**Introduction to Sociology**

Sociologists examine how social forces shape human behavior on individual, group, and global levels.

**Communication**

Professor: Mediha Din  
E-mail: MDin@elcamino.edu

Class Meetings: Wednesdays 6:30pm-9:40pm

Class Location: ARTB 307

Office hours: By appointment  
Office Location: ARTB 328A

Class website: [http://www.soc101din.weebly.com](http://www.soc101din.weebly.com)

Be sure to visit the class website regularly for announcements and resources

**Catalog Course Description**

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.

**Required Course Materials**


Additional articles will be posted on the website by the instructor

**Course Schedule**

**February 17th Week 1: Introduction** Class overview and expectations.  
What is sociology?

**February 24th Week 2: Major Theories** Read Ch 1: pages 14-19. Read syllabus in detail.

**March 3rd Week 3: Sociologists to know** Read Ch 1: pages 4-13
March 10th Week 4: Culture Read Ch 2

March 17th Week 5: Socialization Ch 3 and Ch 4 pages 102-105

March 24th Week 6: Quiz 1. Conducting Social Research and Social Groups Read Ch 1: page 14-31 and Ch 5

March 31st Week 7: Deviance and Robert Merton Read Ch 6

April 7th Week 8: Paper 1. Social Class and Karl Marx Read Ch 7 and Ch 11: pages 305-308 and 318-321

April 14th Week 9: Spring Break. No Class.

April 21st Week 10: Race and Ethnicity Read Ch 9: pages 226-239

April 28th Week 11: Quiz 2. Immigration and Assimilation Read Ch 9: pages 240-257

May 5th Week 12: Gender and Age Read Ch 10

May 12th Week 13: Paper 2. Family Read Ch 12

May 19th Week 14: Quiz 3. Religion, Durkheim and Weber Read Ch 13

May 26th Week 15: Sociology and Hip Hop Music Read article posted on website under Content

June 2nd Week 16: Student Presentations

June 9th Week 17: Student Presentation

Course Policies

Students will be active participants in the course. Be prepared to discuss readings and topics in detail.

Please note that the syllabus is always subject to change depending on the size, composition, and needs of the class. Any changes will be posted on the class website.

Late assignments: Assignments that are turned in one day late will earn half possible points. Assignments will not be accepted any later.
Attendance and Punctuality Policy: Come to class and be on time. Attendance points can only be earned for staying in class for the entire duration.

Cell Phones: Silence cell phones during class, texting is not permitted. Please handle personal matters before/after class or during the break.

Written Assignments: All assignments must be typed. Proof read your written work before turning it in. Excessive errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation will result in detracted points. El Camino College provides free writing and Internet assistance in the Writing Center located in Humanities 122.

ADA: Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability can contact the professor privately to discuss their specific needs. If you have questions regarding if you qualify for course adaptations or special accommodations under the American with Disabilities Act, you may contact the College Office for Disability Services.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism occurs when you knowingly submit someone else’s ideas or words as your own. Plagiarism is an act of intentional deception that will result in automatic failure of the course. Reference all materials using The American Psychological Association (APA) Style Guide. Visit http://www.bibme.org/ for free assistance.

Class Discussions: “I have never in my life learned anything from any man who agreed with me.” -Dudley Field Malone.

Many of the topics discussed in class are intended to spark debate and thoughtful discussion. Be respectful of each others' ideas. Be patient and allow peers to complete their remarks. Be positive and constructive in group discussions.

Respect: It is essential that all students in class treat each other with respect. Learning can only take place in a positive environment and all students are expected to behave accordingly:

1. Sidebar conversations during class are unacceptable
2. Negative comments towards other students are unacceptable
3. Any talking during a quiz or student/guest presentation is unacceptable

The El Camino College faculty, staff, and administration are dedicated to maintaining an optimal learning environment. The standards of behavior as
outlined above are essential to the maintenance of a quality college environment. These standards apply to all students. Violation of classroom policies will lead to disciplinary action.

**Grading**

- 2 Written Assignments- 10 points each
- Class Participation- 15 points (This includes attendance as well as thoughtful discussion. You will earn one point for every day you come to class on time AND participate)
- 3 quizzes-15 points each (Study guides for each quiz will be posted on the class website prior to the quiz)
- Final Presentation-30 points

Total Points Possible-110

*Extra Credit Assignment-10 points possible: 2-3 page book reaction to *Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in A Cynical Time* (1st edition) by Paul Rogat Loeb, 1999, St. Martin's Griffin. You don't have to read the whole book, just read chapters 1-6 and write a reaction.

Other extra credit opportunities will be posted on the class website under Announcements as they become available

**Papers (2-3 pages)**

Paper 1

Choice A: Dramaturgy is a form of micro sociology. Use dramaturgy to analyze a situation that you are very familiar with such as interaction with your family, friends, classmates, significant other, or co-workers. Analyze impression management, role conflict, and role strain in one or more of these relationships.

Choice B: Literature Review. Choose a topic of interest and use the library to find a scholarly article about the topic. Discuss the important components of the study including the author's hypothesis, research methods, and findings. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the study.
Paper 2

Choice A: 100 years ago, sociologist W.E.B Du Bois said “The problem of the 20th century is the problem of the color line.” Do you think race remains of importance? Is it necessary to identify ourselves by race? What are your experiences with color lines?

Choice B: Describe the multiple approaches to explaining prejudice. Which of these theories do you feel best explains discriminatory behaviors?

Additional choices may be posted by the instructor on the class website prior to paper due date

**Final Project**

Students will choose their own final project addressing one of the following topics using the text and personal reflections/analysis:

a. Select your favorite sociological theorist and explain their contribution to the discipline? Why is this theorist important? What are the major key points of their theory?

b. Explain three theoretical approaches to explaining deviance. Which do you agree with most? Apply this approach to a current event/news article about a recent crime.

c. Charles Horton Cooley’s “Looking Glass Self” suggests that we form our perceptions of self based on perceptions of important members of our social circle. Explain Cooley’s theory and provide real life examples.

d. C. Wright Mills outlined the idea of the Power Elite. Explain Mills idea and discuss who comprises this group. Do you agree with Mills, that this group exists? Give concrete examples to support your opinion.

e. Design a mock research project about any topic that interests you. Outline the research process that would be involved if you were really conducting this research. Explain the importance of each step in the research process.

f. Design your own research question on a topic that interests you. Your questions should include discussion of theory and analysis of the theory or connection to the modern world. This option must be discussed with the professor by April 7th.

Methods of addressing the topic include:

- 5-7 page essay (individual)
- 7-15 minute video project (individual or group, up to 5 students)
- 12 slide minimum PowerPoint Presentation (up to 5 students)
• Other options can be discussed with the instructor by April 27th.

Detailed Rubrics for each of these options are available on the course website

**Objectives**
By the end of this course you will be able to:

• Define and describe sociology as a field of study and explain the 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 the behavior of groups, societies, and individuals.

• Analyze United States society as part of the 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 and evaluate sociological concepts and perspectives on similarities and differences in the behavior of individuals and groups.

**SLO**
Given a set of multiple choice examination questions, students will apply sociological theoretical perspectives to specific scenarios and demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of sociological theoretical perspectives.