

STS 221 - INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

SYLLABUS

COURSE SECTION

Section001 CRN 95460

TYPE OF COURSE: Face-to-Face

Credits: 3

TIME & LOCATION INFORMATION

Tuesday & Thursday (TR) 11:30 AM - 12:50 PM ROOM: CKB 317

FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION

GARETH A. F. EDEL, PhD. University Lecturer, Dept. Of Humanities and Social Sciences

Modes of Communication- Primary mode is **Course canvas Messaging**, as well as the Course **Discord** Channel, an invitation will be sent to all registered students on the first day of semester, course invite link will be updated on the Canvas every few weeks for late adopters, while it is recommended to participate it is officially optional. Office hours, or appointments take place at my office – Cullimore hall Room 317 (Knock so I can hear you arriving).

Additional mode is email: edel@njit.edu, or secondary garethedel@gmail.com

Dr. Edel will aim to reply to emails or canvas messages within 48 hours, usually quicker via Canvas than via email which may take longer. If you have an emergency, a real emergency, not a late homework or question about class that can wait, please feel able to Text or call Personal Phone: (646) 479-3236

Course Description

Official Catalogue Description- "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."

Professor's addition: Sociology is the study of our society, that means it is about how we and others live together and affect each other, this includes all the systems that we may participate in, the meaning and forms of our actions and thoughts. The study of sociology and the social sciences are not meant to be an entirely abstract discipline, you're goal is to literally understand the world in which you participate a bit better for having worked at understanding. Sociology teaches vital skills, including recognizing patterns and systems that are not individually based, and thus are *repeatedly* causes for people's individual experiences and the activities around us and for which we are responsible or judged. When we understand the system and society in which we must live we are better able to understand how to live our lives to achieve our chosen ends, and to understand larger scale phenomenon such as social problems (poverty, crime, disease) or Social policy (why laws? Why norms or rules? Why do we talk or act the way we do?).

The goal is to be less confused in a confusing world through the application of scientific method to reduce the confusion.

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* 2nd Oxford University Press. Oxford UK.

OFFICE HOURS:

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.

Dr. Edel will generally be available in Drop-In Hours both in his office for in person and digitally via a Zoom meeting, as well as in person **at Cullimore 317**, during drop in office hours you do not need an appointment to see the professor either in person or online. The Zoom will be paused/muted when students do come to 'in person' meetings if privacy is needed. FOR IN PERSON MEETINGS I REQUEST THAT YOU BE MASKED IN THE OFFICE, I do have masks you can put on.

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 (Times when I will be available on zoom/in office unless announced cancellation)**

Monday 2:40-3:40pm

Tuesday 1:30- 3:40

Thursday 1:30- 3:40

Additional Appointments: Monday- Thursday in person/zoom, or on Friday zoom only(Friday zooms often available 10am- 7pm)

Most weeks I will be available in office Wednesday afternoons 3-5pm for appointments, and I am available and usually in my office for appointments before my classes from 10:30 or 11am until 11:45.

OFFICE HOURS ZOOM:

Professor Edel- OFFICE HOURS ZOOM INVITE (recurring meeting)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85793660316?pwd=MGdabjBDSDJ3Njdsak9GQVdhNWWhxQT09>

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

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."

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) 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, 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 14th.]"

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.

GRADING

Discussion and participation	20%
Reading response/Reflections (Required 7 Responses submitted in the week of reading- 3% each)	21%
Weekly Reading Quizzes 3pts each, Must complete 8 weeks of quizzes at full credit]	24%
Midterm Examination	15%
Final Examination	20%

Grading scale this course uses is as follows:

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

Plus/minuses may be given for assignments, Final grades do not use Minuses, will be rounded to letter 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.

Students may read, take notes, and write responses to the final chapters which are not assigned (on Law, Social Movements) and earn up to 4 points per additional chapter. These may be done out of order, and should not be done at the end of the semester, the material from these chapters will likely enrich understanding but will not be directly present on exams.

COURSE READINGS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS OUTLINE

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 September (Monday No Classes) Tues 3rd to Thurs 5th

First Day of Classes INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASS & SYLLABUS REVIEW

Lecture- Sociological Imagination & SOCIAL PHYSICS NO READING ASSIGNMENT

QUIZ IN CLASS

WEEK 2 Tues 9/10 to Thurs 9/12

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

Lecture READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 1 (p1-33)

QUIZ IN CLASS

WEEK 3 TUES 9/17 to Thurs 9/19

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

READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 2

QUIZ IN CLASS

WEEK 4 TUES 9/24 to Thurs 9/26

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

READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 3 QUIZ IN CLASS

WEEK 5 Tues 9/31th to Thurs 10/3

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

READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 4 QUIZ IN CLASS

WEEK 6 TUES 10/8 to Thurs 10/10

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

READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 5 QUIZ IN CLASS

WEEK 7 Tues 10/15 to Thurs 10/17

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

READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 6 QUIZ IN CLASS

WEEK 8 Tues 10/22 to Thurs 10/24

MIDTERM EXAM WEEK

Tuesday 10/29= In Class Review

Thursday 10/31= In Class Exam (don't be late, you may come early, extra time may be available)

Midterm exam is cumulative of Lectures, and Chapters 1-7 of Corrigan-Brown Textbook

WEEK 9 Tues 10/29 to Thurs 10/31 (Friday Nov 1st)

Ch 7 TOPIC: The Media Language, Corporate Concentration, Advertising, How we know

READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 7 QUIZ IN CLASS

WEEK 10 Tues 11/5th to Thurs 11/7th

Ch 8- Family & intimate Relationships

Reading Due Corrigan-Brown Chapter 8

Quiz in class

WEEK 11 Tues 11/12th to Thurs 11/14

Ch 9 TOPIC: Education Learning, Legitimation, Schooled, Entraining, Return to Socialization

READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 9 QUIZ IN CLASS

WEEK 12 Tues 11/19 to Thurs 11/21

(NO CLASS MEETING THURSD NOV 21st- PROF AWAY AT CONFERENCE)

Ch 10 TOPIC: Work and Rationalization Efficiency, Profit, Rationalization, Division of Labor, Management and Alienation

READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 10 QUIZ IN CLASS

WEEK 13 Tues 11/26 to Thurs 11/28 (Sat Dec 1st)

No Thursday Class- Thanksgiving Break

Ch 11 TOPIC: Health Social Determinants of Health, Medicalization, Health Inequality, Disease and Disability

READING DUE: Corrigan-Brown CH 11 QUIZ IN CLASS

WEEK 14 Tues 12/3 to Thurs 12/5

Ch 12 TOPIC: Globalization and Global Inequality Modernization, Colonization, World Systems Theory, Transnationality

Corrigan-Brown CH 12 QUIZ IN CLASS

WEEK 15 TUES 12/10

FINAL EXAM WEEK

WE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE REGISTRAR SCHEDULED EXAM, That date will be used as an emergency date for students with dean of students approval to miss the final class day exam.

OUR COURSE FINAL EXAM IS IN OUR LAST CLASS MEETING: MONDAY DECEMBER 12th AT REGULAR CLASS TIME

The Final Exam is cumulative- Inclusive of all lectures, and all of the textbook content from Chapter 1-12.

The Final Exam will include multiple choice and long answer sections, the multiple choice will be done on computer/tablet while the professor proctors in the classroom, and the long answer section will be written by hand on paper in class.

Additional time may be available on request, starting early is available to all students and if context allows, some additional time may be added to the end of the exam session. The exam itself is designed to be completed in the usual allotted 1:20 min class time.

THE EXAM IS BEFORE THE FINAL SCHEDULED WEEK OF SEMESTER – Reading and Exam Days Mon 12/16 to Fri 12/20th

FALL 2024 CALENDER DATES

I generally include detailed calendar days in my syllabus for two reasons. First, because it is important that you're provided with the dates and able to predict and consider the effect these dates will have on workload and attendance. You are entitled to miss classes due to holidays, but you have to predict effect and make-up for missed work and class materials you miss. Being able to consider working ahead of an absence, plan for when there will be an issue- that is a basic and vital part of self-management. Second, students may benefit from a reminder about the complexity and diversity of the class and the world, whether you or I understand the full significance of each and every holiday, they are part of our world and part of the forces shaping the class.

Sept	2	Labor Day. University Closed			
Sept	3	First Day of Classes			
		Sep 6	Friday	Ganesh Chaturthi	Hindu Holiday
Sept	9	Last Day to Add/Drop a Class			
Sept	9	Last Day for 100% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal			
Sept	10	W Grades Posted for Course Withdrawals			
Sept	16	Last Day for 90% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal - No Refund for Partial Withdrawal after this date			
		Sep 16	Monday	The Prophet's Birthday (Tentative Date)	
				Milad un Nabi - September 16, 2024	
		Sep 16		Vishwakarma Puja	
		Sep 17		Onam	
		Sep 22	Sunday	Emancipation Day	
		Sep 22	Sunday	September Equinox	
		Sep 27	Friday	Native American Day/American Indian Heritage Day/Indian Day	
Sept	30	Last Day for 50% Refund, Full Withdrawal			
		Oct 02		Mahalaya Amavasya	
		Oct 3	Thursday	Navratri -Oct 11 Navaratri ends / Maha Navami	
		Oct 3	Thursday	Rosh Hashana	
		Oct 4	Friday	Feast of St Francis of Assisi	
		Oct 12	Saturday	Dussehra	Hindu Holiday
		Oct 12	Saturday	Yom Kippur	Jewish holiday
		Oct 12		Dussehra	
		Oct 14	Monday	Columbus Day/Native American Day/Indigenous People's Day/American Indian Heritage	
		Oct 16		Sharad Purnima	
		Oct 17	Thursday	First Day of Sukkot	Jewish holiday
		Oct 18	Friday	Alaska Day State Holiday	Alaska
Oct	21	Last Day for 25% Refund, Full Withdrawal			
		Oct 23	Wednesday	Last Day of Sukkot	
		Oct 24	Thursday	Shmini Atzeret	
		Oct 25	Friday	Simchat Torah	
		Oct 31	Thursday – Nov 1 st	Friday	Diwali/Deepavali
		Oct 31	Thursday	Halloween	
		Nov 1	Friday	All Saints' Day	
		Nov 2	Saturday	All Souls' Day	
		Nov 3	Sunday	New York City Marathon	Sporting event Causes traffic delays
		Nov 3	Sunday	Daylight Saving Time ends	Clock change/Daylight Saving Time
		Nov 5	Tuesday	Election Day (General Election)	
		Nov 11	Monday	Veterans Day	
		Nov 15		Kartik Poornima	
Nov	11	Last Day to Withdraw from Classes			
				PROF- AAA CONFERENCE	NOV 22-29
Nov	26	Thursday Classes Meet			
Nov	27	Friday Classes Meet			
Nov	28	Thanksgiving Recess Begins. No Classes			
		Nov 28	Thursday	Thanksgiving Day	
Dec	1	Thanksgiving Recess Ends			
		Dec 08, Sunday		Bodhi Day	
Dec	11	Last Day of Classes			
Dec	12	Reading Day 1			
		Dec 12	Thursday	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe	
Dec	13	Reading Day 2			
Dec	14	Saturday Classes Meet			
Dec	15	Final Exams Begin			
		Dec 15		Dhanu Sankranti	
Dec	21	Final Exams End			
		Dec 21	Saturday	Winter Solstice	
Dec	23	Final Grades Due			
		Dec 25	Wednesday	Christmas Day	Federal Holiday
		Dec 26	Thursday	Chanukah/Hanukkah (first day)	Jewish holiday
		Dec 26	Thursday	Kwanzaa (first day)	Observance