

Housing & Homelessness, SOCI 4300- 01  
Fall 2016

Prerequisite: Introductory Sociology

Instructor: Tiffany A. Parsons

Office: Pafford 207

Hours: T & W 11:00 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Phone: 678.839.6335

Email: within CourseDen

Campus email for non-class related correspondence: tparsons@westga.edu

Class Meetings: M/W 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

**Course Description:** Sociological examination of the places in which we live, how we are housed, and what it is like to live without a place to call home. The focus is housing development in the United States throughout the twentieth century with special attention to its association with economic, gender, race, and family relations, along with public policy. Consideration is given to problems and controversies surrounding 'the American dream': segregation, overcrowding, affordability, urbanization/suburbanization, accessibility, and alternative housing. Special attention will be given to the problem of homelessness.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify and apply basic concepts and perspectives.
2. Connect sociological concepts to issues and events outside of the classroom.
3. Analyze social issues and current events using sociological perspectives.
4. Construct an organized, informed, and detailed description of the nature of culture and social structure.
5. Construct an organized, informed, and detailed explanation of the reciprocal relationship between the individual and society.
6. Construct an organized, informed, and detailed description the diversity of American society.
7. Demonstrate an ability to think critically and write well.
8. Engage in scholarly dialog with others.

**Required Material:**

Text:

- Hayden, Dolores. 2002. *Redesigning the American Dream: Gender, Housing, and Family Life*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company
- Vanderstaay, Steven. 1992. *Street Lives: An Oral History of Homeless Americans*. Philadelphia, PA: New Society Publishers.
  - UWG Bookstore: <http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/>

Media:

- The Big Short (available on Netflix or for rental streaming through Amazon)

**Attendance Policy:** All enrolled students are expected to attend class. Students are required to attend class on August 10, 15, 17, & 22, 2016. Not doing so may result in you being dropped or withdrawn from the course. If you will be absent on one of the required dates (after enrolling in the class) due to a school related function, notify me prior to class.

Note: After August 22, there is no attendance policy. However, as there are several in-class, graded assignments, please note the Late/make up work policy below.

**Course Participation Policy:** It is expected that all students will actively participate in the course, including engaging the course material beyond the required course content and graded tasks, studying and learning the course material prior to class, actively listening during lecture and presentations, use critical thinking skills during group and class-wide activities, consistently voice informed perspectives in group activities.

- Excellent course participation may result in an addition of up to 3 percentage points to a students' final grade.
  - Note: excellent participation is not a sliding scale in which good participation might earn two points. Either one has excellently participated or one has not. Those who have excellent participation and are within three points of the next high letter grade, will earn the participation boost.
- Poor course participation may result in the loss of up to 3 percentage points from one's final grade.

**Late/Make up work:** Under most circumstances, I do not accept late work or give make up work. If you are contagious, have a severe illness, have a car accident on the way to class, give birth, or have a funeral during class time or out of town, you may ask for an exception in person during my office hours. In either of two last cases, the request should precede the event.

**Communication:**

- In Person: The best and preferred way to communicate with me is in person during office hours. However, if you cannot make office hours, we can schedule an in-person meeting outside of office hours. (See "CourseDen email" below).
- Phone: I will generally answer my phone during office hours. Please do not leave a message. Just pop by my office hours or schedule a meeting.
- Westga.edu email: Only use this address for non-course related communication & emergencies. I typically respond to emails that require a response within 48 hours, Monday – Friday. Note: I do not generally read or respond to emails after 5 p.m. Fridays and before 8 a.m. Mondays.
- CourseDen email: You should only email me to set up a one-on-one meeting with me in the event my office hours conflict with your class schedule. Use the subject line "Meeting Request." Your message should include at least two times when you would like to meet and a brief (one to two sentence) description of the reason for the meeting. Email for any other reason will not be considered or acknowledged. I will respond to

appropriate CourseDen emails within 48 hours, Monday – Friday. Note: I do not generally read or respond to emails after 5 p.m. Fridays and before 8 a.m. Mondays.

- **Class Lounge:** Located in the Discussions section on CourseDen. Post and reply to questions or advice pertaining to the class, teacher, texts, instructions, schedule, content, lectures... All questions about the syllabus, assignments, etc., that are not private or do not only and directly relate to you should be posted in the class lounge. ***You are responsible for*** checking the Class Lounge regularly and ***answering questions as you have knowledge.*** (The bold portion will be considered when determining excellent participation.)
- **Before & After Class:** If you wish to speak with me one-on-one before class, you must come to my office during office hours (be sure to arrive in time for us to discuss or resolve the issue). I have another class immediately following this one. As such, I am not available to speak to you about any class related issues after class.

**Changes, Notices, etc.:** I reserve the right to change the schedule, assignments, or requirements. I will announce changes via CourseDen News or email within the course. You are responsible for knowing changes.

**Technology outside of class:** This is a technology enhanced class. You are 100% responsible for access to reliable and properly working technology and knowing how to use CourseDen as well as the technology and software required for this course. You will need

- access to a reliable computer and internet access capable of streaming movies.
- basic computer literacy skills. You will be required to do the following:
  - complete interactive activities
  - take timed quizzes,
  - read text in html, and
  - watch linked videos.

NOTE: Tablets, Smartphones, and Internet Explorer are not compatible with some functions in CourseDen.

DISTANCE ED: The following is a link to UWG Online Connection website (includes links to Orientation, basic software/hardware requirements, Online Student Guide, and all student services) - <http://www.westga.edu/~online/>

- If you have a computer, software, or CourseDen questions, contact distance education: 678.839.6248 or <http://www.westga.edu/~distance/webct1/help/>

**Technology in class:** Only technology that is permissible under the ADA or being used to enhance your learning/studying for THIS class may be used in class. Class may not be recorded via video or audio without prior written permission from the professor. Violation of this policy may result in withdrawal from the course and legal action.

## **Classroom etiquette:**

1. Be on time for class.
2. Turn off phones, music players, etc. and put them out of sight prior to the start of class.
3. Wait to pack up your belongings until dismissed.
4. Stay in the classroom until dismissed.
  - a. In the case there is a legitimate reason why you may need to leave class (family member in the hospital, you're a volunteer fire fighter, etc.) discuss this possibility with me prior to class.
5. If someone is presenting to the class, wait until they are finished to enter or leave.
  - a. In the case you must leave class during a presentation for an emergency, take all of your belongings with you, do not return to class, and visit me during the very next scheduled office hours.
6. Stay alert and focused during class.
  - a. Sleeping, doing other work, or carrying on private conversations with classmates during class will not be tolerated.
7. Voice informed positions and make informed comments.
8. Finish eating/food before entering the classroom.
9. Be respectful of others.
  - a. All students are expected to be respectful to all other students, including when one disagrees with or has had an alternate experience than the one being shared.
  - b. Respect further includes not speaking (or interrupting) while others (both other students and instructor) are speaking.

**Academic Integrity & Honesty:** You read and agreed to the UWG Honor Code, which includes academic honesty and integrity, when you applied to UWG. You are responsible for knowing and understanding this policy. You will be held to this standard. A copy of the Academic Honor Code Pledge Statement that you signed is available for review in the Welcome Module.

Student Handbook: <http://www.westga.edu/~handbook/index.php>. (for more information and definitions on cheating, plagiarism, and academic honesty and integrity, click the Honor Code and Appendix A.)

Any incident of academic dishonesty, intended or unintended, whether the assignment is worth 1% or 75%, may result in an F for the course, and it will result in a letter to the VPAA. If you already have a violation of Academic Honesty on your record, I will seek your expulsion from the University.

**Content:** Students are expected to complete, study, and learn the course content prior to class. Content may include readings, videos, or audio components.

## **GRADED TASKS:**

**Discussion Questions:** Each student will develop (10) discussion questions that deeply engages the corresponding course material and requires both critical thinking and sociological analysis to answer. Students are to bring discussion questions to class on the due date. While all students' questions will be submitted, groups will decide among themselves which discussion question will be graded. All students who submitted a question will receive the grade. Those who do not submit a question will earn a 0.

Questions are to be typed, 12pt Times Roman font, and centered at the top of the page. Top left of the page should be the students name and the Discussion Question number as follows:  
Tiffany A. Parsons – 1

**Discussion Answers:** From the submitted discussion questions, one question will be chosen for each group. Students will work together in groups during class to work through and answer the question. Each group will present at least one question and answer to the class and field questions from the class.

**Quizzes:** There will be 11, short, content quizzes throughout the semester. They will be composed of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, short answer questions from the assigned course material. Each will be due at 9 a.m. on the scheduled date.

**NOTE:** Working together – any collaboration – while taking or after having taken (before the due date/time) Quizzes constitutes academic dishonesty. See Academic Honesty Policy above.

**Expositions:** Twice throughout the semester, groups will be required to become the “experts” on the assigned course material. Individually, members will write a scholarly reflection, and the group will create an outline of the material, present an application/expansion of the material using outside research, and lead the class in discussion. There are four parts to the exposition. Detailed instructions and groups' assigned dates can be found in CourseDen.

**Solutions:** Groups will work together throughout the semester to develop a solution that will eliminate homelessness, prepare a 10-minute “pitch” presentation for Julian Castro (Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development), present it to the class, and field questions from the audience members.

**Notes about group work:**

- The in-class graded assignments rely on each individual group member coming to class informed (having completed, studied, and learned the assigned course material) and actively participating. In the case, a group member is not pulling her/his weight, the group may vote to kick her/him off the island.
  - Procedure:
    - 1<sup>st</sup>: A representative (1 person!) from the group is to speak with the offending group member and ask her/him to step up her/his game.

2<sup>nd</sup>: A majority of group members are to come to my office hours prior to class. If I judge the group to have completed step 1 and the offending group member to continue to be acting in bad faith, I will notify her/him of the consequences.

- Those kicked off their islands will form a new group. Under the circumstance that only one person has been kicked off their island, she/he will work alone on in-class activities.
- If you believe your group's work is incorrect, you may turn in a personal assignment. **HOWEVER:**
  - If you turn in a personal assignment and it is incorrect or scores lower than the group assignment, you will earn a 0.
  - If the group assignment is, in fact, incorrect or scores lower than your personal assignment, the remainder of the group will earn a 0.

**Grading:**

Quizzes: 20%

- Quizzes 1 & 2 account for 1 % each of your overall grade.
- Quizzes 3 -11 account for 2 % each of your overall grade.

Discussion Questions: 20%

- Questions 1 & 2 account for 1% each of your overall grade.
- Questions 3 – 10 account for 2.25% each of your overall grade.

Discussion Answers: 20%

- Answers 1 & 2 account for 1% each of your overall grade.
- Answers 3 – 10 account for 2.25% each of your overall grade.

Expositions: 25%

- Expo 1 accounts for 10% of your overall grade
- Expo 2 accounts for 15% of your overall grade

Solution: 15%

%	Letter Grade
90+	A
80-89.9999	B
70-79.9999	C
60-69.9999	D
59.999 & below	F

**NOTE:**

- Poor behavior and/or participation may result in the loss of points from your final grade.
- Excellent participation may result in the addition of points to your final grade.

- Academic dishonesty will result in failing the class without regard to your other grades in the course.

Library: <http://www.westga.edu/library/>

Common Language: <http://tinyurl.com/UWGSyllabusPolicies>

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT:**

If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the Center for Disability Services. A CDS Counselor will coordinate those services:

[http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index\\_8884.php](http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index_8884.php)

**If you are entitled to and desire accommodation: Email me your packet immediately – before the end of day Monday, August 15 – along with a list of the accommodations you desire – through CourseDen with the subject “ADA Accommodations.”**

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT:**

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age, or disability, be excluded from employment or participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by UWG.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATEMENT:**

University of West Georgia adheres to affirmative action policies to promote diversity and equal opportunity for all faculty and students.

Housing & Homelessness, SOCI 4300 - 01, Fall 2016      Tentative Schedule

Dates	Topic	Have Read	Have Listened	Have Watched	DQ & Q
8/10/2016	Syllabus	Syllabus			
8/15/2016	Groups				
8/17/2016	Housing Intro				Key Words
8/22/2016	Intro Cont'd	Housing Heroines & Home as Identity		Growth of Towns & Sprawl	P
8/24/2016	Groups: Expo 1				
8/29/2016	Crisis		Government Guarantee Mortgages	Plain Old Greed & The Big Short	1
8/31/2016	History	Hayden 1 & 2		Housing America, Suburban America & Moyers and Company	2
9/7/2016					
9/12/2016	Strategy	Hayden 3 & 4	Housing Industry Lagging	& Housing Styles	3
9/14/2016					
9/19/2016	Economy	Hayden 5	Co-Housing & Micro-Housing & Eliminating		4
9/21/2016					
9/26/2016	Groups: Expo 2				
9/28/2016	Homeless Intro	Solving 1-3 & Homelessness/Poverty Stats			5
10/3/2016					
10/5/2016	Life	Vanderstaay 1, Tampon Tax, & Finding			6
10/10/2016					
10/12/2016	Work	Vanderstaay 2		Dignity Harbor	7
10/17/2016					
10/19/2016	How	Vanderstaay 3 & Chronic Homelessness	Rapid Rehousing		8
10/24/2016	Groups: Solutions				
10/26/2016	Groups: Solutions				
10/31/2016	Who pt 1	Solving 4, Vanderstaay 4 -5, & Refusing	Vouchers but no Home		9
11/2/2016					
11/7/2016	Who pt 2	Vanderstaay 6, 7, & 8	The Long Way Home Pts 1-4		10
11/9/2016					
11/14/2016	Poverty First	Solving 5, Vanderstaay 9 & 40+ years	Cities' Challenges	Homelessness:	11 Q only
11/16/2016	Groups: Solutions				
11/28/2016	Presentations				
11/30/2016	Presentations				



