Introduction to Sociology

- Introduces students to the theoretical perspectives, research methods, and core concepts used in sociology.

- My Goal = meaningful and relevant experience for students, apply sociology to their own experiences
Course SLOs

1. Discuss/describe cultural diversity in relationship to social institutions.

2. Identify **theoretical perspectives** of human behavior in cross cultural contexts through class discussion.

3. **Relate** the biological, historical, and cultural make-up of **ones own life** to the common humanity of all people through selected readings and class discussion.

4. Identify the major paradigms and **research methods** applied to the discipline of sociology demonstrated through written papers and exams.
SLO #3

Relate the biological, historical, and cultural make-up of *ones own life* to the common humanity of all people through selected readings and class discussion.

Why?
- Provides meaningful experience and gets students interested
- I invest much time into this and want to see results

Who?
- 185 students in 4 sections of Soc 101 during Fall 2014
Sociological Autobiography

• Students asked to relate multiple sociological concepts and theories to their own life experiences
  o relate their experiences to larger social patterns experienced by others

• Paper assignment given week 1 of semester and is due week 15

• Students discussed the applicability of concepts to their own lives on a weekly basis in class to prepare for this assignment
### Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exceeded Expectations</th>
<th>Met Expectations</th>
<th>Below Expectations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Accurately applied 5+ concepts</td>
<td>• Accurately applied 3+ concepts</td>
<td>• Did not accurately apply 3+ concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Showed interconnection of concepts</td>
<td>• Drew connections between their experiences to those of others</td>
<td>• Failed to make connections between their experiences to those of others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Clear/detailed connections to larger social patterns</td>
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</tbody>
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| 113 Students | 58 Students | 14 Students |
92% of the students could relate their own life experiences to the common humanity of all people by applying sociological concepts and theories to their own lives.
What’s Next?

• Revise current SLOs

  *Relate* the biological, historical, and cultural make-up of *ones own life* to the common humanity of all people *through selected readings and class discussion*.

• Further develop components of paper assignments to address other SLOs for this course, and then create class activities to prepare students for the assignment

  *Identify the major paradigms and research methods* applied to the discipline of sociology demonstrated through written papers and exams.