

Sociology 5: Evaluation of Evidence
Fall 2007 | University of California, Berkeley

Lecture | Tuesday and Thursday | 2-3:30 pm | 145 Dwinelle
Section 107 | Tuesday and Thursday | 8-9 am | 402 Barrows
Section 109 | Tuesday and Thursday | 10-11 am | 289 Dwinelle

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in 483 Barrows, or by appointment

Welcome to Sociology 5! You're taking it for the first and, I hope, only time; I'm teaching it for the first time. I hope this class will be a rewarding experience for you.

In my limited time as a teacher, I've found that clear expectations are fundamental to an effective and fair classroom experience.

Expectations of Me. As your GSI, you can expect me:

1. To help you better understand the course material in an intensive discussion section.
2. To encourage and challenge you to think critically about the course material.
3. To be available to answer your questions during office hours, and before and after section if need be.
4. To communicate with you between classes, if need be, via email with important information. (I'm setting up a listserv for each section; please make sure to configure your email settings so that the emails aren't sent to your spam boxes.)
5. To respect your contributions to class discussion and to grade your written work fairly.

Expectations of You. As a student in this class, I expect you:

1. Respect. To respect your classmates and me. We may discuss some sensitive issues in this class, and be mindful that others in class come from a variety of backgrounds and will likely possess different perspectives. But it's precisely this diversity that will enhance the learning experience for everyone.
2. Attendance. To do your best to attend each section, and to inform me in advance, if possible, if you're unable to attend section. You're likely to be tired sometimes, as will I; since we're meeting in the morning, bring coffee and food and do whatever it takes to stay awake and energized, particularly for those of you in the 8-9 am section. If you're absent one day, please make sure to check my website for updates and materials. Finally, class starts promptly at 10 minutes past the hour. Please try not to be late.

3. Participation. To come to section prepared to contribute actively to class discussion. The quality of your comments and questions is far more important than the quantity of them. Class participation was difficult for me when I was an undergraduate, but I found that seminars were far more beneficial once I began to contribute to class discussion. Professor Bloemraad provides questions on the course syllabus to help guide you through the readings, and I may do the same. Finally, your participation in section accounts for 10% of your final grade. If you're absent or late a number of times, you may lose some of your participation grade.
4. Office Hours. To stop by office hours if you have questions or need extra help. This is the best time to speak with me. If you're shy, feel free to stop by with a friend or two from class. Most weeks my office hours will be drop-in, but I may have a sign-up sheet for office hours immediately preceding a deadline for an assignment. Not surprisingly, students who stop by office hours every once in awhile, tend to do better in class, on average, than those who don't.
5. Assignments. To do your best on each assignment and to turn each on time. The full list of assignments can be found on the course syllabus. I'll provide more explicit expectations and guidelines for each assignment in the future. Late assignments will lose points. Extensions will only be given under extenuating circumstances.
6. Resources. To seek extra help if you need it. The Student Learning Center (<http://slc.berkeley.edu/>) is an outstanding resource if you need additional help with your writing. Please revise and edit your papers, and have someone else read it before turning it in. There's no better way to catch errors, big and small. And if you don't have time to get someone else to read your paper, try reading the whole thing to yourself, slowly and out loud. This is a great way to catch errors, awkward phrasings, grammatical mistakes, to check if what you're writing makes sense, etc. Feel free to stop by Professor Bloemraad's office hours (Wednesday, 2-4 pm in 442 Barrows; make sure to sign up first). Finally, I'll try to put all course and section documents up on my website (<https://webfiles.berkeley.edu/~freeden/>)
7. Contacting Me. To contact me via email if you have questions, but not to abuse this right and to understand that I may be busy and can't always respond immediately.
8. Academic Honesty. To follow standards of academic integrity. As a general rule, you should properly attribute all words and ideas written by published sources and websites. Plagiarism—the act of reproducing in your written work someone else's thoughts, writing, or research without explicit acknowledgement or citation—is strictly forbidden, and you can expect me to follow the University's guidelines for violations of academic honesty.
9. Grade Disputes. To provide explicitly, *in writing*, a disagreement you may have with a grade I've given you on a section assignment. I'll respond to your dispute and we can meet in person to discuss it further. If need be, I'll ask Professor Bloemraad to consider your dispute, but understand that she will then give a final grade, which may be *lower* than the original grade.
10. Special Accommodations. To inform me as soon as possible if you need accommodations for class or an assignment. Where appropriate, be prepared to give me a letter specifying and justifying the accommodations you need.