SYLLABUS: RURAL SOCIOLOGY 1500
INTRODUCTION TO RURAL SOCIOLOGY
SPRING 2019

Course overview

Instructor
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Office hours: By appointment, on-line only

Course description
This is a completely on-line course that will be delivered using Carmen, The Ohio State University’s learning management system. Course content, including lecture presentations and videos, will be delivered using Carmen (https://carmen.osu.edu/). Carmen will also be used to complete quizzes, exams, and discussions. Other resources, such as the University Libraries, may also be used. This course is self-paced yet all course requirements must be completed
during the semester of offering. All discussions, quizzes, and exams must be completed by the due date shown on the syllabus.

**General Education (GE) Fulfillments**

This course 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 polities.
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 polities 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, 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 course textbook, RURLSOC 1500, can be purchased through The Ohio State University Bookstore or through the book's publisher, McGraw-Hill.


**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
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

**Baseline technical skills necessary for online courses**

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

**Necessary equipment**

- Computer: current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 7+) with high-speed internet connection
- Speakers or head phones for listening to lecture material

**Necessary software**

- Firefox web browser (the best browser for Carmen)
- Microsoft Office, or a free alternative such as LibreOffice
- Adobe Reader, or an alternative PDF reader
Grading and faculty response

Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment or category</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussions (14)</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (12)</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>Midterm 1</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>Midterm 2</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
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See course schedule, below, for due dates

Discussions

You will complete a total of fourteen (14) discussions throughout the semester. Each discussion is worth two points. Discussions will be submitted online using Carmen Discussions. Each discussion will be open on Carmen for about 1 week and you must submit your response by 11:59 pm on the Thursday of each week of the semester. 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 between 250-500 words in length. Keep in mind that the word length is a “rough” guideline – it is the quality and thoughtfulness of your discussion that really count.

RUBRICS: We will judge your answer based on four characteristics: (1) connectedness (.50) – your discussion post demonstrates an ability to cite/connect specific concepts, examples and content from the that week’s lectures when answering the question; (2) relevance (.50) – your discussion post shows how a topic from that week’s lectures relates to either/or your life, current events, or the content, concepts and examples from previous weeks’ lectures in RS 1500; (3) thoughtfulness (.50) – your discussion post exemplifies thoughtfulness, originality, and critical thinking, that is, it is not merely a regurgitation or mimicking of the words in the lecture slides, but rather is connecting the topic to the course content and/or examples outside of class. In other words, you are using your sociological imagination; (4) quality (.50) – your discussion post shows you have invested some time and effort in your answer. It addresses the question fully. It is not full of typographical errors, misspellings, or poor sentence structure. A good idea is to write the post in Word with spelling and grammar checker on, and then copy over for the purposes of posting on Carmen.

If we judge your answer: -- (1) mimics or is copied from someone else; or (2) does not demonstrate that you have listened and watched the lectures; or (3) does not show much thought 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.

**Quizzes**

You will take a total of **twelve (12) quizzes** throughout the semester. The quiz questions will be based on assigned readings and videos. **Quizzes will be taken online using Carmen. They will be open on Carmen for 1 week and you can take the quiz any time during this week. You will be given 2 minutes per question to complete the quiz on Carmen.** If the quiz closes before you complete it you will earn a grade of 0%. Each quiz is worth 2% of your final grade.

**Exams**

All exams will be taken online using Carmen. Exams will be open on Carmen for approximately 24 hours and you can take the exam anytime during these 24 hours. You will be given 2 minutes per question on all exams. If you fail to complete the exam on Carmen before it closes you will earn a grade of 0%. 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 take the exams 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 will be in essay format.*

**Mid-term Exams (2)**

You will take two (2) mid-term exams. The first mid-term includes everything covered during the first 5 weeks of class, and administered online on **Friday, February 8**. The second mid-term includes only content covered between Weeks 6-10 and will also be taken online on **Friday, March 22**. **Each mid-term is 14% of the final grade, for a total of 28%.** Each will consist of **14 questions**. Questions types may include but are not limited to multiple-choice, True/False, Fill-In-The-Blank, and/or Ordering. A significant number of exam questions will come from material presented in lecture videos. Additional material will be drawn from the assigned readings and videos.

**Final Exam**

The final exam is multiple-choice in format and will be given on Wednesday, April 24. **The final exam represents 20% of the final grade. It will consist of 40 questions.** Questions types may include but are not limited to multiple-choice, True/False, Fill-In-The-Blank, and/or Ordering. **It is comprehensive, covering materials from Week 1 to Week 14.** Questions will be equally distributed (almost), with about 1/3rd of the questions representing material up to the first midterm, about 1/3rd from material covered between the 1st and 2nd midterms, and about
1/3rd since the second midterm. A significant number of exam questions will come from material presented in lecture videos. Additional material will be drawn from the assigned readings and videos.

**Late assignments**

If you miss the due date FOR ANY REASON you earn 0%. Do NOT wait until the last hour to complete exams, quizzes and discussions. Technical glitches such as a bad Internet connection, bad Internet browser, a computer that “crashes”, a battery that runs out of power, etc. are NOT acceptable excuses for missing a deadline. 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, which must be documented, contact Dr. Donnermeyer by email: donnermeyer.1@osu.edu or donnermeyer.1@gmail.edu.

**Grading scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93–100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90–92.9</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>87–89.9</td>
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<td>70 –72.9</td>
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<td>67 –69.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 –66.9</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>E</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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**

For large weekly assignments, you can generally expect feedback within 7 days.

**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 **48 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 ONCE PER WEEK**
  Be sure you are logging in to the course in Carmen 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, Vicki Garrett, or Djeynaba Ba, or Molly Bukky**
  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@gmail.com; garrett.95@osu.edu; or ba.17@osu.edu. If you would prefer to speak face-to-face, please contact us via email to set up an appointment. In person meetings will be held on The Ohio State University campus or alternatively by phone. If you are required to discuss an assignment with us, please contact us at the beginning of the week.

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 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, the textbook or other course materials.
• **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

• **Quizzes and exams**: All quizzes and exams are open-book and open-note, but you must complete the midterm and final exams yourself, without any external help or communication.

• **Written assignments**: Your written assignments, including discussion posts, should be your own original work. When we have discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say, for example, the textbook or other course materials. 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)

Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities

Requesting accommodations
If you would like to request academic accommodations based on the impact of a disability qualified under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, contact your instructor privately as soon as possible to discuss your specific needs. Discussions are confidential.

In addition to contacting the instructor, please contact the Student Life Disability Services at 614-292-3307 or ods@osu.edu to register for services and/or to coordinate any accommodations you might need in your courses at The Ohio State University.

Go to http://ods.osu.edu for more information.

Accessibility of course technology
This online course requires use of Carmen (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.

- Carmen (Canvas) accessibility
- Streaming audio and video
- Synchronous course tools
Statement on Title IX

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at http://titleix.osu.edu or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at titleix@osu.edu
## Course Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Directions</th>
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<tr>
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<td>The Fundamentals</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 7-11</td>
<td>Introduction to Rural Sociology</td>
<td>Discussion – Week 1 Reflection Quiz 1 – Intro to Rural Sociology</td>
<td>Carmen Discussion/Carmen Quizzes</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 14 – 18</td>
<td>The Sociological Imagination and Social Change</td>
<td>Discussion – Week 2 Reflection Quiz 2 – The Sociological Imagination and Social Change</td>
<td>Carmen Discussion/Carmen Quizzes</td>
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<td>Jan 28 – Feb 1</td>
<td>Culture and Society</td>
<td>Discussion 4 – Week 4 Reflection Quiz 4 – Culture and Society</td>
<td>Carmen Discussion/Carmen Quizzes</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 4 – 8</td>
<td>Social and Cultural Diversity in America</td>
<td>Discussion – Week 5 Reflection (no quiz – midterm week)</td>
<td>Carmen Discussion</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 8</td>
<td>Midterm One – Covers Weeks 1-5</td>
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<td>Carmen Quizzes</td>
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<td>Social Institutions</td>
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<td>Feb 11 – 15</td>
<td>Socialization and The Family</td>
<td>Discussion – Week 6 Reflection Quiz 5 – Socialization and The Family</td>
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<td>Inequality and Social Class</td>
<td>Discussion – Week 7 Reflection Quiz 6 – Inequality and Social Class</td>
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<td>Discussion – Week 8 Reflection Quiz 7 – Inequality and Poverty</td>
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<td>Religion</td>
<td>Discussion – Week 9 Reflection Quiz 8 – Religion</td>
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<td>March 11 – 15, Spring Break</td>
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<td>Topic</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 18 – 22</td>
<td>The Amish Subculture</td>
<td>Discussion – Week 10 Reflection (no quiz – midterm week)</td>
<td>Carmen Discussion</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 22</td>
<td>Midterm Two – Covers Weeks 6-10</td>
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<td><strong>Rural Change</strong></td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Apr 1 – 5</td>
<td>The Sociology and Food and Agriculture</td>
<td>Discussion – Week 12 Reflection Quiz 10 – The Sociology of Food and Agriculture</td>
<td>Carmen Discussion/Carmen Quizzes</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Apr 8 – 12</td>
<td>Crime and Society</td>
<td>Discussion – Week 13 Reflection Quiz 11 – Crime and Society</td>
<td>Carmen Discussion/Carmen Quizzes</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Apr 15 – 19</td>
<td>Crime with a Rural Emphasis</td>
<td>Discussion – Week 14 Reflection Quiz 12 – Crime with a Rural Emphasis</td>
<td>Carmen Discussion/Carmen Quizzes</td>
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<td>Final – April 25</td>
<td>Accumulative Final Exam (Covers Weeks 1-14)</td>
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