This course is designed to introduce students to the discipline of sociology. The course will review and discuss sociological concepts, theories, and research. First, the course will look at the role of sociology as a tool for examining the social world. Secondly, the course will introduce major theorists, perspectives, and research problems in sociology. Finally, the course will review major theoretical approaches e.g., macro and micro methodologies to critically analyze social problems.

**Required Readings:**

Conley, Dalton: *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist*
Venkatesh, Sudhir: *Gang Leader for a Day: A Rogue Sociologist Takes to the Streets*
New York Times: *Class Matters*
Goodwin, J. and Jasper, J.: *The Contexts Reader*

**Course Requirements:**

1. Come prepared to discuss the assigned readings and offer constructive/critical comments on the course materials.
2. There will be two required papers (7-8 pages). The topic will be assigned by the instructor. These two papers will make up 70 percent of your final grade.
3. Students will write a weekly response essay from a designated readings in the *Contexts Reader* (The assigned readings are denoted with an *). Your response should assess the strengths and/or weaknesses of the author’s argument. These will be due at the beginning of class each Friday and we will discuss your reactions during class time. The response essays should be between 250-400 words. These assignments will make up 30 percent of your final grade.

Week 1) Introduction
Feb 7: Conley, chapter 1

Week 2) Culture and Media
Feb 14: Conley, chapter 3
*Sternheimer “Hollywood Doesn’t Threaten Family Values” (blackboard)*

Week 3) Socialization and Social Norms
Feb 21: Conley, chapter 4
*Contexts, chapter 5*

Week 4) Stratification
Feb 28: Conley, chapter 14 (skim chapter 15)
*Contexts, chapter 24*
Week 5) Social Mobility
March 7: Class Matters, chapters 2-6
*William Beaver “A Matter of Degrees” (blackboard)

Week 6) Embedded Inequalities
March 14: Class Matters, chapters 7,8, 9, 12 & 14
*Contexts, chapter 29

Week 7) Forces and Consequences of Globalization
March 21: Contexts, chapters 60 and 61
**Paper Due: Mar 16**

March 28: Spring Break

Week 8) Gender and Family
April 4: Conley chapters 7 & 12
*E. Armstrong “Is Hooking Up Bad for Young Women” (blackboard)

Week 9) Race and Stratification
April 11: Conley chapter 13
*Contexts, chapter 40

Week 10) Social Control and Deviance
April 18: Conley chapter 6
*Contexts, chapter 51

Week 11) “Two Societies”
April 25: Venkatesh chapters 1-4
*D. Tomaskovic-Devey “Explaining and Eliminating Racial Profiling” (blackboard)

Week 13) Sociology in the Trenches
May 2: Venkatesh chapters 5-8
*Contexts, chapter 62

Week 14) Collective Action and Social Change
May 9: Conley, chapter 18

Paper # 2: DUE DATE TBA

*The instructor reserves the right to amend/revise the syllabus at his discretion.

**Honor Code:** This course will follow the policies described in the Oberlin College Honor Code and Honor System. Please contact me if you have any questions about citation, or the relationship of the Honor Code to your work in this course. For more information on the Honor Code, see [http://www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html](http://www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html).