

**Discussion Sections**

DIS 306: Tu 11:00–11:50am Social Sciences 6314  
DIS 307: Tu 12:05–12:55pm Social Sciences 6125  
DIS 308: Tu 1:20–2:10pm Social Sciences 6125  
DIS 311: Wed 7:45–8:35am Social Sciences 6125  
DIS 312: Wed 8:50–9:40am Social Sciences 6125

**Email:** [mcoleman5@wisc.edu](mailto:mcoleman5@wisc.edu)**Office:** Social Sciences 7110H**Office Hours:** W 12:00-1:00PM,  
F 11:00-12:00PM,  
or by appointment.**Purpose of Discussion Sections:**

Welcome to Sociology 120! Remember, this is a *discussion* section, not a second lecture. Come prepared to ask questions about things you didn't understand and to discuss in further detail the ideas expressed in the readings and lectures. Discussion sections give you the opportunity to engage with the material presented on a much deeper level and relate what you are learning in class to everyday life. Participating in discussion also means *listening* to others and being attentive during section.

**Course Requirements:**

There are four requirements for passing Soc 120: (1) Doing the readings, (2) section attendance and participation, (3) two news reflections, and (4) two midterm exams.

**Readings:** Most required readings are drawn from the Cherlin textbook. All other course readings can be accessed through the course website (Learn@UW). See lecture syllabus for details.

**Discussion Sections:** Section attendance is *mandatory*. It is your responsibility to sign in on the attendance sheet. However, we understand that sometimes illness or other obligations arise. Therefore, you may miss up to **two (2)** discussion sections, no questions asked. It is your responsibility to make up all missed work; be sure to obtain any handouts distributed in section and borrow notes from a classmate. Your *attendance grade* will drop to 2% with your third absence, and to 0% with your fourth absence. Regarding participation, you will be graded on the quality, and not merely the frequency, of your contributions. Complete all readings in advance of section and contribute your questions, reflections, and observations. Engage your classmates creatively and constructively, and advance the discussion.

**News Reflections:** You will compose two short reflections on current news related to Soc 120, accounting for a total of 14% of your final grade (7% each). For each report, you are asked to compile a portfolio of three newspaper articles on a given topic that have appeared after January 17, 2017; summarize the key points of the three articles; and write a short essay of 300 words that relates your articles to the material you learned in Soc 120. Please see the instructions posted on the course website for details.

**Exams:** You will take two midterm exams, accounting for 70% of your final grade. All material presented in lecture and in your required readings is fair game for the exams. The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions that emphasize concepts, facts, and mechanisms discussed in class and in your readings. Additionally, each exam will include fill-in-the-blank questions and two short essay questions. The exams are non-cumulative. Prof. Elwert will give greater weight to your better midterm score: your higher score will count more (40%) and your lower score will count less (30%). Remember that there are no make-up exams in this class.

**Grading Summary:**

<i>Exams:</i>	70%	(40% for your higher midterm score, 30% for your lower score.)
<i>Section Attendance:</i>	5%	(Up to two absences without deductions, 2-0% thereafter.)
<i>Section Participation:</i>	11%	(Quality and preparedness are key.)
<i>News Reflections:</i>	14%	(7% each; no late submissions for any reason.)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

**Email & Office Hours:** You are welcome to email me with questions or concerns about the course; it is the best way to reach me. In the email, please state your section number in the subject line (e.g., “Soc 120/306: Midterm Question”). I try to respond to all emails within two business days. Note: If you email me at 11pm the night before an assignment is due, I will not be able to reply that night; try to plan ahead. Regarding office hours, please feel free to show up at the times listed above—no appointment is necessary unless you cannot meet during those hours.

**Disabilities and Mental Health:** If you know or suspect that you have a disability, contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center ([mcburney.wisc.edu](http://mcburney.wisc.edu)) so that you can receive appropriate support services. We are happy to accommodate documented needs, but please let us know no later than the second week of classes. For mental health resources, students can obtain free counseling and consultation through University Health Services ([uhs.wisc.edu/mental-health](http://uhs.wisc.edu/mental-health)). Your well-being is and should be a top priority.

**Religious Observances:** If you anticipate missing any discussion sessions this semester because of religious observances, you must inform us within the first two weeks of class.

**The Writing Center:** Excellent writing instructors offer classes and one-on-one meetings to help you with all aspects of the writing process from ways to improve your skills to focused work on a particular class assignment. Call (608) 263-1992 or go to <http://www.wisc.edu/writing> for more information.

**Respectful Language and Discourse:** Classroom discussion is meant to be a meaningful and constructive dialogue about the course materials and any relevant topics. This requires us to respect each other’s differences and alternative viewpoints. Approach discussion with an intellectual curiosity and a willingness to listen.

**Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:** Students who cheat or attempt to cheat will automatically receive a zero for that exam or assignment. In addition, the incident will be reported in writing to both the Dean of your college and the Dean of Students so they may decide whether further disciplinary action is needed. Your written assignments will be submitted to turnitin.com, an anti-plagiarism website that will indicate if you submit work copied from other students, from books or articles, or from the web. See lecture syllabus for more details.

<p><b>Important Deadlines:</b></p> <p><b>Thurs, February 16:</b> News Reflection #1 (gender roles) due at 9:15 a.m.</p> <p><b>Thurs, March 2:</b> Midterm 1 (in lecture room at normal time)</p> <p><b>Thurs, April 6:</b> News Reflection #2 (work and families) due at 9:15 a.m.</p> <p><b>Thurs, May 4:</b> Midterm 2 (in lecture room at normal time)</p>
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