

Georgia Southern University

Using Social Media to Teach Sociology

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Thanks For Joining Us



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“How can I use social media to teach sociology?”

–Me 5 years ago

3 Ways To Teach with Social Media

1. Use social media to teach your students.
2. Use social media to connect with your students.
3. Use social media to gather resources for your classes.

1. Use social media to teach your students.

- ❖ Using Twitter for discussion questions
- ❖ Have students search social media for examples of class concepts (e.g. search Instagram for gender normative presentations of self).
- ❖ Have students create blogs / social media accounts to engage in public sociology.

2. Use social media to connect with your students.

- ❖ Use Twitter to create a back channel for communication during class.
- ❖ Use a Facebook page for your class or for your role as a professor.
- ❖ Use your Twitter account as a channel to broadcast info to your students.

3. Use social media to gather resources for your classes.

- ❖ Teaching resources abound on social media.
 - ❖ Sociology Blogs
 - ❖ Sociology sub-groups on social media.
 - ❖ Sociologists sharing the interesting links they've found.
- ❖ Ask the “hive mind” of social media.

Technological Considerations

- ❖ *Are all your students online?*
- ❖ *How tech savvy are your students?*
- ❖ *Is there a simpler solution?*

Social Considerations

- ❖ Where are your boundaries with your students? Will using social media allow students to penetrate your boundaries?

My Advice

- ❖ Start by familiarizing *yourself* with social media.
- ❖ Add social media features to your class incrementally.

Thank You

- ❖ I would be happy to answer any questions you have.