

## STS 221 - INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

### SYLLABUS

Section	CRN	Days	Times	Meeting Location
004	15166	TR	10:00 AM - 11:20 AM	TIERNAN Lecture Hall 108
006	15167	MW	10:00 AM - 11:20 AM	FMH 110

**Instructor: Dr. Gareth A Edel**, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, SCLA, NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Email: edel@njit.edu/ garethedel@gmail.com My Office Location: Cullimore Hall Rm 317

Non-urgent messages via Office phone, Campus ext.: 5616 /(973) 596-5616. Urgent /Emergencies text/call: (646) 479-3236

### Course Description[1]

"This course is designed to introduce students to research methods used in the human and social sciences. The course will advance a framework, a process, and compositional approaches to help students become proficient in research design, practice, and writing. The course will examine three sociological methods: quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods. The course will also examine selected ethical and political issues associated with the role of research methods in the production of knowledge and expertise."

### Course Objectives

"In this course, students will demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of:

- The sociological perspective
- How the basic concepts and theoretical orientations of sociology apply to daily life
- One's social contexts and the larger society in which they are embedded
- Social inequalities and their impact on citizens today"

### KEY THEMES & IDEAS:

- The Sociological Imagination and The Study of Sociology (Discipline and Academic Field)
- Inequality, Identity, and Social Identification
- Institutions and Social structure

### COURSE READINGS:

**ALL READINGS WILL BE PROVIDED AS DIGITAL FILES ON CANVAS-** Most of the weekly readings are from one Textbook:

- Corrigan-Brown (2020) *Imagining Sociology – An Introduction With Readings 2<sup>nd</sup>* Oxford University Press. Oxford UK.

### OFFICE HOURS:

Dr. Edel will generally be available at a Zoom meeting as well as in person at Cullimore 317, during drop in office hours, it will be paused/muted when students do come to 'in person' meetings. FOR IN PERSON MEETINGS YOU MUST BE MASKED AT ALL TIMES IN THE OFFICE. Dr. Edel is available to speak about any course, student, material related issues without an appointment at the following "Drop-In" Times.

DROP IN OPEN OFFICE: Monday 12:30-2:20pm, Wednesday (12:30-3:50pm in general)

Zoom or 'In-Person' office appointments are available on request at other times, including evenings and on Wednesdays when no department meetings or issues prevent meeting.

Additional Appointments may be available Tuesday 3-5 by Appointment, or on Friday Meetings when available only on zoom

Professor Edel- OFFICE HOURS ZOOM INVITE (recurring meeting)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85793660316?pwd=MGdabjBDSDJ3Njdsak9GQVdhNWxQT09Links to an external site.](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85793660316?pwd=MGdabjBDSDJ3Njdsak9GQVdhNWxQT09Links%20to%20an%20external%20site.)

Meeting ID: 857 9366 0316

Passcode: 876742

One tap mobile +16469313860,,85793660316#,,,,\*876742# US

Dial by your location +1 646 931 3860 US

Meeting ID: 857 9366 0316

Passcode: 876742

Regarding Office Hours- I strongly recommend speaking to me in office hours about any trouble as soon as possible; you can ask for assistance or clarification of course material or course concepts and workload. Students are often given too little advising and explanation or orientation in starting their college experience, and faculty are willing to help, Please ask if you have any questions or issues. If I or another faculty member you speak to does not know the answers, we will usually be able to direct you to someone who can help. I want to assist you in doing well and getting the most out of your education and your time on campus.

### Policies

#### University Policy on Academic Integrity

“Academic integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating (which includes plagiarism) is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.

Please note that it is the instructor’s professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at [dos@njit.edu](mailto:dos@njit.edu).”

### **Accessibility**

“This class is intended to be fully available to students regardless of health or disability status (whether mental or physical). If you need reasonable accommodations to complete the course because of a disability, you can reach out to the course instructor or to the office of accessibility resources and services.” Students in need of accommodations or with disabilities - I don’t strictly require students to conform to official policy, any student who requests extra time on exams, or a reasonable accommodation of their needs to perform or be comfortable in class, I will attempt to assist or meet your needs. To be accommodated seek to express your needs to the professor as early in the process as possible and be open about any limits or preferences that may need to be considered in your performance in class. Officially and Additionally- Any student requiring accommodations due to one or more disabilities should also make sure to contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (Kupfrian Hall 201, Email at [DSS@NJIT](mailto:DSS@NJIT)) both for themselves and to support the maintenance of good policies for other students who need support. Students who are ESL or Learning Disabled should inform the professor and will be allowed to negotiate appropriate modification to course expectations.

### **Instructional methods**

This course is taught as a seminar, students will be expected to do close reading and writing outside of class, and then come to class for a brief lecture and quizzes, following those the course will be discussion based. Some classes will include small group discussions and student presentation to the whole class.

### **Communication with Instructor:**

It is your responsibility to communicate with the instructor about absences, lateness and assignment expectations, you should ask for assistance and support when needed. Contact the professor about any issues in office hours, at class times, or send any questions about the course or material to the professor’s CANVAS email. You may also email directly at [gmail/njit.edu](mailto:gmail/njit.edu), but for quick replies communication should be via Canvas. Canvas emails will usually be replied to within 48 hours by the professor.

### **Course Environment**

“This course should be a safe space: in the classroom, in one-on-one discussions with the instructor, and in online spaces for this course. This means no hate speech (slurs or derogatory or demeaning comments) and no bullying. You are expected to treat your classmates respectfully and with kindness, generosity, and empathy. “

### **Assignment Submission**

“All assignments are to be submitted through Canvas unless other arrangements are made with the instructor. Files must be of type .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .txt unless otherwise instructed. Google Docs are NOT acceptable.

Should you encounter technical problems, contact the NJIT helpdesk at 973-596-2900 (or simply extension 2900 from campus locations). In the event that it is impossible to submit through Canvas, you must provide a paper version of the assignment that includes an explanation of why online submission was not possible. Emailed work is not an acceptable substitute.”

### **Late Submissions**

“All assignments are due at 11:59 PM on the assigned date unless otherwise indicated. This rule is not flexible.

I encourage you to complete and submit the assignment earlier in the day to avoid encountering any problems with this deadline.

Late assignments will be docked 15% per class meeting. If the assignment is more than three class meetings late, it will not be accepted. No work whatsoever will be accepted after [December 14<sup>th</sup>.]”

Limited lateness of work may be permitted in cases of illness or emergency, If you need a deadline extended or to be excused from an assignment you should ask ahead of the deadline, and request an extension, or provide explanation of emergency or exigent circumstances. If you are out of school sick you don’t need to prove it, you just need to be in touch, any illness that is so severe permission cannot be requested should be documented with the Dean’s office for official excused absence due to illness. Any missing work is penalized by the nature of not earning a grade, no further penalty is applied.

NOTE- NO ONE MAY select to take exams after the exam date listed, and you may only be allowed to take a make-up exam if the Dean’s office has accepted a documented explanation for absence, and provided that excused status to the Professor. The “Make-Up” Date for the Midterm is negotiable depending on issues, Final Exam Make-up will take place during the exam week slot assigned by the Registrar for the class.

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## **GRADING**

Discussion and participation

20%

<b>Reading response/Reflections</b>	21%	(Required 7 Responses submitted in the week of reading- 3% each)
<b>Weekly Reading Quizzes</b>	24%	(3pts each, Must complete 8 weeks of quizzes at full credit]
<b>Midterm Examination</b>	15%	October 27 (Thursday)
<b>Final Examination</b>	20%	December 13 (Tuesday)

Grading scale this course uses is as follows:

A= 100%-90%      B= 89%-80%      C=79% -70%      D=69%-55%      F=54% - 0%

Note: plus/minuses may be given for assignments, Final grades do not contain Minuses & will be rounded to letter grade or Plus per NJIT's policies.

#### Grade Component Descriptions:

**EXAMS-** Exams are cumulative up to the point of the exam, so midterm covers all lecture and readings up the date of the exam, and the final exam covers all material from the whole course. Exams will be a mixture of multiple choice, as well as long and short answer. It is a mix of informational questions (can you remember details) and Interpretive or conceptual questions (do you understand the material). Students should expect to hand write in class, and should speak to the professor about difficulties writing. Exams are closed book, closed note, and individual.

**QUIZZES-** The weekly quiz is based on the reading, questions are meant to allow students both a focus for attention in the chapter, as well as to document their successful absorption of the readings each week. Students are expected to complete quizzes in most weeks, but they may chose to skip about half of them (if all their completed quizzes are full credit). The quizzes will be long form, narrative answers, aimed at showing understanding. Students should expect to hand write in class, and should speak to the professor about difficulties writing. Quizzes are closed book, closed note, and individual.

**RESPONSES-** Each week students have the opportunity to write about whatever material in the readings they consider interesting, the grading mechanic is based on two factors "engagement" with the subject matter, and "Demonstration of Reading," simply that you have completed the reading for the week. There is no maximum length, but it is strongly advised to substantially complete your thinking on paper, and that regularly takes longer than a page.

All Reading Responses will be submitted on CANVAS in the appropriate folder.

**PARTICIPATION-** As Dr. Tyrol writes: "Participation is an important part of your course grade, and you will need to be routinely present and engaged in order to earn credit in class. Engaging in class will enhance your knowledge and understanding of and interest in the course content as well as your classmates'. Please always remember that if you have a question, someone else in the class probably does too. Asking questions benefits your classmates and instructor also, not just you. Attendance is not graded in this course." I will add, the basis of a seminar is what is called "dialogic" interaction, that is, you and the professor express understanding together to advance student's grasp of material. Ask questions, offer considered interpretations (not simply opinions we hope), and be a part of it. You will not only gain better understanding, but you will add to the understanding of other students.

**EXTRA CREDIT-** The course can allow students to be active in making decisions about the class, when to take quizzes, how to study, and which subjects to focus on. And the professor will work with students to be flexible, if they are proactive. You **MUST** request an opportunity for extra credit, and negotiate a specific plan and course point value, **PRIOR TO DOING IT**. The one exception being extra reading responses. Any Student may submit as many, or inadvisably as few, of the responses as they choose. Class Notes may be submitted at the end of the semester for 1-5 points if discussed ahead of time. Extra Credit Maximum 20 Pts over the course of the semester.

You are encouraged to turn in extra credit for addition to the grade, or to balance for difficulties you feel in participation. If you know you won't talk- then write. Two main forms of extra credit are additional weekly reading responses, and weekly presentations on theory, these will be discussed in class. Other forms of extra credit are available via discussion in office hours.

#### COURSE READINGS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS OUTLINE

**WEEK 1****SECTION 006**

January 17 (Wednesday) First Day of Classes INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASS & SYLLABUS REVIEW  
Lecture- Sociological Imagination & SOCIAL PHYSICS NO READING ASSIGNMENT QUIZ IN CLASS

**SECTION 004**

January 16 (Tuesday) First Day of Classes INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASS & SYLLABUS REVIEW  
January 18 (Thursday) Lecture- Sociological Imagination & SOCIAL PHYSICS NO READING ASSIGNMENT

**WEEK 2**

Ch 1 TOPIC: The Sociological Imagination Foci of Sociology- Inequality, Institutions, Social Change

**SECTION 006**

January 22 (Monday) Lecture READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 1 (p1-33) QUIZ IN CLASS  
January 24 (Wednesday) Discussion Section

**SECTION 004**

January 23 (Tuesday) Lecture READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 1 (p1-33) QUIZ IN CLASS  
January 25 (Thursday) Discussion Section

**WEEK 3**

Ch 2 TOPIC: Socialization: Becoming a Member of Society The Individual and Society, Social Roles

**SECTION 006**

January 29 (Monday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 2 QUIZ IN CLASS  
January 31 (Wednesday) Discussion Section

**SECTION 004**

January 30 (Tuesday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 2 QUIZ IN CLASS  
February 1 (Thursday) Discussion Section

**WEEK 4**

Ch 3 TOPIC: Deviance, Law, and Crime Difference, Deviance, Social Construction, Control

**SECTION 006**

February 5 (Monday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 3 QUIZ IN CLASS  
February 7 (Wednesday) Discussion Section

**SECTION 004**

February 6 (Tuesday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 3 QUIZ IN CLASS  
February 8 (Thursday) Discussion Section

**WEEK 5**

Ch 4 TOPIC Social Inequality and Social Class Power, Karl Marx, Class Consciousness, Poverty and Affluence

**SECTION 006**

February 12 (Monday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 4 QUIZ IN CLASS  
February 14 (Wednesday) Discussion Section

**SECTION 004**

February 13 (Tuesday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 4 QUIZ IN CLASS  
February 15 (Thursday) Discussion Section

**WEEK 6**

Ch 5 TOPIC: Race, Ethnicity, and Indigenous Peoples Type/Category and Normal, Immigration and culture, Discrimination

**SECTION 006**

February 19 (Monday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 5 QUIZ IN CLASS  
February 21 (Wednesday)

**SECTION 004**

February 20 (Tuesday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 5 QUIZ IN CLASS  
February 22 (Thursday) Discussion Section

**WEEK 7**

Ch 6 TOPIC: Gender at the Intersections Sex and Gender, Sexuality, Norms, feminism and Intersectionality

**SECTION 006**

February 26 (Monday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 6 QUIZ IN CLASS  
February 28 (Wednesday) Discussion Section

**SECTION 004**

February 27 (Tuesday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 6

QUIZ IN CLASS

March 1 (Thursday) Discussion Section

**WEEK 8**

Ch 7 TOPIC: The Media

Language, Corporate Concentration, Advertising, How we know

**SECTION 006**

March 5 (Monday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 6

QUIZ IN CLASS

March 7 (Wednesday) Discussion Section

**SECTION 004**

March 6 (Tuesday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 6

QUIZ IN CLASS

March 8 (Thursday) Discussion Section

**WEEK 9****NO CLASSES (Spring Break)****WEEK 10**

MIDTERM EXAM WEEK

(Skipping Chapter 8 in textbook)

**SECTION 006**

March 19 (Monday) REVIEW IN CLASS

March 21 (Wednesday) MIDTERM EXAMINATION IN CLASS

**SECTION 004**

March 20 (Tuesday) REVIEW IN CLASS

March 22 (Thursday) MIDTERM EXAMINATION IN CLASS

**WEEK 11**

Ch 9 TOPIC: Education

Learning, Legitimation, Schooled, Entrenching, Return to Socialization

**SECTION 006**

March 26 (Monday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 9

QUIZ IN CLASS

March 28 (Wednesday) Discussion Section

**SECTION 004**

March 27 (Tuesday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 9

QUIZ IN CLASS

March 29 (Thursday) Discussion Section

Note- April 1st is last day for No Penalty Course Withdrawl

**WEEK 12**

Ch 10 TOPIC: Work and Rationalization

Efficiency, Profit, Rationalization, Division of Labor , Management and Alienation

**SECTION 006**

April 2 (Monday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 10

QUIZ IN CLASS

April 4 (Wednesday) Discussion Section

**SECTION 004**

April 3 (Tuesday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 10

QUIZ IN CLASS

April 5 (Thursday) Discussion Section

**WEEK 13**

Ch 11 TOPIC: Health

Social Determinants of Health, Medicalization, Health Inequality, Disease and Disability

**SECTION 006**

April 9 (Monday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 11

QUIZ IN CLASS

April 11 (Wednesday) Discussion Section

**SECTION 004**

April 10 (Tuesday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 11

QUIZ IN CLASS

April 12 (Thursday) Discussion Section

**WEEK 14**

Ch 12 TOPIC: Globalization and Global Inequality

Modernization, Colonization, World Systems Theory, Transnationality

**SECTION 006**

April 15 (Monday) READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 12

QUIZ IN CLASS

April 17(Wednesday)      Discussion Section  
SECTION 004  
April 16 (Tuesday)      READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 12      QUIZ IN CLASS  
April 18(Thursday)      Discussion Section

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**WEEK 15**

Ch 14 TOPIC: Social Movements      Collective Action, Ideology, Social Ties and Identity  
SECTION 006  
April 15 (Monday)      READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 14      QUIZ IN CLASS  
April 17 (Wednesday)      Discussion Section  
SECTION 004  
April 16 (Tuesday)      READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 14      QUIZ IN CLASS  
April 18 (Thursday)      Discussion Section

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**WEEK 16**

TOPIC: SEMESTER REVIEW WEEK (No Additional Reading Due)  
SECTION 006  
April 22 (Monday) & April 24 (Wednesday) IN CLASS REVIEW  
SECTION 004  
April 23 (Tuesday) & April 25 (Thursday) IN CLASS REVIEW

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**WEEK 17**

SECTION 006 \*\* April 29th (Monday) LAST CLASS MEETING- IN CLASS EXAMINATION  
SECTION 004 \*\* April 30th (Tuesday) LAST CLASS MEETING- IN CLASS EXAMINATION (Last Semester Class Day)