Course Overview
In this course students analyze the influence of the social environment on behavior and social life using sociological theoretical perspectives. Components of social structure and social culture are critically examined through sociological theories and concepts including socialization, deviance, social institutions, and social change. Inequalities based on issues such as social class, race, ethnicity, gender, and age will also be analyzed.

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)
As a result of taking this course, students will demonstrate their competence in the subject matter and mastery of the concepts specific to the following as evidenced by (1) examinations; (2) written essays/papers; and (3) transformed behaviors and attitudes apparent in observed student classroom behaviors and discussions:

- Define and describe sociology as a field of study and explain sociological perspective.
- Distinguish the relationship between sociology and other social sciences.
- Identify the scientific method and evaluate its relevance and use in sociology.
- Identify key theorists of sociology and the major sociological paradigms including the areas of study of these paradigms: structural-functionalism, social conflict, and symbolic interaction.
- Evaluate the concepts of culture and structure of societies and their components; and their application in the study of groups, societies, and individuals.
- Assess the process of socialization and its application in understanding human behavior.
- Analyze the United States’ society as part of a global society.
- Describe the major social institutions in American society; evaluate the impact of these institutions on groups and individuals; discuss changes in these institutions.
- Assess the concepts and perspectives of sociology in order to evaluate how the behavior of individuals and groups are similar to each other, as well as different from each other; evaluate how individuals and groups react to these similarities and differences.

Required Materials
- Sociology In Our Times: The Essentials (6th or 7th Editions) by Diana Kendall (Thomson Learning)
- 4 Scantron Forms (882-E - Letters or Numbers) available in the book store

* Additional articles, videos and book excerpts will supplement the topics discussed in class.

**Grading**

You will be graded according to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>You will have four multiple-choice tests (100 pts. each) covering the topics discussed in class. Lowest test score is dropped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC-LENS Presentations</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>A total of four (25 pts. each), 1.5 - 2 minute oral presentations discussing the ideas presented in a recent article related to a topic discussed in class (see Course Schedule found in this syllabus for specific dates).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Assignments</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>These projects will spontaneously emerge throughout the semester and involve your analysis of visual media using sociological terminology. Instructions only given out in class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale (Points):

- 90 - 100% - A  
- 80 - 89% - B  
- 70 - 79% - C  
- 60 - 69% - D  
- 59% or lower - F

**Course Expectations**

**Participation** - Students enrolled in the course are expected to come to class prepared, which means that assigned readings must be completed prior to class and students actively engage in discussions, prepared to both ask and answer questions. Questions are the foundation for learning, and quite often, the answers to the questions posed are meaningful for everyone.

**Absence and tardiness** - This challenging course requires that all enrolled students be to class every session and on time. Attendance will be taken daily. Students who miss more than two classes in a row without prior notification of the instructor may exclude them from the class. Like a job, students are required to contact the instructor if they are unable to make the class due to extenuating circumstances - CONTACT THE INSTRUCTOR!

**Academic dishonesty** - Cheating on exams and/or plagiarism will result in an “F” (failure) for the specific assignment. All written assignments must be your original work. When using other works for support or direct quotes, indicate the source using the appropriate formalized method (MLA style or APA).

**Cell Phones and Pagers** - Please turn all cell phones and pagers to silent or vibrate mode prior to entering the classroom. While these tools are helpful for communications, they become an unnecessary distraction to the learning environment.

**Tests** - Students are required to be present for each test date as indicated in the syllabus. Tests cannot be made up.

**Additional Important Information**
Dropping the class - Students are responsible for formally dropping the class through the registration office. Important dates are outlined below.

- Last Day to Drop/refund: September 11, 2009
- Last Day to Drop - no refund, no “W” on record: September 25, 2009
- Last Day to drop with a “W”: November 20, 2009

Standards of Student Conduct (excerpted from the El Camino College Catalog):

1. Dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism or knowingly furnishing false information to the College.
2. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of college documents, records, or identification.
3. Violation of college policies or off-campus regulations, including but not limited to campus regulations concerning student organizations, the use of college facilities, or time, place, and manner of public expression.
4. Possession or use of alcoholic beverages on college property or at any college-sponsored event except where allowed as noted in Section 25608 of the Business and Professions Code.
5. Possession or use of any weapon, firearms or explosives.
6. The use, sale, or possession on campus of, or presence on campus under the influence of any controlled substance or any poison classified as such by Schedule D in Section 4160 of the Business and Professions Code.
7. Continued disruptive behavior, continued willful disobedience, profanity or vulgarity, or continued defiance of the authority of, or abuse of, college personnel or to anyone on campus.
8. Willful misconduct which results in injury or death to a student or college personnel.
9. Assault, battery, sex crimes including sexual assault or rape, or any threat of force or violence upon a student or college personnel.
10. Sexual harassment which includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.
11. Participation in hazing or commitment of any act that tends to injure, degrade or disgrace a student or college personnel.
12. Obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, or other authorized college activities including but not limited to its community service functions or to authorized activities held off campus. Obstruction or disruption includes but is not limited to the use of skateboards, bicycles, radios and roller skates.
13. Unauthorized entry to or use of college facilities, equipment or supplies.
14. Theft or deliberate damage to property of a college staff member, a student, or a visitor to the college including but not limited to the Library, Bookstore, and Food Service areas. 15. Defacing or damaging any college real or personal property.
16. Failure to comply with the directions of a member of the college certificated personnel, college management or supervisor personnel, or campus police acting within the scope of his or her duties.
17. Smoking in any area where prohibited by law or by regulation of the Governing Board.
18. The commission of any act constituting a crime under California law, on the campus or at a college-sponsored event.
19. Persistent, serious misconduct not listed in Items 1-18 above
Purpose
The purpose of the Sociological Lens ("SOC-LENS") assignments is to challenge you to apply the concepts discussed in class to your everyday life - what you read, what you see, what you experience. Not only will this make sociology more meaningful to you as a field of study, but will also reinforce your classroom-based learning.

The SOC-LENS Assignment
You will present to the class your sociological analysis of social phenomena (1.5 - 3 minutes, depending on class size) related to the topics discussed in class that you may have witnessed on the street, on television, or perhaps read in a book or magazine or any other life experience that you might have. Sociology is all around us each and every day. Remember, however, that you must demonstrate your ability to analyze the topic.

- Make sure it is perfectly CLEAR what term/concept you are illustrating in your presentation.
- Please do not read a full-length article to the class - this can be very boring. Instead, summarize the article, if you have one, in your own words and use quotes/excerpts from the article to support your position.

Table of Topics
Due dates for each have been listed on the course schedule. These topics related directly to the concepts in the book and discussed in class and will help you learn about the concepts and ideas that you will be tested on.
ASSIGNMENTS: | TOPICS FROM:
--- | ---
SOC-LENS # 1 | • Test # 1 - Study Guide
SOC-LENS # 2 | • Test # 2 - Study Guide
SOC-LENS # 3 | • Test # 3 - Study Guide
SOC-LENS # 4 | • Test # 4 - Study Guide

content analysis

analysis of the manifest and latent content of a body of communicated material (as a book or film) through a classification, tabulation, and evaluation of its key symbols and themes in order to ascertain its meaning and probable effect

Materials

• This is an oral presentation, therefore, no materials need to be handed in.

• Note cards, handouts or anything sources of information that you use or distribute for your presentation is acceptable.

• Visual aids are always encouraged and appreciated - you will have access to the smart classroom equipment.

Sorry, SOC-LENS Presentations **CANNOT BE MADE UP**!
**Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: I missed a test – can I do a make up?
   • No. Because the course allows you to drop the lowest test scores, the “0” you receive for not taking a test will be the test score that will be dropped. You need to have 3 test scores “on the books” in order to successfully pass the course.

Q: How will I know my grade for the test?
   • On the class following the test day, your grade will be posted by STUDENT NUMBER. If you do not know your student number, you will need to obtain and record it for future use. I suggest putting the number into your cell phone for easy access if you cannot remember the number.

Q: How do I calculate my grade?
   • The course is built around a point-based grading structure. Divide your total points accumulated by the total points possible so you can evaluate your grade along the way.

Q: Is there any extra credit?
   • Extra credit assignments come “spontaneously”. You will need to be present to hear the announcement and get the instructions. Most extra credit assignments will be a TYPED 1-2 page essay on a particular topic or issue related to the lecture topics and/or current events relevant to the discipline of sociology.
TIPS FOR SUCCESS in the COURSE

DAILY
• When you arrive, mark the attendance sheet and pick up any handouts that might be available at the front desk. 3 absences in a row and you are at risk of getting DROPPED from the class.
• Read the assigned chapter prior to coming to class. Even if you have not read every word, at least come to class having read the summary and “skimmed” through the pages, looking at tables and illustrations at bare minimum.
• Always be prepared to take notes, even if you think you have a photographic memory!

PRESENTATION DAYS
• On presentation day, a list will be available at the front desk for you to sign. REMEMBER YOUR NUMBER. When your number is called, it is your turn. Introduce yourself before you begin your presentation.

TEST DAYS
• Bring a scantron (FORM 882-E) and a pencil (you cannot use a pen). Take your time – you have the whole class period!

DROPPING THE COURSE
• If circumstances arise that will not allow you to successfully complete the class, please FORMALLY drop the course. If you have not dropped the class and the date has passed when the Instructor can drop you, a grade must be reported and this is often a grade of “F”.

THE HIGHER ED. EXPERIENCE
• In order to foster an environment of openness and learning, please respect others. We are have our quirks, ideologies, beliefs and ways of doing things – no one way is better than another way – respect these differences and let’s all enjoy the experience.
EXPECTATIONS;
The Student Role

There are a number of reasons why people are late and most of us are late at some point in time. If you are late, please enter the classroom quietly, find a seat and join the class in progress. It is particularly important that you do not distract someone who is presenting. Wait in the hallway until they are done and then enter.

Classroom discussions about lecture topics are always encouraged, however, other conversations during lectures and presentations are extremely distracting and often interpreted as being inconsiderate or rude. Please refrain from side conversations during lectures and presentations.

The educational process involves focus and active participation. Please get into the habit of TURNING YOUR cell phone off when you enter the class. You owe it to yourself to take a break from calls and text messages while in class. Most devices will store those messages and allow for callers to record a voicemail message that you can look forward to AFTER class. If you cannot handle being "DISCONNECTED" you should probably consider careers and occupations that do not require formalized education.