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*
Olin Wright, E. and Rogers, J.: *American Society: How it Really Works*
Hartmann, D. and Uggen, C.: *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 (8-10 pages). The topic will be assigned by the instructor. These two papers will make up 80 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 250-350 words. These assignments will make up 20 percent of your final grade.

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**Week 1) Introduction**

**Week 2) The Sociological Tradition**
Feb 13: D. Conley, *You May Ask Yourself*, chapter 1
*Contexts Reader, chapter 4*
| Week 3) Socialization and Social Networks | Feb 20: D. Conley, *You May Ask Yourself*, chapter 4  
* G. Alan Fine & N. Difonzo “Uncertain Knowledge” (blackboard) |
*Contexts Reader*, chapter 12 |
| Week 5) Patterns of Social Inequality | March 5: *American Society: How it Really Works*, section 2 pp. 183-335  
*Contexts*, chapter 26 |
*Contexts*, chapter 20 |
| Week 7) Culture and Media | March 19: D. Conley, *You May Ask Yourself*, chapter 3  
*K. Sternheimer, “Hollywood: Does it Threaten Family Values” (on blackboard)  
Paper #1 Due Date: March 19 @ 3:00PM |
| March 26: Spring Break | |
| Week 8) Gender and Family | April 2: D. Conley, chapters 7 & 12  
*Contexts*, chapter 30 |
| Week 9) Race in America | April 9: D. Conley, chapter 13  
*Contexts*, chapter 35 |
| Week 10) Social Control and Deviance | April 16: Conley chapter 6  
*Contexts*, chapter 54 |
| Week 11) Separate and Unequal | April 23: S. Venkatesh, *Gang Leader for a Day*, chapters 1-4  
*Contexts*, chapter 32 |
| Week 13) Sociology in the Trenches | April 30: Venkatesh, *Gang Leader for a Day*, chapters 5-8  
*M. Rank, “Rethinking American Poverty” (blackboard) |
| Week 14) Collective Action and Social Change | May 7: Conley, chapter 18  
*E. Olin Wright, “Real Utopias” (blackboard) |

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).

**Use of Technology in the Classroom:**

Access to the Internet can be a valuable aid to the classroom learning environment. Students may use laptops, smart phones, and other devices in order to explore concepts related to course discussions and topics. Students are discouraged from using technology in ways that distract from the learning community (e.g. Facebook, texting, work for other classes, etc.) and if found doing so, will be asked to leave the classroom for the day and will not get credit for attendance that class period. Students must respect the classroom environment. In class, all cell phones should be turned off. Unless specifically directed by the instructor, students shall refrain from sending email and instant messages, or from engaging in other activities (reading non-course materials, engaging in private conversations and so on) that disrespect the classroom environment and learning conditions for others.