

**Community College of Philadelphia**  
Introduction to Sociology (The African American Experience)  
Sociology 101/950/19418  
Monday and Wednesday, 6:00 PM to 7:45 PM  
Winnet Student Life Building, Room S2-10  
Spring 2018  
***Syllabus***

**Instructor:** Lailah L. Dunbar, M. S., M. Ed.

**Office Hours:** Wednesday, 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm and by appointment

**Department Office:** Bonnell Building, BR-21

**Department Telephone:** 215-751-8771

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*"For Africa to me... is more than a glamorous fact. It is a historical truth. No man can know where he is going unless he knows exactly where he has been and exactly how he arrived at his present place."*

- Dr. Maya Angelou, poet, activist, master teacher

### **Course Description**

Sociology is the understanding of the social nature of humans and the social world in which they live. From an African-centered (Black) perspective, this course will analyze such topics as culture, socialization, social groups and social institutions, stratification, the family, gender relations, race and ethnicity, intersectionality, social deviance, social change and technology, the urban community, population and the environment. ***Fulfills Interpretive Studies, American/Global Diversity and Writing Intensive requirements.***

### **Required Text**

1. Giddens, A., Duneier, M., Appelbaum, R., & Carr, D. (2015). *Essentials of Sociology* (6th ed.). New York: W.W. Norton & Company.
2. Massey, G. (2015). *Readings for Sociology* (8th ed.). New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Describe how sociologists seek to understand the social world and human social behavior as contrasted with other disciplinary attempts to understand it.
- Describe the varieties of methodological approaches to sociological explanation.
- Explain what variables account for the maintenance of and change within social systems.
- Discuss how the individual becomes a functioning member of society.
- Discuss the explanatory models used by sociologists to understand and explain the nature of social deviance.
- Describe how sociologists understand and explain the nature and consequences of stratification systems in human societies in the context of social class, race, ethnicity, gender, age, and global inequality.
- Apply this understanding to the experiences of African-American/Black people, culture and society.

### **Course Requirements**

#### **Assignments**

You are expected to complete and upload assignments by the respective due date. For all assignments, you can expect to know your grade by completion of class on Thursdays. This will provide ample time for review and improvement.

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### **Incomplete and Late Assignments**

Incomplete and late assignments are highly discouraged. If you are having difficulty completing assignments, please contact me as soon as possible. If you have a medical emergency, you must produce a doctor's note.

### **Readings**

You are expected to complete all assigned readings **prior to arrival in class**. Reading the assignments will fulfill several goals: You will better understand the concepts being taught in the course; you will be able to contribute to more lively and engaging class discussions; and you will be able to remain current. ***Because discussions often extend through two class periods, the reading/discussion schedule will remain flexible.***

### **Sociological Checklists (30 points, 5 points each)**

You will be required to complete six (6) sociological checklists. The checklists' questions will be derived from the required readings. Checklists can be found on Canvas.

### **Reflections Papers (60 points, 10 points each)**

You will be required to complete six (6) reflection papers. The reflection paper will be a response to a question that is derived from required readings. Follow the attached rubric for instructions and grading criteria.

### **Attendance and Participation (10 points)**

Your attendance and participation grade is derived from two (2) sources: class attendance/participation and participation in discussion board conversations. Each class attendance/participation is worth one (1) point and each discussion board conversation is worth one (1) point. There will be twelve (12) face-to-face classes and six (6) discussions for a total of 18 chances to acquire 10 points. You are expected to attend all classes. Each day, you will be responsible for signing the attendance sheet. Your ability to participate in discussions is dependent upon your attendance. If you miss a class, you will be responsible for any and all information shared.

### **Extra Credit**

There will be **NO** extra credit assignments given.

### **Summary**

- There will be six (6) writing assignments. Each will be worth **10 points or 60%** of your grade.
- There will be six (6) sociological checklists. Each will be worth **5 points or 30%** of your grade.
- Attendance, class participation/discussions are worth **10 points or 10%** of your final grade.

**Sociological checklists**

**6 x 5 = 30 points (30%)**

**Reflection Papers**

**6 x 10 = 60 points (60%)**

**Attendance and class participation**

**10 points (10%)**

**Total = 100%**

### **Schedule**

WEEKS	DAYS	TOPICS	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
<b>Week 1</b>	March 12	Understanding Sociology & the African American Experience	Essentials: Chapter 1	Reaction Paper 1
	March 14		DuBois	Sociology Checklist 1

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				***Due on 03.18 at 11:59 pm
Week 2	March 19	American Identity: Race, Culture & Society	Essentials: Chapter 2 Azibo Diop Karenga	Reaction Paper 2 Sociology Checklist 2 ***Due on 03.25 at 11:59 pm
	March 21		Essentials: Chapter 3 Holloway	
Week 3	March 26	Stratification: Race, Class & Inequality	Essentials: Chapter 7 Wilson	Reaction Paper 3 Sociology Checklist 3 ***Due on 04.01 at 11:59 pm
	March 28		Essentials: Chapter 10 Wilson	
Week 4	April 2	Intersectionality: Race, Sex & Gender Roles	Essentials: Chapter 9 Hill-Collins Franklin Dorkenoo & Elworthy	Reaction Paper 4 Sociology Checklist 4 ***Due on 04.08 at 11:59 pm
	April 4		Essentials: Chapter 11 Stack Jones	
Week 5	April 9	Perpetual Divide: Race, Education & Health	Essentials: Chapter 12 Kozol	Reaction Paper 5 Sociology Checklist 5 ***Due on 04.15 at 11:59 pm
	April 11		Essentials: Chapter 13 Brant	
Week 6	April 16	Urbanization: Race, Justice & Housing	Essentials: Chapter 6 Anderson Alexander	Reaction Paper 6 Sociology Checklist 6 ***Due on 04.22 at 11:59 pm
	April 18		Essentials: Chapter 15 Zenk Pager	
Week 7	April 23	Final day of classes for Spring 2018 semester		
	April 25	Professional Development Day		

**WEEK 1: Understanding Sociology & the African American Experience**

This week, we will consider sociology as a tool for understanding African/Black life in the Americas. We will read WEB DuBois who is noted for being the first Black sociologist. In his essay from the classic text, *"The Souls of Black Folk,"* DuBois explores a concept called **double consciousness**. We will apply double consciousness to many aspects of African/Black life in America throughout the semester.

**Monday, March 12**

**Readings:** Reviewing the syllabus

**Wednesday, March 14**

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**Readings:**

- Essentials, Chapter 1
- Seeing Ourselves, *"The Souls of Black Folk,"* by WEB DuBois

**Readings:** Due by the beginning of assigned class

**Assignments:** Due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, March 18

Sociological Checklist 1

Reaction Paper 1

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**WEEK 2: American Identity: Race, Culture & Society**

This week, we will explore the difference between the European worldview and the African worldview in terms of framing the world and our experiences. We will begin to look at the world through a different lens. Within that framework, we will analyze, culture and society; consider the socialization process and think about the ways in which African/Black people have navigated identity within our society.

**Monday, March 19**

**Readings:**

- Essentials, Chapter 2
- The African American Studies Reader: "Articulating the Distinction between Black Studies and the Study of Blacks" by Daudi Azibo
- Diop's Two-Cradle Theory of African and European Worldview/Cultural Differences
- Intro to Black Studies, Chapter 1, by Maulana Karenga

**Wednesday, March 21**

**Readings:**

- Essentials, Chapter 3
- Africanisms in American Culture, "The Origins of African American Culture" by Joseph Holloway

**Readings:** Due by the beginning of assigned class.

**Assignments:** Due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, March 25

Sociological Checklist 2

Reaction Paper 2

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**WEEK 3: Stratification: Race, Class & Inequality**

This week, we will examine the dynamics of social stratification and inequality. Within this framework, we will reflect on the social construction of race, consider several definitions of racism; and examine the ways in which race and class intersect to create the experiences of African/Black people in America.

**Monday, March 26**

**Readings:**

- Essentials, Chapter 7

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- Seeing Ourselves, “When Work Disappears” by William Julius Wilson
- Readings for Sociology, “The Economic Plight of Inner-City Black Males” by William Julius Wilson

**Wednesday, March 28**

**Readings:**

- Essentials, Chapter 10
- White Privilege: “Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack,” by Peggy McIntosh.
- Rethinking the Color Line, “Kristen v. Aisha; Brad v. Rasheed: What’s in a Name and How It Affects Getting a Job” by Amy Braverman

**Readings:** Due by the beginning of assigned class.

**Assignments:** Due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, April 1

Sociological Checklist 3

Reaction Paper 3

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**WEEK 4: Intersectionality: Race, Sex & Gender Roles**

This week, we will explore the concept of intersectionality. When several forms of marginalization intersect, a more pervasive and insidious form of discrimination manifests. We will also examine gender roles, the ways in which gender roles have evolved, the relevance for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the effect of gender roles on the family dynamic, and the particular significance for African/Black people in America.

**Monday, April 2**

**Readings:**

- Essentials, Chapter 9
- Seeing Ourselves, “Controlling Images and Black Women’s Oppression” by Patricia Hill-Collins
- Black Feminist Thought, “The Social Construction of Black Feminist Thought” by Patricia Hill-Collins.  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/3174683.pdf>
- Black Male/Black Female Conflict: Individually Caused and Culturally Nurtured,” Clyde Franklin.  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2784005>
- Seeing Ourselves, “Female Genital Mutilation” by Efua Dorkenoo and Scilla Elworthy

**Wednesday, April 4**

**Readings:**

- Essentials, Chapter 11
- Readings for Sociology, “Domestic Networks,” by Carol B. Stack
- “Marriage is for White People,” by Joy Jones. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/25/AR2006032500029.html>

**Readings:** Due by the beginning of assigned class.

**Assignments:** Due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, April 8

Sociological Checklist 4

Reaction Paper 4

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*"The most difficult social problem in the matter of Negro health is the peculiar attitude of the nation toward the well-being of the race. There have . . . been few other cases in the history of civilized people where human suffering has been viewed with such peculiar indifference." – WEB DuBois*

**WEEK 5: Perpetual Divide: Race, Education & Health**

This week, we will examine the ways in which education and health are informed by the intersection of race, class and gender. We will consider the ways in which education has evolved as a social institution and reflect on its significance for the socialization of African/Black people.

**Monday, April 9**

**Readings:**

- Essentials, Chapter 12
- Seeing Ourselves, "Savage Inequalities: Children in U.S. Schools" by Jonathan Kozol

**Wednesday, April 11**

**Readings:**

- Essentials, Chapter 14
- Readings for Sociology, Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment" by Allan M. Brant
- Rethinking the Color Line, "Why Are There No Supermarkets in My Neighborhood?" by Shannon N. Zenk

**Readings:** Due by the beginning of assigned class.

**Assignments:** Due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, April 15

Sociological Checklist 5

Reaction Paper 5

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**WEEK 6: Urbanization: Race, Justice & Housing**

This week, we will explore the nature of crime and the ways in which race and class segregation inform deviance. We will examine the concepts redlining and gentrification to understand the ways in which policies and laws have created what is known as the "ghetto."

**Monday, April 16**

**Readings:**

- Essentials, Chapter 6
- Seeing Ourselves, "The Code of the Streets" by Elijah Anderson
- Rethinking the Color Line, "The New Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander

**Wednesday, April 18**

**Readings:**

- Essentials, Chapter 15
- Rethinking the Color Line, "The Mark of a Criminal Record" by Devah Pager

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**Readings:** Due by the beginning of assigned class.

**Assignments:** Due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, April 22

Sociological Checklist 6

Reaction Paper 6

**WEEK 7:** Professional Development Day (Potential Emergency Closing make-up day)

**Monday, April 23**  
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**SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

I am here to help you all succeed! Students who believe they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their accommodation letter and specific needs as soon as possible (preferably within the first week of class). If you need accommodations, but do not have an accommodation letter, please contact the Center on Disability, room BG-39, phone number 215-751-8050.

**Academic Code of Conduct:**

Any student suspected of breaking the Community College of Philadelphia's Student Handbook code of conduct including, but not limited to, academic dishonesty and disruptive conduct will be reported to the Dean of Students. Please familiarize yourself with the College wide policy:

<http://ccp.edu/college-catalog/college-policies-and-procedures/student-rights-and-responsibilities>

**A Stern Note about Plagiarism:** Failing to properly cite sources that you use for your assignments is a very serious matter. You must place quotation marks around anything that was not written by you, or if you paraphrase, you must give credit to the person who said it. This includes anything taken from the Internet. As a rule of thumb - if you use the copy and paste buttons on your computer at any point you need cite someone.

Presenting another person's writing as your own without proper citation is academic dishonesty and if caught, will result in a mandatory non-negotiable zero grade for the assignment you do this on, and you will be reported to the Dean of Students. You may also potentially receive an "F" grade for the class overall. If you are ever in doubt please email me for clarification **before** you submit your work.