

# SYLLABUS

## Introduction Sociology

**Lecturer:** Tom Chiang Jr.

**Spring 2021**

**Class Hours:** M,W 11:00 am-12:15 am

**Class Location:** Remote with Meeting Time

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Email:** [chiang@rowan.edu](mailto:chiang@rowan.edu)

### Course Description:

This course analyzes the characteristics of social organization and focuses on the study of social relationships and interaction. It examines the social basis of behavior patterns, the nature of social problems and the possibilities for social change. (Required for Sociology majors)

### Texts:

Kendall, Diana. 2020. *Sociology in Our Times*: 12th edition. Cengage Learning.

### Grading:

The grades for this course will be determined as follows:

#### *Weekly Class Participation*

**Discussion Leadership Posts      20%**

#### *Reflection Papers*

**Theory meets Application      25%**

#### *Exam*

**Final Exam      55%**

\*Extra Credit will be given on Final Exam

### Weekly Class Participation

#### Discussion Leadership Posts

In order to facilitate class discussions, you are required to write a summary of assigned readings/

activities on the discussion board of Canvas. Your summary should be extremely concise (**about 2-3 sentences**) and **focus on the major analytical concepts of the assignment**. In addition to your concise summary of the assigned readings, you should include **2-3 discussion questions for the class based on the assigned readings.**

Furthermore, students should post a thoughtful response to at least one student's questions on the discussion forum. Your final grade for discussion posting is the cumulative score of the quality postings you make during the semester.

To receive an **A**, you must complete a minimum of **10 weekly** postings

To receive a **B**, you must complete a minimum of **8 weekly** postings

To receive a **C**, you must complete a minimum of **6 weekly** postings

To receive a **D**, you must complete a minimum if **4 weekly** postings

Any fewer than 4 weekly postings will result in a failing grade for class participation.

*Please note:*

You want to make sure that your summary includes the following sections:

Topic: In **2-3 sentences**, state what this reading is about.

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- **Concepts:** Identify 2-3 new concepts and or sociological terms. Explain what each concept means.
- **Learning:** What is the most interesting thing you learned from this reading? What is that knowledge/understanding important?
- **Discussion Questions:** What are questions would you raise for the class to discuss?

### **Weekly Reflection Papers**

#### Theory meets Application (minimum of 10)

In order to encourage your own understanding and your personal narratives, you are required to write a summary of assigned readings before the beginning of each week (before class on Tuesday). Your summary should be extremely concise (about **1-2 paragraphs**) and focus on the major analytical concepts of the assignment. In addition to your concise summary of the assigned

readings, you should include a reflective component: (a) 2-3 questions based on the assigned readings **or** (b) using your *own experiences*, strengths and weaknesses of the readings (e.g.: explaining why they are helpful, uninformative, or simply wrong) (about **1-2 paragraphs**).

You want to make sure that your summary includes the following sections:

- **Topic:** In 2-3 sentences, state what this reading is about.
- **Concepts:** Identify 2-3 new concepts and or sociological terms. Explain what each concept means.
- **Personal Experiences:** What are the strength and weaknesses of this reading? Why is that knowledge helpful, uninformative, or simply wrong?

Summaries handed in after 9:15 pm do not qualify for credit.

### Reflective Component (Part II)

Many students find starter phrases useful when producing a piece of writing. Below is list of phrases that you can use in reflective writing to help you to write about your experience.

- Personally, I feel that I benefited the most from...
- At the time of reading, I felt that...
- Initially, I did not realize the benefit of X concept
- This experience has taught me that...
- Having explored this issue further, the literature seems to highlight the importance of X concept, *but* in my experience ...

### **Final Exam**

This written take home final exam will cover topics that were discussed throughout the course. There will be four (4) questions out of seven (7) questions you can choose to answer. Some questions are in the form of short answers (*2-4 sentences*), multiple choice, and paragraph long (*3-5 sentences*). This exam is going to cover material from the whole class.

### **SCHEDULE**

#### **STUDYING SOCIETY AND SOCIAL LIFE**

*Week 1*

*1/25*

Introduction

*Week 2*

1/27

**Topic:** The Sociological Perspective

**Readings:** Chapter 1

*Week 3*

2/2

**Topic:** Culture

**Readings:** Chapter 2

*Week 4*

2/8

**Topic:** Socialization

**Readings:** Chapter 3

*Week 5*

2/15

**Topic:** Research Methods

**Readings:** Chapter 1

## **SOCIAL GROUPS AND SOCIAL CONTROL**

*Week 6*

2/22

**Topic:** Social Structure and Interaction in Everyday Life

**Readings:** Chapter 4

*Week 7*

3/1

**Topic:** Groups and Organizations

**Readings:** Chapter 5

*Week 8*

3/8

**Topic:** Deviance and Crime

**Readings:** Chapter 6

## **SOCIAL INEQUITY**

*Week 9*

3/15

**Topic:** Class and Stratification in the United States

**Readings:** Chapter 7

*Week 10*

3/22

**Topic:** Race and Ethnicity

**Readings:** Chapter 9

*Week 11*

3/29

**Topic:** Sex, Gender, and Sexuality

**Readings:** Chapter 10

## **SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

*Week 12*

*4/5*

**Topic:** Education

**Readings:** Chapter 12

## **SOCIAL CHANGE**

*Week 13*

*4/12*

**Topic:** Families & Relationships

**Readings:** Chapter 16

*Week 14*

*4/19*

**Topic:** *Guest Lecture TBD/ Conclusion*

## Academic Integrity

Academic Misconduct: Academic Misconduct includes the alteration of grades; involvement in the acquisition or distribution of unadministered tests; and the unauthorized submission of student work in more than one class.

Cheating: Cheating is an act of deception by which a person misrepresents his or her mastery of material on a test or other academic exercise.

Fabrication: Fabrication refers to the deliberate use of invented information or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism occurs when a person represents someone else's words, ideas, phrases, sentences, or data as one's own work. When submitting work that includes someone else's words, ideas, syntax, data or organizational patterns, the source of that information must be acknowledged through complete, accurate and specific references. All verbatim statements must be acknowledged through quotation marks and properly cited. To avoid a charge of plagiarism, a person must be sure to include an acknowledgment of indebtedness, such as a list of works cited or bibliography.

Please see here for the full policy: <https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Academic+Integrity+Policy>

## Academic Accommodations

Your academic success is important. If you have a documented disability that may have an impact upon your work in this class, please contact me. Students must provide documentation of their disability to the Rowan Academic Success Center in order to receive official University services and accommodations. The Academic Success Center can be reached at 856-256-4234. The Center is located on the 3rd floor of Savitz Hall. The staff is available to answer questions regarding accommodations or assist you in your pursuit of accommodations as per the Rowan Accommodation Policy. We look forward to working with you to meet your learning goals.

Please see here for the full policy: <https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Accommodation+Policy>

Please see here for Academic Accommodations: <https://sites.rowan.edu/disabilityresources/index.html>

## Attendance Policy

Students are responsible for all assignments, due dates, completion of exams or other assessments, and all other assigned class work as stated in the syllabus or provided in instructions by the instructor. Late or missing assignments are subject to the course policies as stated in the syllabus. Instructors are encouraged to work with students with extenuating circumstances so that they can achieve successful completion.

Students eligible to receive services and accommodations from the Office of Disability Resources should provide each of their instructors with a copy of their accommodation letter. Accommodations are available for mental health conditions and on a temporary basis.

Depending on the HyFlex or virtual learning format of a class, absences may take the form of failure to join scheduled synchronous remote class sessions, failure to participate in remote class activities, whether synchronous or asynchronous, or failure to meet deadlines for submission of assignments. Student attendance at virtual sessions should be indicated by engagement which could include (but is not limited to) having a webcam on, responding verbally or in a chat box, submitting a response following the class, or other indicator, with recognition of varying technology and needs among students.

Disruptions of any kind relating to the COVID-19 crisis will be recognized as circumstances for which absences are excused and students should contact the instructor and/or the Dean of Students for accommodations and assistance. This may include illness or need for self-isolation among other circumstances such as ill family members. Documentation may be requested by the Dean of Students but will not be required by instructors.

Please see here for the full policy: <https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Attendance+Policy>

## Classroom Behavior Policies

It is a violation of Rowan University policy if a student is found responsible for “engaging in disruptive activity which substantially disrupts or poses a tenable threat of disrupting teaching, research, administration, disciplinary procedures, public service functions, or other University-authorized activities, or which substantially interferes with the rights of others, on University premises...” (Rowan University Student Code of Conduct). Students (as well as faculty and staff) are required to wear face coverings at all times while in public. This includes, but is not limited to, building interiors (with the exception of offices where privacy can be maintained), classrooms, common areas of residential facilities, and wherever physical/social distancing is not possible.



Under current regulations, guidelines, protocols and Human Resources/Student Code of Conduct policies, students, faculty, and staff are required to wear appropriate face coverings (as defined by designated University officials) while in buildings, classrooms, attending large gatherings/ events, and/or when posted for University operated or controlled functions. The requirement is the direct result of a matter of public health, and is intended to reduced health-related risks to those with whom you might come in contact (intentionally or unintentionally) regardless of perspectives on your personal risks associated with not wearing a mask in designated areas. Individuals who disrupt classes and/or other University functions due to refusal to wear a mask will be referred to designated University officials. Refusal to wear a mask as required may result in removal from a course and suspension from the University. Students who are in need of accommodations related to face coverings should contact the Academic Success Center for assistance. Students will not be allowed to attend class without an appropriate face covering (as defined by designated University officials) unless they have a specific accommodation letter from the Academic Success Center. The protocol associated with face coverings is subject to change with limited notice. If requirements associated with face coverings change, the campus community will receive proper notification.

Please see here for the full policy: <https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Classroom+Behavior>

### Other Academic Policies

<https://confluence.rowan.edu/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=39946518>

### General University Resources

- [Return to Rowan](#)
- [Division of DEI and Rowan University Diversity Statement](#)
- [Student Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Reporting Form](#)
- [Student Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#)
- [Dean of Students Office/Seeking Assistance](#)
- [Rowan Thrive](#)
- [ProfCents Affordability Resources](#)
- [Student Success Programs and Writing Center](#)
- [Wellness Center/Counseling & Psychological Services](#)
- [Rowan Success Network](#)