

Introductory Sociology (Anth/Soc 105, Fall 1998)

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Office hrs: Mon & Wed 1-3pm; Tue & Thur 9:30-11am (C107, #3932)

Course Statement

Sociology is the study of the *social structures* and *processes* that exist over and above individuals. These structures and processes shape the context and experience of individuals - constraining and restricting us while simultaneously providing the order and stability needed for survival and self development. This paradox, the state of being an individual yet always, already a social creature is sociology's key concern. We will explore how sociology can help us to understand ourselves and the worlds in which we live by providing insight into the social construction of both self and society.

I define sociology as a form of *applied philosophy*, a conceptually rich, empirically grounded way of making sense of ourselves and our worlds. My experience suggests that if you become and remain engaged in this course you will experience insights you will not soon forget.

In addition to the three paper assignments and exams you will be expected to view 2 films (TBA) outside of class time and complete 2 single-page papers in response to 2 field exercises.

You are expected to complete *all* readings. Any student who exceeds more than 3 unexcused absences may be failed. Papers submitted *later* than the due-date will be lowered a full grade.

Required Texts and Grading

This Book is Not Required. Inge Bell. 1991. Revised edition. Fort Bragg, California: The Small Press.

The Un-TV and the 10 MPH Car: Experiments in Personal Freedom and Everyday Life. B. McGrane. 1994. Fort Bragg, CA: Small Press.

The Meaning of Sociology. Joel M. Charon, ed. 1996. Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

The Encyclopedic Dictionary of Sociology, R. Lachmann, ed. (1991).
Gulford, CT: Dushkin.

Paper 1 (5 pages)	15%
Paper 2 (5 pages)	15%
Midterm essay exam	25%

Paper 3 (5 pages) 15%

Final essay exam 30%

Wed 8/26 Sociology as ontology
Read for Fri. ch. 1 in McGrane
and entries on *sociology, paradigm, dialectic*

Fri 8/28 Dangerous sociology, Hegel's dialectic and
the Socratic method
Read for Mon. chaps. 1 and 4 in Bell

Mon 8/31 Paradigms, reflexivity and the role of "student"
Read for Wed. chaps. 3 and 5 in Bell

Wed 9/2 Demystifying the institution
Read for Fri. chaps. 65, 64 and 2 in Charon
and entry on *C. W. Mills*

Fri 9/4 The subversive, sociological imagination
Read for Wed. handout on social facts (Durkheim)
and entries on *Durkheim, Comte, norms (social)*

Mon 9/7 Labor Day

Wed 9/9 Durkheim's social-structural imagination
Paper #1 is assigned (due 9/14)

Fri 9/11 Durkheim and the origins of religion
Read for Mon. ch. 2 in McGrane **after** completing

Mon 9/14 Paper # 1 is due at 10:20am
Suicide, division of labor, and functionalism
Read ch. 4 in Charon and entry on *social structure*

Wed 9/16 The sui generis nature of groups
Read chaps. 6 and 7 in Charon, and entries on
Thomas axiom, social interaction, symbolic inter

Fri 9/18 Schools of micro sociology
Read for Mon. chaps. 8 and 12 in Charon
and entries on *socialization, self concept*

Mon 9/21 The self as a social process
Read for Wed. chaps. 17 and 18 in Charon
and entry on *Max Weber*

Wed 9/23 Weber's typology of social action
Read for Mon. chaps. 40 and 20 in Charon
and entry on *Protestant Ethic*

Fri 9/25 No class - McGowan at conference

Mon 9/28 The Protestant ethic
Read for Wed. ch. 42 in Charon

and entries on *bureaucracy, rationalization*

Wed 9/30 Bureaucracy and rationalization
Read for Fri. handout on Berger and Luckmann

Fri 10/2 The social construction of reality (p. 1)
Read for Mon. ch. 57 in Charon
and entry on *reification*

Mon 10/5 The social construction of reality (p. 2)
Read ch. 60 in Charon
and entries on *Karl Marx, social change, conflict*

Wed 10/7 Marx's view of social change
Read for Fri. entries on *mode of production, dialectic*

Fri 10/9 Marx's dialectical materialism
Read for Mon. entries on *alienation, class, class*

Mon 10/12 Alienation and reification

Wed 10/14 Review for midterm

Fri 10/16 Midterm exam

Mon 10/19 Fall break

Wed 10/21 Types of sociological research methods
Read for Fri. entries on *positivism, validity, reliability*

Fri 10/23 Validity, reliability, conceptualization and operationalization
Read for Mon. ch. 30 in Charon

Mon 10/26 The complexities of race and class
Read for Wed. ch. 34 in Charon

Wed 10/28 The social-psychology of race
Read for Wed. ch. 35 in Charon
Paper # 2 is assigned (due Mon. 11/2)

Fri 10/30 Racial and cultural diversity
Read for Mon. ch. 39 in Charon

Mon 11/2 Fraternities and rape on campus
Read for Wed. ch. 36 in Charon
Paper # 2 is due

Wed 11/4 Gender inequality
Read for Fri. handout on gender

Fri 11/6 The performativity of gender
Read for Mon. ch. 28 in Charon

Mon	11/9	The circle of poverty Read for Wed. chaps. 26 and 27 in Charon
Wed	11/11	The positive functions of poverty Read for Mon. ch. 25 in Charon
Fri	11/13	The social construction of affluence Read for Wed. ch. 11 in Bell
Mon	11/16	Appropriating sociology Read for Wed. chaps. 5 and 6 in McGrane
Wed	11/18	The repositioned self Read for Fri. chaps. 3 and 4 in McGrane
Fri	11/20	Repositioning the self Paper # 3 is assigned
Mon	11/23	No class (McGowan at conference)
Wed	11/25	Thanksgiving break
Fri	11/27	Thanksgiving break
Mon	11/30	Desocialization
Wed	12/2	The constituting self Paper #3 is due Read for Fri. ch. 9 in Bell
Fri	12/4	The art of relating Read handout on ontological change (McGowan)
Mon	12/7	The science of relating
Wed	12/9	Final class meeting -- review for final exam