

## **SOCIOLOGY 201: Introduction to Sociology (3 units)**

**Instructor: Elaine Leeder**

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**Fall 2016**

**General Education:** Satisfies D1 (Individual and Society) **Prerequisites:** None

### **Course Description**

This course aims to familiarize students with the basic concepts utilized in understanding society and the place that we, as individuals, fit in that society. To these ends we will study American society and social institutions, while learning to view both from a theoretical and critical sociological perspective. We will look at various aspects of social life, including our behavior in large and small groups, the place of the individual in social-historical perspective, the nature of socialization, deviance and the social-structural conditions of inequality as they are reflected in race, gender, class, sexual orientation and gender expression. Further, we will explore the field of social change and social movements as these forces try to influence the course that society takes.

### **Course Objectives**

1. To give students a working definition of sociology as a social science
2. To explore and define basic sociological concepts and terms
3. To develop a definition of the major schools of sociological thought: structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interaction
4. To develop a beginning critical perspective on the structure of our society
5. To begin to explore the bases of inequality in American society
6. To begin to develop a cross-cultural perspective to social problems
7. To begin to understand what the idea "The Sociological Imagination" means
8. To begin to look at various social institutions such as the family, prisons, and mental hospitals from a critical and sociological perspective

### **Required Readings**

Please see the course syllabus.