Introduction to Sociology

Sociologists examine how society influences human behavior on individual, group, and global levels.

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Communication

Instructor: Mediha Din

Class website: http://soc14.weebly.com

Class Meetings: TTH 4:00pm-5:25pm

Soc 101-2826 Classroom: SOCS 122

Office hours: Mondays 9:15-9:45am 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 TTH 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


Additional articles will be posted on the website by the instructor.
Grading

- **3 Tests** - 25 points each
- **Class Work** - 10 points (in-class assignments, 1 point each, cannot be made-up if missed)
- **Paper** - 15 points (2½-3 pages)
- **7 Assignments** - 40 points total
  - A #1 - Syllabus and Website Contract. 4 points
  - A #2 - Photo and info card. 4 points
  - A #3 - Cultural artifact. 5 points (in-class component)
  - A #4 - Crime article analysis. 10 points
  - A #5 - Stereotype. 5 points (in-class component)
  - A #6 - Gender image. 5 points (in-class component)
  - A #7 - Article reflection. 7 points
- **Final Exam** - 25 points

**Total Points** = 165. Study guides for each test and directions for each assignment will be on the website.

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

**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, be on time, and stay for the entire duration. Classwork is worth 10 points and based on 10 in-class assignments. These assignments cannot be made-up if missed. 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:** Texting or answering your phone in class is unacceptable. Cell phones may not be in sight during class. Silence cell phones during class. 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. Be sure to check the course website if you are absent.

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

**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:** 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. Assignment 4, 6, 7, and the paper must be typed. Hand written assignments must include clear handwriting.

**Important ECC Dates:**

- **Last day to add classes:** Friday January 31st, 2014
- **Last day to drop without notation:** Friday January 31st, 2014
- **Last day to drop with a “W”:** Friday April 18, 2014
Course Schedule

All assignments including reading must be completed prior to the day that they are listed. View this schedule at least twice a week to avoid falling behind. Reading pages listed below are based on the 8th edition of the textbook. Pages for the 9th edition will be posted online.

Jan 21st Tues: Introduction Class overview and expectations. What is sociology?

Assignments

Jan 23rd Thurs: 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.

Jan 28th Tues: 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. More details on website.)

Assignments

Jan 30th Thurs: Culture Read article posted on website Cultural Relativism

Assignments

Feb 4th Tues: Culture Read Ch 2: p 32-44. A#3 Due: Cultural artifact. More details in class and on website.

Feb 6th Thurs: Socialization Read Ch 3: p 56-69

Feb 11th Tues: Socialization continued Read Ch 4: p 81, 93-95

Feb 13th Thurs: Test 1 (Chapters 1-4)

Feb 18th Tues: Social Groups. Read Ch 5: p 101-111, 120-123

Feb 20th Thurs: Crime Read Ch 6: p 127-140

Assignments

Feb 25th Tues: Crime A#4 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.

Feb 27th Thurs: Race and Ethnicity Read Ch 8: p 185-196 A#5 Due: Describe a stereotype or label you feel others have of a group you belong to (does not have to be a racial or ethnic group, more details in class)

Assignments

March 4th Tues: Race and Ethnicity Read article posted on class website White Privilege

March 6th Thurs: Immigration and Assimilation Read article on class website Immigration Solutions

Assignments

Test

March 11th Tues: Test 2 (Chapters 5, 6, 8)
March 13th Thurs: Gender Read article on class website So Sexy So Soon

March 18th and March 20th: Spring Break. No Classes

March 25th Tues: Gender Read Ch 9: p 210-215 A#6 Due: Gender image. More details on website.

March 27th Thurs: Family Read article on website Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior

April 1st Tues: Family Read Ch 11: p 265, 270-280

April 3rd Thurs: Religion and Education Read Ch 12: 284-287, 297-299, and article on class website Misconceptions About Islam

April 8th Tues: Sociologists to Know Read Ch 1: p 6-10 Extra Credit PowerPoint presentation option.

April 10th Thurs: Paper Due (topics on website). Environment Read article on website 10 Easy Ways to Go Green.

April 15th Tues: Test 3 (Chapters 1, 9, 11, 12, Environment)

April 17th Thurs: Economics Ch 13: p 325-326, 329-335

April 22nd Tues: Social Class Read Ch 7: p 152-157

April 24th Thurs: Health Read Ch 10: p 233-245

April 29th Tues: Health Read article on website College Health

May 1st Thurs: Conducting Social Research Read Ch 1: p 16-29

May 6th Tues: Conducting Social Research and Technology Read article on class website Antisocial Networking. A#7 Due: Article reflection. Write a summary and reflection of one of the assigned articles. More details on website.

May 8th Thurs: Social Change Ch 15: p 376-386

May 13th Tues: Final Review

May 15th Thurs: Final Exam (Chapters 1, 7, 10, 13, 15, Technology)
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

Student Learning Outcome #1 Sociological Theoretical Perspectives
Students will demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of theoretical perspectives and apply sociological perspectives such as functionalism, conflict theory, and interactionism to social scenarios.

Student Learning Outcome #2 Sociological Concepts
Students will define and demonstrate an understanding of sociological concepts, such as social structure, culture, socialization, deviance, and social stratification 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