



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

# SYLLABUS: RURAL SOCIOLOGY 1500 INTRODUCTION TO RURAL SOCIOLOGY SPRING 2021

## Course overview

### Instructor

Instructor: Joseph F. Donnermeyer, Professor Emeritus

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### Course description

This is a completely on-line course that will be delivered using Carmen, The Ohio State University's learning management system. All course content, including lecture presentations and videos, will be delivered using Carmen (<https://carmen.osu.edu/>). Carmen will also be used to complete exams and discussions. This course is self-paced, however, all discussions and exams must be completed by the due date shown on the syllabus.

### General Education (GE) Fulfillments

RS 1500 fulfills GE requirements for the following:

#### Social Science – Organizations and Polities

Goals: Students understand the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources

### Expected Learning Outcomes

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of organizations and politics.
2. Students understand the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts.
3. Students comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and politics and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

### **Diversity – Social Diversity**

Goals: Students understand the pluralistic nature of institutions, society, and culture in the United States and across the world in order to become educated, productive, and principled citizens.

### Expected Learning Outcomes

1. Students describe and evaluate the roles of such categories as race, gender and sexuality, disability, class, ethnicity, and religion in the pluralistic institutions and cultures of the United States.
2. Students recognize the role of social diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values regarding appreciation, tolerance, and equality of others.

### **Course learning outcomes**

By the end of this course (RS 1500), students should successfully be able to:

1. Demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of concepts and content areas in the discipline of Sociology
2. Apply sociological concepts to issues and topics concerning themselves and their relationships within various human groups anywhere in the world
3. Apply sociological concepts to issues and topics concerning rural and urban places in U.S. society, and other societies around the world, including the application of sociological principles to agriculture, food, and environmental issues
4. Think critically about issues and topics affecting U.S. society, and other societies around the world by understanding the strengths and weaknesses of different and/or opposing points of view

## Course materials

### **RURLSOC 1500, Joseph Donnermeyer, The Ohio State University**

The recommended (but not required) course textbook, RURLSOC 1500, can be purchased through [The Ohio State University Bookstore](#) or through the book's publisher, [McGraw-Hill](#).

ISBN-13: 978-1-308-96894-0

ISBN-10: 1260168425

<http://shop.mheducation.com/mhshop/productDetails?isbn=1260168425>

Pdfs of assigned readings will be posted at appropriate times within the weekly modules. However, you are responsible for reading the pdfs because some of the exam questions will be based on assigned chapters.

## Course technology

For help with your password, university e-mail, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the OSU IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at <https://ocio.osu.edu/help/locations>, and support for urgent issues is available 24x7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** <http://ocio.osu.edu/selfservice>
- **Phone:** 614-688-HELP (4357)
- **Email:** [8help@osu.edu](mailto:8help@osu.edu)
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

### **Baseline technical skills necessary for online courses**

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen (<https://carmen.osu.edu>)

### **Required equipment**

- Computer: current Mac (MacOs) or PC (Windows 10) with high-speed internet connection
- Webcam: built-in or external webcam, fully installed and tested
- Microphone: built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone
- Other: a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) to use for BuckeyePass authentication

### **Required software**

- Microsoft Office 365: All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365. Full instructions for downloading and installation can be found at [go.osu.edu/office365help](http://go.osu.edu/office365help).

## Carmen access

You will need to use BuckeyePass ([buckeyepass.osu.edu](http://buckeyepass.osu.edu)) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you take the following steps:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the BuckeyePass - Adding a Device help article for step-by-step instructions ([go.osu.edu/add-device](http://go.osu.edu/add-device)).
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- Download the Duo Mobile application ([go.osu.edu/install-duo](http://go.osu.edu/install-duo)) to all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357(HELP) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

## Grading

### How your final grade is calculated

Assignment or category	Points
Bi-weekly discussions (7) – 2 points each	14
Bi-weekly exams (7) – 9 points each	63
Final exam (comprehensive all 14 weeks)	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

See course schedule, below, for due dates

### Bi-weekly Discussions

You will complete a total of **seven (7) bi-weekly discussions** throughout the semester, each valued at two (2) points. Each response to a discussion question should be 100-200 words. *Discussions will be submitted online using Carmen Discussions. **Each discussion will be open on Carmen for one week (the second week of the bi-weekly time period) and you must submit your response by 11:59 pm on the due date indicated.***

**I recommend that you write out your answer in a Word document or similar program, and then copy it over.**

Discussion questions are designed to enhance your understanding of key concepts by having you reflect on and connect with various sociological topics presented in the lectures. If you can write about it, you likely understand it! Each discussion submission should be written in your

own words and be no longer than 200 words (get to the point, no bs!). Keep in mind that the word length is a “rough” guideline – it is the quality and thoughtfulness of your discussion that really count. If we judge your answer to: -- (1) mimic or to be copied from someone else; or (2) does not demonstrate that you have listened and watched the lectures; or (3) that you did not think much about the question before you answered (perhaps because you waited until the last moment to submit your answer) -- you will receive less than two points, and possibly zero points. You will not be able to view your classmates’ responses until you submit your own response.

In every answer, we expect you to show that you watched/listened to the lectures and read course assignments by applying the concepts from the lectures and readings to your answer, and demonstrating that you understand those concepts in your answer. Merely “name-dropping” a concept is not proper demonstration that you understand the concept.

## Bi-weekly exams

You will take a total of **seven (7) bi-weekly exams** throughout the semester. The exam questions will be based on assigned readings and videos. *Exams will be taken online using Carmen.* Each exam is worth 9 points. Typically, each bi-weekly exam will include 9 – 18 questions, or some other multiple of 9. Questions will be weighted accordingly so that the total for each of the bi-weekly exams is always 9 points.

Questions types may include but are not limited to multiple-choice, True/False, Fill-In-The-Blank, and/or Ordering. Exam questions will come from material presented in the lecture videos and assigned readings.

All exams will be taken online using Carmen. Exams will be open from the first day of the second week of each of the 7 bi-weekly time periods. You will be given slightly more than 90 seconds per question on all exams, or 14 minutes in total. If you fail to complete the exam on Carmen before it closes you will earn a grade based on the questions you answered. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL NEAR THE DEADLINE TO COMPLETE THE EXAMS.** Nearly all students who failed to complete an exam or discussion assignment from previous versions of RS 1500 started within 15 minutes of the deadline, and then something electronically went wrong, or so they claim.

You will **NOT** come to a classroom to take the exam. Rather, you take the exam from a location of your choosing that has Internet connection (e.g., dorm room, library). Each student must complete the exam on her or his own. You are **NOT** permitted to receive assistance from anyone else during the exam. You are **NOT** permitted to complete an exam as part of a group.

*Make-up exams will be allowed only under extreme circumstances, and only for an excused absence (i.e., documented, on official letterhead, and judged by me to be legitimate). The make-up exam may be in essay format.*

## Final exam

The final exam will be worth 23 points. The final exam is comprehensive, meaning that it covers material from all 14 weeks of RS 1500. Questions types may include but are not limited to multiple-choice, True/False, Fill-In-The-Blank, and/or Ordering. Exam questions will come from

material presented in the lecture videos and assigned readings throughout the semester. You will be given slightly more than 90 seconds per question on all exams – in this case, 35 minutes. If you fail to complete the exam on Carmen before it closes you will earn a grade based on the questions you answered. The final will be administered during a window from Thursday, April 22 at 12:01 AM through 11:59 PM on Friday, April 23.

## Late submissions

***DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO COMPLETE DISCUSSIONS AND EXAMS, ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU HAVE A FULL WEEK TO COMPLETE THE BI-WEEKLY EXAMS AND THE BI-WEEKLY DISCUSSION RESPONSES. Sending to a me message about last-minute technical glitches, such as a bad internet connection, bad internet browser, power outage, a computer that “crashes”, a battery that runs out of power, etc. are not acceptable excuses for missing a deadline, nor is telling me that you had a “busy week, I forgot.” Any kind of cold, flu, broken bones, amputations, beheadings (☺) etc. must be documented by the clinic or the hospital you visited. Informing me that you “really, really” enjoy this course, but you failed to meet a deadline will be a fruitless appeal. Finally, pleading in flowery or tear-laden language of any kind will not help your case, nor will telling me you need a certain grade because you want to apply to graduate school or retain your scholarship eligibility. If you do the actual work, you can earn those things.***

***Death in a family may be an acceptable excuse, but for close relatives only (parents, siblings, grandparents) only. This does not include favorite cousins, uncles, aunts etc. Family deaths must be documented. also, time devoted to visiting relatives who are ill or in the hospital for surgery or some other reason is not an acceptable excuse.***

***If you miss a deadline for any reason then you will earn a grade of 0%. if you miss a deadline for medical or other reasons outside of your control, it must be documented. You can contact Dr. Donnermeyer by email: [donnermeyer.1@osu.edu](mailto:donnermeyer.1@osu.edu).***

## Grading scale

93–100: A	77–79.9: C+	
90–92.9: A-	73–76.9: C	Below 60: E
87–89.9: B+	70 –72.9: C-	
83–86.9: B	67 –69.9: D+	
80–82.9: B-	60 –66.9: D	

## Faculty feedback and response time

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. (Remember that you can call **614-688-HELP** at any time if you have a technical problem.)

## Grading and feedback

Discussion questions will be graded within of week after the submission deadline.

## E-mail

I will reply to e-mails within **24 hours on weekdays**.

## Discussion board

I will check and reply to messages in the discussion boards every **24 hours on weekdays**.

# Attendance, participation, and discussions

## Student participation requirements

Because this is a distance-education course, your attendance is based on your online activity and participation. The following is a summary of everyone's expected participation:

**Logging in: AT LEAST TWICE PER WEEK**

**There are 14 weeks in the Spring Semester, but spread out over 15 weeks. The 15<sup>th</sup> week will be time available for you to prepare for the final exam, which will be administered on the final two days of this final week.**

- Be sure you are logging in to the course in Carmen at least twice each week, including weeks with holidays or weeks with minimal online course activity. (During most weeks you will probably log in many times.) If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with me *as soon as possible*. It is our recommendation that you spend at least 12-15 hours on this class per week.
- **Contacting Dr. Donnermeyer, Vicky Garrett, Jason Parker, or Maritza Pierre**  
Occasional announcements will be posted on Carmen under Announcements. Make sure you have Announcements turned on for this course. If you have questions or concerns about the course or course material, please email us at [donnermeyer.1@osu.edu](mailto:donnermeyer.1@osu.edu), [garrett.95@osu.edu](mailto:garrett.95@osu.edu); [parker.294@osu.edu](mailto:parker.294@osu.edu); [pierre.77@osu.edu](mailto:pierre.77@osu.edu). If you would prefer to speak face- to-face, please contact us via email to set up an appointment through a zoom call. In-person meetings will be held on The Ohio State University campus.

## Discussion and communication guidelines

The following are my expectations for how all of us should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style:** You should remember to write clearly, using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Please remember that all writing is meant to be read by someone else, or by you at a later time. Bad, sloppy writing is a sign of disrespect to the instructor, the

graders, and to fellow students. You will lose points for a “I don’t give a \_\_\_\_” attitude when answering discussion questions.

- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across well online. Disagreeing with someone by making negative, insulting comments is not using your sociological imagination. Stereotyping other people is not acceptable because it is not scientific, and sociology is a science, just like physics, psychology etc. It is evidence-based. Your personal experiences are relevant but insufficient to generalize to whole groups of people.
- **Citing your sources:** When we have discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say, for example, specific reading assignments.
- **Backing up your work:** Consider composing your academic posts in a word processor, where you can save your work, and then copying into the Carmen discussion.
- **Answer early:** Give yourself sufficient time to think about what you want to write and to proofread it before submitting it.

## Other course policies

### Policies for this online course

- **Bi-weekly exams:** All exams are open- book and open-note, but you must complete the exams by yourself, without any external help or communication.
- **Written assignments:** Your discussion posts should be your own original work. In formal assignments, you should follow **APA** style to cite the ideas and words of your research sources. You are encouraged to ask a trusted person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in--but no one else should revise or rewrite your work.
- **Reusing past work:** In general, you are prohibited in university courses from turning in work from a past class to your current class, even if you modify it. If you want to build on past research or revisit a topic you've explored in previous courses, please discuss the situation with me.
- **Falsifying research or results:** All research you will conduct in this course is intended to be a learning experience; you should never feel tempted to make your results or your library research look more successful than it was.
- **Collaboration and informal peer-review:** The course includes many opportunities for formal collaboration with your classmates. While study groups and peer-review of major written projects is encouraged, remember that comparing answers on a quiz or assignment is not permitted. If you're unsure about a particular situation, please feel free just to ask ahead of time.

### Ohio State’s academic integrity policy

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State

University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's *Code of Student Conduct*, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's *Code of Student Conduct* and this syllabus may constitute "Academic Misconduct."

The Ohio State University's *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's *Code of Student Conduct* is never considered an "excuse" for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the *Code of Student Conduct* and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

**If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.** If COAM determines that you have violated the University's *Code of Student Conduct* (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- The Committee on Academic Misconduct web pages ([COAM Home](#))
- *Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity* ([Ten Suggestions](#))
- *Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity* ([www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.htm](http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.htm))

## Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities

### Requesting accommodations

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university's request process, managed by Student Life Disability Services. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu); 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

## Accessibility of course technology

This online course requires use of CarmenCanvas (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor.

- [Canvas accessibility \(go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility\)](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility)
- Streaming audio and video
- CarmenZoom accessibility ([go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility](https://go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility))
- Collaborative course tools

## Statement on Title IX

All students and employees at Ohio State have the right to work and learn in an environment free from harassment and discrimination based on sex or gender, and the university can arrange interim measures, provide support resources, and explain investigation options, including referral to confidential resources.

If you or someone you know has been harassed or discriminated against based on your sex or gender, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual exploitation, you may find information about your rights and options at [titleix.osu.edu](https://titleix.osu.edu) or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@osu.edu](mailto:titleix@osu.edu). Title IX is part of the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) at Ohio State, which responds to all bias-motivated incidents of harassment and discrimination, such as race, religion, national origin and disability. For more information on OIE, visit [equity.osu.edu](https://equity.osu.edu) or email [equity@osu.edu](mailto:equity@osu.edu).

## Commitment to a diverse and inclusive learning environment

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

This course adheres to The Principles of Community adopted by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environment Sciences. These principles are located on the Carmen site for this course, and can also be found at <https://go.osu.edu/principlesofcommunity>. For additional information on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in CFAES, contact the CFAES Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (<https://equityandinclusion.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/>). If you have been a victim of or a witness to a bias incident, you can report it online and anonymously (if you choose) at <https://studentlife.osu.edu/bias/report-a-bias-incident.aspx>.

## Your mental health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. No matter where you are engaged in distance learning, The Ohio State University's Student Life Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) is here to support you. If you find yourself feeling isolated, anxious or overwhelmed, on-demand resources are available at [go.osu.edu/ccsondemand](https://go.osu.edu/ccsondemand). You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766, and 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org). The Ohio State Wellness app is also a great resource available at [go.osu.edu/wellnessapp](https://go.osu.edu/wellnessapp).

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings	Assignments	Directions
<b>Weeks 1-4: The Fundamentals</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>Monday, January 11 – Sunday, January 17</b>	<b>Introduction to Rural Sociology</b>		
<b>2</b>	<b>Monday, January 18 – Sunday, January 24</b>	<b>The Sociological Imagination and Social Change</b>	<b>First discussion – Introduction to Rural Sociology &amp; The Sociological Imagination and Social Change</b>  <b>First exam – Week 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Weeks 1 &amp; 2 discussion (#1) due no later than 11:59 PM, Sunday, January 24</b>  <b>Weeks 1 &amp; 2 exam (#1) due no later than 11:59 PM, Sunday, January 24</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Monday, January 25 – Sunday, January 31</b>	<b>Sociological Theory and Sociological Research</b>		
<b>4</b>	<b>Monday, February 1 – Sunday, February 7</b>	<b>Culture and Society</b>	<b>Second discussion – Sociological Theory and Research &amp; Culture and Society</b>  <b>Second exam – Week 3 and 4</b>	<b>Weeks 3 &amp; 4 discussion (#2) due no later than 11:59 PM, Sunday, February 7</b>  <b>Weeks 3 &amp; 4 exam (#2) due no later than 11:59 PM, Sunday, February 7</b>

<b>Weeks 5-10: Population/Cultural Diversity and Social Institutions</b>				
<b>5</b>	<b>Monday, February 8 – Sunday, February 14</b>	<b>Social and Cultural Diversity in America</b>		
<b>6</b>	<b>Monday, February 15 – Sunday, February 21</b>	<b>Socialization and The Family</b>	<b>Third discussion – Social and Cultural Diversity in America &amp; Socialization and The Family</b>  <b>Third exam – Weeks 5 &amp; 6</b>	<b>Weeks 5 &amp; 6 discussion (#3) due no later than 11:59 PM, Sunday, February 21</b>  <b>Weeks 5 &amp; 6 exam (#3) due no later than 11:59 PM, Sunday, February 21</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Monday, February 22 – Sunday, February 28</b>	<b>Inequality and Social Class</b>		
<b>8</b>	<b>Monday, March 1 – Sunday, March 7</b>	<b>Inequality and Poverty</b>	<b>Fourth discussion – Inequality and Social Class &amp; Inequality and Poverty</b>  <b>Fourth exam – Weeks 7 &amp; 8</b>	<b>Weeks 7 &amp; 8 discussion (#4) due no later than 11:59 PM, Sunday, March 7</b>  <b>Weeks 7 &amp; 8 exam (#4) due no later than 11:59 PM, Sunday, March 7</b>

9	Monday, March 8 – Sunday, March 14	Religion		
10	Monday, March 15 – Sunday, March 21	The Amish Subculture	Fifth discussion Religion & the Amish Subculture  Fifth exam – Weeks 9 & 10	Weeks 9 & 10 discussion (#5) is due no later than 11:59 PM, Sunday, March 21  Weeks 9 & 10 exam (#5) due no later than 11:59 PM, Sunday, March 21
<b>Weeks 11 -14: Social Change, Food and Agriculture, and Crime with a Rural Emphasis</b>				
11	Monday, March 22 – Sunday, March 28	Social Movements and Social Change		
12	Monday, March 29 – Sunday, April 4	The Sociology and Food and Agriculture	Sixth discussion – Social Movements and Social Change & The Sociology of Food and Agriculture  Sixth exam – Weeks 11 & 12	Weeks 11 & 12 discussion (#6) due no later than 11:59 PM, Sunday, April 4  Weeks 11 & 12 exam (#6) due no later than 11:59 PM, Sunday, April 4

13	Monday, April 5 – Sunday, April 11	Crime and Society		
14	Monday, April 12 – Sunday, April 18	Crime with a Rural Emphasis	Seventh discussion – Crime and Society & Crime with a Rural Emphasis  Seventh exam – Weeks 13 and 14	Weeks 13 & 14 discussion (#7) due no later than 11:59 PM, Sunday, April 18  Weeks 13 & 14 exam (#7) due no later than 11:59 PM, Sunday, April 18
Final exam	Opens at 12:01 AM on Thursday, April 22. Closes on Friday, April 23 at 11:59 PM			