Introduction to Sociology

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

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Communication

Instructor: Mediha Din

Class website: http://soc13.weebly.com

Class Meetings: MW 7:45am-9:10am

Soc 101-2803 Classroom: ARTB 338

Office hours: Mondays 10:55-11:30am or by appointment

Office Location: ARTB 320

Visit the class website regularly for announcements and resources

E-mail: MDin@elcamino.edu (be sure to write Soc 101 MW 7:45 in the subject of your e-mails)

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

Required Text: Essentials of Sociology 8th or 9th Edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning

David B. Brinkerhoff, Lynn K. White, Suzanne T. Ortega, Rose Weitz

Additional articles will be posted on the website by the instructor
Course Schedule

All assignments including reading must be completed prior to the day that they are listed.

Aug 26th Mon: Introduction Class overview and expectations. What is sociology?

Aug 28th Wed: Major Theories Read Ch 1: pages 2-5, 11-16, 28-29 A#1 Due: Read syllabus in detail and visit class website. Complete and return the Syllabus and Website Contract.

Sep 2nd Mon: Holiday. No Class

Sep 4th Wed: Major Theories Continued A#2 Due: Bring in an index card with a picture of yourself taped on one side. Write your name, e-mail, plus something you want the instructor to know about you on the other side. (This won’t be seen by others, just to help the instructor learn student names. Details on website.)

Sep 9th Mon: Culture Read article posted on website Cultural Relativism

Sep 11th Wed: Culture Read Ch 2: p 33-44. A#3 Due: Bring in a cultural artifact (any item that has meaning to you, not just ethnic culture) and prepare to share what it symbolizes (details on website).

Sep 16th Mon: Socialization Read Ch 3: p 56-69 and Ch 4: p 81, 93-95

Sep 18th Wed: Test 1 (Chapters 1-4)

Sep 23rd Mon: Economics Read Ch 13: p 325-326, 329-335


Sep 30th Mon: Crime Read Ch 6: p 127-140

Oct 2nd Wed: Crime A#5 Due: Look for an article about a recent crime in the news (local or global). Type a paragraph summarizing the crime and describe which sociological explanation of deviance you think best explains this crime and why. Include the news source and date of crime. More details on website.

Oct 7th Mon: Race and Ethnicity Read Ch 8: p 185-196 A#6 Due: Be prepared to discuss a stereotype or label you feel others have of a group you belong to (does not have to be a racial or ethnic group)

Oct 9th Wed: Race and Ethnicity Read article posted on class website White Privilege

Oct 14th Mon: Test 2 (Chapters 5, 6, 8, 13)

Oct 16th Wed: Immigration and Assimilation Read article on class website Immigration Solutions
Oct 21st Mon: Gender A#7 Due: Bring in a media image from a magazine (non-pornographic), that you feel relates to issues of gender. Create an open-ended question to ask classmates about the picture (type up the question). Details on website. Read article on class website So Sexy So Soon

Oct 23rd Wed: Gender Read Ch 9: p 210-215

Oct 28th Mon: Family Read article on website Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior

Oct 30th Wed: Family Read Ch 11: p 265, 270-280

Nov 4th Mon: Religion Ch 12: p 297-299 A#8 Due: Read the article on class website Misconceptions About Islam and type half a page to one page describing your personal reflection (What stood out to you most? What did you find most interesting?)

Nov 6th Wed: Sociologists to Know Read Ch 1: p 6-10 Extra Credit PowerPoint presentation option.

Nov 11th Mon: Holiday. No Class

Nov 13th Wed: Paper Due (topics on website). Environment Read article on website 10 Easy Ways to Go Green.

Nov 18th Mon: Test 3 (Chapters 1, 9, 11, 12, Environment)

Nov 20th Wed: Social Class Read Ch 7: p 152-157

Nov 25th Mon: Health Read Ch 10: p 233-245 and article on website College Health

Nov 27th Wed: Conducting Social Research Read Ch 1: p 16-29

Dec 2nd Mon: Conducting Social Research and Technology Read article on class website Antisocial Networking

Dec 4th Wed: Social Change Ch 15: p 376-386

Dec 9th Mon: Final Review

Dec 11th Wed: Final Exam (Chapters 1, 7, 10, 15, Technology)

Important ECC Dates:

Last to add classes: Friday September 6th, 2013

Last day to drop without notation: Friday September 6th, 2013

Last day to drop with a “W”: Friday November 15, 2013
Grading

- **Class Work** - 10 points (details on how this is graded below)
- **3 Tests** - 20 points each (study guides for each test will be posted on the class website)
- **Paper** - 15 points (2½-3 pages, see course website for details)
- **8 Assignments** - 45 points total
  - A #1-Syllabus and Website Contract. 4 points
  - A #2-Photo and Info Card. 4 points.
  - A #3-Cultural Artifact. 4 points (in-class component).
  - A #4-Sociology Today. 8 points
  - A #5-Crime Article Analysis. 10 points.
  - A #6-Stereotype. 4 points (in-class component).
  - A #7-Media Image. 6 points (in-class component).
  - A #8-Article Reflection Religion. 5 points
- **Final Exam** - 20 points

**Total Points** = 150

A= 150-135  B=134-120  C=119-105  D=104-90  F=89 or less

Keep track of your points. Save all graded and returned work.

Students must be in class to earn full points for any assignment marked “in-class component.”

**Extra Credit Opportunities**

Extra credit opportunities will be posted on the class website under the “Extra Credit” tab as they become available. Total extra credit points possible: 5

**Class Work Grading Guidelines**

Classwork grade includes participation, discussion, and completion of in-class activities. *Full points cannot be earned if a student misses more than two class sessions, is late to class more than twice, or does not stay in class for the entire duration.

**Course Policies**

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.

**Attendance and Punctuality Policy**: Come to class and be on time. Two absences excused, two tardies excused. In accordance with ECC policy, 4 absences can lead to being dropped from the course. Students who miss the first day of class will be dropped.

**Technology**: Silence cell phones during class, texting is not permitted. Cell phones may not be in sight during class. **Texting or answering your phone in class will lead to a loss of 5 points**. Music devices should be put away as soon as class begins. **Use of laptops or tablets is not permitted in this class** (see me if you have a special need).
Late assignments: Assignments that are turned in one day late will earn half possible points. This means the very next day, via e-mail. Assignments will not be accepted any later. If you are absent, an assignment can be e-mailed to the instructor by the class start time the day it is due. Text must be in the body of the e-mail, not as an attachment.

E-mail: When sending an e-mail to faculty or staff, write in a professional manner. This means opening the e-mail with an appropriate salutation (such as “Hi Ms. Din”), writing in complete sentences, proofreading, avoiding slang or text abbreviations, and ending with an appropriate closing (“Sincerely”) and your full name.

Test taking: There are no make-up tests. No talking is permitted during a test.

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

“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 other’s ideas. Be patient and allow peers to complete their remarks.

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 test or student/guest presentation is unacceptable

Violation of classroom policies will lead to disciplinary action. This can include a loss of 15 points from your grade and a formal write-up. 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 setting.

ADA: Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on a special need should contact the instructor privately the first week of class to discuss their specific needs. If you have questions regarding if you qualify for course adaptations or special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you may contact the El Camino College Special Resource Center at (310) 660-3295 or visit http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/src/.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is an act of deception that will result in automatic failure of the course. Reference all materials using the American Psychological Association (APA) or Modern Language Association (MLA) Style Guide. Visit the Papers tab of the course website for details on what constitutes plagiarism and information on how to properly cite sources before submitting papers or assignments.

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, (310) 660-3873.
Objectives

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

1. Define and describe sociology as a field of study and distinguish it from other disciplines in the social sciences.
2. Explain and apply the sociological imagination as defined by C. Wright Mills.
3. Identify and describe key theoretical perspectives in sociology, including functionalism, conflict, and interactionism. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of each perspective relative to a variety of social situational circumstances.
4. Identify and analyze prominent classic theorists in sociology, such as Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim, as well as contemporary theorists, such as Peter Berger, George Ritzer, and Talcott Parsons and their contributions to the field of sociology.
5. Identify the six steps in the scientific method and distinguish between qualitative and quantitative research methods.
6. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of research methodologies sociologists use to gather and analyze data.
7. Articulate dimensions of material and nonmaterial culture, including norms, values, and symbols.
8. Classify and define micro and macro elements of social structure, including status, role, social groups, organizations, and institutions.
9. Identify agents of socialization and describe the process of socialization throughout the life course. Explain the “nature vs. nurture” debate and assess socialization theories of human development.
10. Define deviance and social control. Identify and apply theories used to explain deviant behavior.
11. Demonstrate an understanding of sociological concepts relating to social stratification and inequality.
12. Describe major social institutions and evaluate their impact on individuals and groups in American society. Discuss historical and contemporary changes in these institutions.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. 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.

2. In a written assignment, students will define and demonstrate an understanding of sociological concepts by applying them to social scenarios.

The Student Rights Procedure 5530 can be found at:
http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/policies.asp

The Student Code of Conduct can be found at:
http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/boarddocs/5500%20%20Academic%20Honesty.pdf