www.uwlax.edu/writingcenter/>

### ***Sociology as a Writing-in-the-Major Program***

The Sociology major is a “writing-in-the-major” program (WIMP). The purpose behind the program is to insure that any undergraduate who completes a major in sociology has experienced sufficient informal and formal writing experiences so that graduates are proficient at communicating through a variety of formats. In all your sociology courses, you will be writing, and in each class, you may be asked to do a wide variety of types of writing. The department sees writing as an extremely important skill and as a mechanism to enhance student learning. In addition, you will learn the referencing and citation style used by archaeologists or sociologists. By completing the Sociology major, you will be completing the “writing emphasis” component of your general education requirements. The objectives of the writing-in-the-major program are available at <http://www.uwlax.edu/wimp/>. The student learning outcomes for Sociology major at UWL is available on the department webpage at <http://www.uwlax.edu/sociology/> .

### ***Classroom Protocol***

Coming to class late or leaving class early is disruptive and disrespectful. I expect students to be on time and ready for class. I expect that students will take care of personal needs such as getting a drink of water, going to the bathroom, etc. before or after class and not come and go while class is in session. On occasion, students must leave during a class, if you have to leave a class early, please let me know at the beginning of class and make a quiet exit. It is not necessary to inform me that you will not be attending a

class unless arrangements need to be made to make up an assignment for that day.

All electronic devices should be silenced during class and put away. Phone calls, texting, email, internet use, MP3 players/iPod use, etc. are not acceptable within a classroom setting. Students who intentionally use prohibited electronics during class will be required to leave the classroom. Students who disrupt the classroom or other students' learning experience by talking or carrying on side conversations within the classroom will also be required to leave the classroom.

Assignments, papers, and exams must be completed and handed in on the appointed dates. I will not accept late assignments unless I determine the circumstances to be beyond the student's control. The instructor determines the acceptability of student absences. Students with authorized absences will be allowed to make up exams or papers within a reasonable time-period. Students who are going to be absent for more than 3 days should contact the Student Life Office at 149 Graff Main Hall, 785-8062 and notify them of your absence so that the university and all instructors are informed of your absence (they do not authorize absences).

### **Eagle Alert System**

This class will be participating in the Eagle Alert System <https://www.uwlax.edu/academic-advising-center/eagle-alert/student-resources/> through WINGS. The system is designed to promote student success. If I notice that you are experiencing difficulties early in the semester (e.g., low assignment scores or limited participation), I may note this information and you will receive an email indicating that I have entered feedback. I may also enter positive feedback encouraging you to consider additional learning opportunities. The link in the email will take you to WINGS where you can login to see the feedback. I encourage you to meet with me and/or refer to the helpful campus resources listed below under Academic Services and Resources and on UWL's Student Success page <https://www.uwlax.edu/info/student-success/>.

### **Inclusive Excellence**

UWL's core values include "Diversity, equity, and the inclusion and engagement of all people in a safe campus climate that embraces and respects the innumerable different perspectives found within an increasingly integrated and culturally diverse global community"

(<https://www.uwlax.edu/chancellor/mission/>). If you are not experiencing my class in this manner, please come talk to me about your experiences so I can try to adjust the course if possible.

### **Name/Pronouns**

Please advise me of your preferred name or gender pronoun(s) early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Information on UWL's preferred name policy is available here <https://www.uwlax.edu/records/preferred-name/> and UWL's Pride Center is available for additional assistance.

### **Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI)**

UWL conducts student evaluations electronically. Approximately 2 weeks prior to the conclusion of a course, you will receive an email at your UWL email address directing you to complete an evaluation for each of your courses. In-class time will be provided for students to complete the evaluation in class. Electronic reminders will be sent if you do not complete the evaluation. The evaluation will include numerical ratings and, depending on the department, may provide options for comments. The university takes student feedback very seriously and the information gathered from student evaluations is more valuable when a larger percentage of students complete the evaluation. Please be especially mindful to complete the surveys.

## **Academic Services and Resources at UWL**

Below are several student services available to students taking online courses:

- Academic Advising Center: <http://www.uwlax.edu/advising/>
- ACCESS Center (formerly Disability Resources): <http://www.uwlax.edu/access-center/>
- Career Services: <http://www.uwlax.edu/careerservices/>
- Counseling and Testing Center: <http://www.uwlax.edu/counseling/>
- Financial Information: Financial Aid Office <https://www.uwlax.edu/finaid/> and It Makes Cents <https://www.uwlax.edu/it-makes-cents/>
- Murphy Learning Center (Walk-in tutoring): <http://www.uwlax.edu/murphy-learning-center/>
- Murphy Library: <http://www.uwlax.edu/murphylibrary/>
- Multicultural Student Services: <http://www.uwlax.edu/mss/>
- Public Speaking Center: <https://www.uwlax.edu/murphy-learning-center/subject/public-speaking-center/>
- Records and Registration: <http://www.uwlax.edu/records/>
- Student Handbook: <https://www.uwlax.edu/student-life/student-resources/student-handbook/>
- Student Support Services: <https://www.uwlax.edu/student-support-services/>
- Veteran Services: <http://www.uwlax.edu/veteran-services/>
- Writing Center: <http://www.uwlax.edu/writingcenter/>

## **Technical Support**

For tips and information about D2L visit the Information Technology Services (ITS) student support page, at <http://www.uwlax.edu/D2L/Help-for-students/>.

Need help making sure your computer is set up correctly for online coursework? D2L's System Check <https://community.desire2learn.com/d2l/systemCheck> ensures that your computer and web browser are configured to properly access their system.

You can also contact the ITS Support Center at (608) 785-8774 or email them at [helpdesk@uwlax.edu](mailto:helpdesk@uwlax.edu) for questions about D2L or any other technological difficulties. The hours for ITS are Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 6:30 pm, and Friday from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, Central Time.

## **Our Legal Obligations to You**

See the following link of statements that reflect UWL's legal obligations to students:

<https://www.uwlax.edu/info/syllabus/>