Introduction to Sociology

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

Communication

Instructor: Mediha Din
Class Location: ARTB 317

Class Meetings: Mon-Fri 10:30am-12:35pm
Office Location: ARTB 328A

Office hours: Wednesdays 12:35-1:35pm
Class website: http://soc101winter.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 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


Additional articles will be posted on the website by the instructor

Course Schedule

All assignments and readings must be completed on the day that they are listed.

January 5th Wed: Introduction Class overview and expectations. What is sociology?

January 6th Thurs: Major Theories Read Ch 1: pages 2-5 and 11-16 Read syllabus in detail and visit class website. Due A#1 Find the assignment on the website and submit a question or comment. Also complete and return the Syllabus and Website Quiz. 4 points.

January 7th Fri: Sociologists to know Read Ch 1: pages 6-10 Due A#2: Bring in a small picture of yourself taped on an index card with your name on it and something you want the instructor to know about you. 4 points. (This won’t be seen by others, just to help the instructor learn student names.)

January 10th Mon: Culture Read article posted on website Cultural Relativism
January 11th Tues: Culture Read Ch 2. 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. 4 points.

January 12th Wed: Socialization Read Ch 3 and 4

January 13th Thurs: Quiz 1. Social Interaction

January 14th Fri: Social Class and Karl Marx Read Ch 7

January 17th Mon: NO CLASS. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

January 18th Tues: Social Groups. Read Ch 5 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. Describe it in detail. See website for more info. 10 points


January 20th Thurs: 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. Prepare to share in class. More details on website. 8 points

January 21st Fri: Race and Ethnicity Read Ch 8 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.

January 24th Mon: Race and Ethnicity Read article posted on class website White Privilege

January 25th Tues: Quiz 2. Immigration and Assimilation Read Article posted on class website Immigration

January 26th Wed: Gender and Age Read Ch 9 Sign up for finals today

January 27th Thurs: 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. Think of an open-ended question to ask classmates about the picture (type up the question). 6 points. Read article posted on website So Sexy So Soon

January 28th Fri: Paper 2 Due. Family Read Ch 11

January 31st Mon: Religion- Durkheim and Weber Read Ch 12 Due: A#8. Read the article Misconceptions About Islam posted on the course website and write half a page to one page describing your personal reflection: What stood out to you most? What did you find most interesting? Questions you still have.

February 1st Tues: Conducting Social Research Read Ch 1: pages 16-29

February 2nd Wed: Quiz 3. Economics Read Ch 13 2

February 3 Thurs: Sociology and Hip Hop Music Read article posted on website Hip Hop and Sociology
February 4th Fri: Social Change Read Ch 15

February 7th Mon: Final Presentations

February 8th Tues: Final Presentations

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.

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 lead to being dropped from the course. Being late twice = 1 absence. Excessive tardiness can also lead to being dropped from the course.

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, (310) 660-3873.

ADA: Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on a disability can contact the instructor 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 El Camino College Special Resource Center at (310) 660-3295 or http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/src/.

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) or Modern Language Association (MLA) 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 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. These standards apply to all students. Violation of classroom policies will lead to disciplinary action.

E-mail Etiquette: When sending an e-mail to any member of the faculty or staff be aware of your audience and write in a professional manner. This means opening the email with an appropriate salutation (such as “Dear Ms. Din”), writing in complete sentences, proofreading, avoiding slang or text abbreviations, and ending with an appropriate closing (such as “Sincerely” or “Thank you”).

Grading

- **2 Papers**- 15 points each *(see course website for details on how papers will be graded)*
- **Class Participation**- 15 points *(This includes attendance as well as thoughtful discussion. If you attend all classes and regularly participate you earn 15/15 points. Attending all classes but not participating at all earns 0/15 points)*
- **3 quizzes**-15 points each *(Study guides for each quiz will be posted on the class website prior to the quiz)*
- **8 Assignments**-40 points total
  - A #1-Syllabus and Website Quiz plus Website form. 4 points
  - A #2-Photo and info card. 4 points.
  - A #3-Cultural artifact. 2 points.
  - A #4-Be a sociologist. 10 points.
  - A #5-Crime article. 8 points.
  - A #6-Stereotype. 4 points.
  - A #7-Media image 4 points.
  - A #8-Article reflection Religion 4 points
- **Final**-20 points

Total Points Possible-150

Extra Credit Opportunities

Hip Hop and Sociology: Choose a hip hop song that highlights a social problem, says something about society, or gives insight into a subculture. Bring in the clean version, bring 50 copies of the lyrics, prepare to tell us why you picked the song, and connect it to sociology (something we learned in class or in the text book.) Think of two questions to ask the class related to the song that you believe will spark discussion. More details on this assignment will be posted on the website. Due February 3rd. 4 points possible.

Other extra credit opportunities will be posted on the class website under the “Extra Credit” tab as they become available. Total extra credit points possible: 10
Papers (2-3 pages)

Paper 1 – Select one of the following choices

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.

Choice C: Agents of Socialization: Which ONE of these agents of socialization do you feel has the strongest effect on a person’s values and actions: schooling, peers, family, neighborhood, or media? Why? Provide 3 detailed examples.

Paper 2 – Select one of the following choices

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.” Why is W.E.B Du Bois an important sociologist? What are two experiences you have had with issues of race?

Choice B: Describe three of the four sociological approaches to explaining prejudice (Cultural Transmission, Group Identification Theory, Personality Theories, Frustration-aggression hypothesis) Provide a real-life example of each. Which of these theories do you feel best explains discriminatory behaviors, why?

Choice C: Compare and contrast Robert Park’s traditional 3 generation model of assimilation or Milton Gordon’s 7 process assimilation model to your own family’s experience with assimilation.

Additional paper choices will be posted on the class website prior to paper due dates.

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

a. Select a sociological theorist and explain their contribution to the discipline. What are three major points of their theory? How are the main points relevant today?

b. Explain deviance through the three sociological approaches (structural functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism). Which approach 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 3 real life examples. (You may not choose this option if you wrote about Dramaturgy for Paper 1)
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 three 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. (More details on this option on the website)

f. Design your own research question on a topic that interests you. Your question should include discussion of the 3 major sociological theories, analysis of the theories, and connection to the modern world. This option must be discussed with the instructor by week 10.

Methods of addressing the topic include (choose one):
- 5-7 page essay (individual)
- 7-15 minute video project (individual or group, up to 4 students)
- 12 slide minimum PowerPoint Presentation (individual or group up to 4 students)
- Other options can be discussed with the instructor by Week 11.

Be sure to use the detailed Scoring Rubrics for each of these options that will be 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.

**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.