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://soc2013.weebly.com

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

Soc 101-2800 Classroom: ARTB 317

Office hours: Tuesdays 9:10am-10:00am 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 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 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 on the day that they are listed.

Feb 11th Mon: Introduction Class overview and expectations. What is sociology?

Feb 13th 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.

Feb 18th Mon: Holiday. No Class

Feb 20th 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.)*

Feb 25th Mon: Culture Read article posted on website Cultural Relativism

Feb 27th Wed: Culture Read Ch 2: p 33-43. 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.

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

March 6th Wed: Test 1 (Chapters 1-4). Social Interaction

March 11th Mon: Technology and Social Interaction. Read article on class website Antisocial Networking

March 13th Wed: Social Groups. Read Ch 5: 101-111, 120-123 A#4 Due: Be a sociologist, typed observation. 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. More details on website.

March 18th Mon: Crime Read Ch 6: p 127-140

March 20th 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.

March 25th 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)

March 27th Wed: Race and Ethnicity Read article posted on class website White Privilege
April 1st Mon: Test 2 (Chapters 5, 6, 8, Technology). Immigration

April 3rd Wed: Immigration and Assimilation Read article on class website Immigration, Ch 2: p 44-53

April 8th and 10th: Spring Break. No classes

April 15th Mon: Gender Read Ch 9: p 210-215

April 17th Wed: 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). Read article on class website So Sexy So Soon

April 22nd Mon: Paper Due (topics on website). Family Read Ch 11: p 265, 270-280

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

April 29th 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?)

May 1st Wed: Sociologists to Know and Environment Read Ch 1: p 6-10 and article on class website 10 Easy Ways to Go Green. Extra credit PowerPoint presentations option.

May 6th Mon: Sociologists to know and Social Class Read Ch 7: p 152-157

May 8th Wed: Test 3 (Chapters 1, 9, 11, 12, Environment)

May 13th Mon: Health Read Ch 10: p 233-245

May 15th Wed: Health Read article on website College Health

May 20th Mon: Economics Read Ch 13: p 325-326, 329-335

May 22nd Wed: Conducting Social Research Read Ch 1: p 16-27

May 27th Mon: Holiday. No Class.

May 29th Wed: Conducting Social Research and Social Change Ch 15: p 376-386

June 3rd Mon: Final Review

June 5th Wed: Final Exam (Chapters 1, 7, 10, 13, 15)
Grading

- **Paper** - 15 points (2½-3 pages, see course website for details)
- **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)
- **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 - Be a sociologist. 8 points (in-class component).
  - 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.

**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. Text must be in the body of the e-mail, not as an attachment.

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

**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.

**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.

**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. 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.

**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.

**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.

**The Student Rights and Grievances 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