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
Soc 101-2802 Location: ARTB 348

Class Meetings: TTH 7:45am-9:10am
Office Location: ARTB 328A

Office hours: Mondays 9:10am-10:00am
Class website: http://soc2012.weebly.com

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

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

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

Required Text: Essentials of Sociology 8th Edition Wadsworth Cenage 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 on the day that they are listed.

Feb 14th Tues: Introduction Class overview and expectations. What is sociology?

Feb 16th Thurs: Major Theories Read Ch 1: pages 2-5, 11-16, 28-29. Read syllabus in detail and visit class website. Due A#1: Find the assignment on the website and submit a question or comment (required). Also complete and return the Syllabus and Website Quiz. 4 points.

Feb 21st Tues: Major Theories continued Due A#2: Bring in a an index card with a picture of yourself taped on one side and name, e-mail, plus something you want the instructor to know about you on the other side. 4 points (This won’t be seen by others, just to help the instructor learn student names.)

Feb 23rd Thurs: Culture Read article posted on website Cultural Relativism

Feb 28th Tues: Culture Read Ch 2: p 33-44. Due A#3: Bring in a cultural artifact (any item that has meaning to you, not just ethnic culture) and prepare to share what it symbolizes. 2 points

March 1st Thurs: Socialization Read Ch 3: p 56-69 and Ch 4: p 81, 93-95

March 6th Tues: Quiz 1. Social Interaction

March 8th Thurs: Social Class Read Ch 7: p 152-157

March 13th Tues: Social Groups. Read Ch 5: 101-111, 120-123 Due A#4: Be a sociologist. Observe people in a setting of your choice (work, mall, home, school, doctor’s office, grocery store, bank, etc.) and find a real life example of one of the key terms from Chapter 5. Details on website. 10 points

March 15th Thurs Crime Read Ch 6: p 127-140

March 20th Tues: Crime Due A #5: Look for an article about a recent crime in the news (local or global). Write 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. 8 points

March 22nd Thurs: Race and Ethnicity Read Ch 8: p 185-196 Due A #6: 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) 4 points

March 27th Tues: Race and Ethnicity Read article posted on class website White Privilege

March 29th Thurs: Quiz 2. Immigration
April 3rd Tues: **Immigration and Assimilation** Read article posted on class website *Immigration*

April 5th Thurs: Due Paper 1 (details on website) **Gender and Age** Read Ch 9: p 210-215

April 10th and April 12th: Spring Break. No Class

April 17th Tues: **Gender and Age Due A#7**: Bring in a media image from a magazine (non-pornographic) that you feel relates to issues of gender or age. Create an open-ended question to ask classmates about the picture (type up the question). 4 points. Read article posted on website *So Sexy So Soon*

April 19th Thurs: **Family** Read Ch 11: p 265, 270-280

April 24th Tues: **Family** Read article on website *Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior*

April 26th Thurs: **Religion** Ch 12: p 297-299 Due: A#8. Read the article *Misconceptions About Islam* posted on the course website and type half a page to one page describing your personal reflection (What stood out to you most? What did you find most interesting?) 4 points

May 1st Tues: **Sociologists to know** Read Ch 1: pages 6-10. Extra Credit PowerPoint presentations

May 3rd Thurs: **Sociologists to know**

May 8th Tues: **Quiz 3. Conducting Social Research**

May 10th Thurs: **Conducting Social Research** Read Ch 1: p 16-29

May 15th Tues: **Health** Read Ch 10: p 233-245

May 17th Thurs: **Health. Due Paper 2** (details on website)

May 22nd Tues: **Economics** Read Ch 13: p 325-326, 329-335

May 24th Thurs: **Urbanization** Read article on website *10 Easy Ways to Go Green*

May 29th Tues: **Social Change** Read Ch 15: p 376-386

May 31st Thurs: **Sociology and Hip Hop Music** Read article on website *Hip Hop and Sociology. All extra credit due this day*

June 5th Tues: Final Review

June 7th Thurs: Final Test
Grading

- **2 Papers**- 15 points each (2-3 pages, see course website for details)
- **Class Participation**- 15 points (details on how participation is graded below)
- **3 quizzes**-15 points each (study guides for each quiz will be posted on the class website)
- **8 Assignments**-40 points total
  - A #1- Syllabus and Website Quiz plus online website form. 4 points
  - A #2-Photo and info card. 4 points.
  - A #3-Cultural artifact. 2 points (in-class component).
  - A #4-Be a sociologist. 10 points (in-class component).
  - A #5-Crime article. 8 points.
  - A #6-Stereotype. 4 points (in-class component).
  - A #7-Media image 4 points (in-class component).
  - A #8-Article reflection religion 4 points
- **Final**-20 points

**Total Points Possible**-150

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

**Participation Grading Guidelines**

Participation grades include attendance, thoughtful discussion, and completion of in-class activities.

Full participation points cannot be earned if a student is late to class more than once, does not stay in class for the entire duration, or only participates in small-group discussions.

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<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Participates in every class session, in whole group and small group discussions. Misses 0-1 classes. Misses 0-1 in-class assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Participates in whole group discussion sometimes. Participates in small group discussions every session. Misses 2-3 classes. Misses 2-3 in-class assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Only participates in small group discussions. Misses 4 classes. Misses 4 in-class assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Does not participate. Misses more than 4 classes. Misses more than 4 in-class assignments.</td>
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**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**

**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.
Late assignments: Assignments that are turned in one day late will earn half possible points. Assignments will not be accepted any later. If you are absent your 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. Students must be in class to earn full points for any assignment marked “in-class component.”

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

Attendance and Punctuality Policy: Come to class and be on time. Attendance points can only be earned for coming to class on time and staying in class for the entire duration. In accordance with ECC policy, 4 absences can lead to being dropped from the course. First tardy excused, after which each instance of being late to class will lead to 2 points being detracted from your grade.

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. MP3 players should be put away as soon as class begins. Laptop users must sit in the back row of class to avoid distractions. Use of laptops for anything other than note taking will lead to a loss of 5 points and loss of laptop privileges.

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.

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. 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. 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)

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.
ADA: Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on a disability can 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 American 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/.

E-mail Etiquette: When sending an e-mail to any member of the 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 (such as “Sincerely” or “Thank you”) and your full name.

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 Outcome (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.