

Introductory Sociology (Anth/Soc 105, Spring 2000)

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Office hrs: Tu: 11:15-1pm; Th: 8-9:30am & 11:15-1pm C107, #3932

Course Statement

What is sociology? Sociology is a social science that takes as its unit of analysis sociality - the condition of existing socially. We are thrown at birth into a world not of our own making - a world of language, groups, institutions and complex organizations that are the products of centuries of social interaction and organization. Sociology is the study of this social world, its structures and processes, and our mutually constitutive relationship with it.

We will begin this course by examining sociology's origins, theoretical assumptions, and historical applications, and then proceed to examine the insights and questions to which sociology has given rise. We will then turn our attention toward doing sociology as an ontological activity. My goal is to provide you with a sociological understanding of our social reality and your existence within it. Each class meeting will consist of a lecture (approximately 50 minutes), a short break, and then a discussion about the lecture material and its relation to the assigned readings. Assigned readings must be completed prior to class-time. Without consistent reading our discussion of the material, and your learning of it, will be superficial and disappointing. Please do not remain enrolled in this class unless you are willing to pledge that you will consistently complete your readings on time.

Attendance is mandatory because you will not be able to access the bulk of class material from any source other than the lectures and discussions (there is no textbook to this course). More than 3 unexcused absences will qualify you for an automatic F.

Required Texts and Grading

This Book is Not Required. Inge Bell and B. McGrane, 1999.
Revised edition. Fort Bragg, California: The Small Press.

The Meaning of Sociology. Joel M. Charon, ed., 1999. Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Sources: Notable Selections in Sociology. Kurt Finsterbusch and Janet Schwartz, 1996. Guilford, CT: Dushkin.

Essays 1, 2 and 3 (worth 15% each)	45%
Midterm essay exam	25%
Final essay exam	30%

Th	1/13	What is science? Socrates, Kuhn and Hegel's dialectic Read for Tu: Ch. 4 in Charon and 5 in Bell.
Tu	1/18	What is sociology? Read for Th: 1.1 and 1.2 in Sources.
Th	1/20	The sociological imagination Read for Tu: Chapter 1 in Bell and handout on Durkheim.
Tu	1/25	Social facts and Durkheim's sociological mind Read for Th: Ch. 13 in Charon and 2.1 in Sources.
Th	1/27	Social structure and the sui generis reality of society and culture Read for Tu: Handout on suicide; McGowan's article on the millennium.
Tu	2/1	Religion, order and anomie Read for Th: Ch. 40 and 41 in Charon Paper #1 is assigned - due 2/8 (Read Ch. 4 in Bell as part of assignment)
Th	2/3	Deviance and social controls Read for Tu: 7.1 in Sources and Ch. 22 in Charon.
Tu	2/8	Paper #1 is due at 9:40am Marx and Dialectical Materialism Read for Th: Ch. 26 and 49 in Charon.
Th	2/10	Alienation and class consciousness Read for Tu: Handout on Merton.
Tu	2/15	Class interests and motivation Read for Th: Ch. 36 in Charon and 2.2 in Sources.
Th	2/17	Culture and its foregrounding effect Read for Tu: Ch. 38 and 55 in Charon.
Tu	2/22	Weber and the Protestant Ethic Read for Th: 11.2 in Sources.
Th	2/24	The rationalization of life Read for Tu: Ch. 20 and 21 in Charon.
Tu	2/29	Displacement and authority

Review for midterm

Th	3/2	Midterm Exam (short answer and essay)
Tu	3/7	Spring Break
Th	3/9	Spring Break
Tu	3/14	Micro sociology Read for Th: Ch. 7 and 8 in Charon.
Th	3/16	The social construction of selves Read for Tu: Ch. 14 in Charon and 3.1 in Sources.
Tu	3/21	Paper #2 is assigned - due 3/28 Mind, self and society Read for Th: 4.1 in Sources and Ch. 19 in Charon.
Th	3/23	The internalization of roles Read for Tu: 12.2 & 12.3 in Sources and ch. 51 in Charon.
Tu	3/28	Paper #2 is due at 9:40am Marriage, families and social structure Read for Th: Ch. 33 in Charon and 3.2 in Sources.
Th	3/30	Gender and social structure Read for Tu: Handout on Berger and Luckmann
Tu	4/4	The Social construction of reality Read for Th: Ch. 35 in Charon
Th	4/6	The objectification and commodification of women. Read for Tu: Ch. 30 and 31 in Charon.
Tu	4/11	The social construction of race. Read for Th: Ch. 10 in Bell
Th	4/13	What's your vector, Victor? Read for Tu: McGowan's article on reflexivity.
Tu	4/18	Paper #3 is assigned - due 4/27 Gadamer, reflexivity and mode three. Read for Tu: Ch. 12 and 13 in Bell.
Th	4/20	Easter Recess

Tu	4/25	Repositioned selves
Th	4/27	Paper #1 is due at 9:40am Review for Final