

Introductory Sociology (Anth/Soc 105, Spring 2003)

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Course Statement

Sociology is the study of sociality – the condition of existing socially. Like the air we breathe, the fact that we exist socially is typically taken-for-granted. Yet, like the air we breathe, society and our relations within it are an absolutely essential and necessary condition of our existence. The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the discipline that studies and examines this essential and fascinating aspect of human existence.

Sociology is both an empirical social science and a way to view our reality and ourselves. The goal in this course is to teach both of these applications of sociology. You will learn the history of sociology, its key concepts and contributions, and how to apply sociological concepts in order to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the world and your place in it.

Grading

Class attendance is mandatory. Three unexcused absences will qualify you to receive an automatic “F” in this class.

Midterm essay exam:	30%
Weekly writing assignments:	30%
Final exam:	30%
Class participation:	10%

Required Texts

The Meaning of Sociology. 2001. Joel Charon, editor. 7th edition.
New York: Prentice Hall.

Sources: Notable Selections in Sociology. 1999. Kurt Finsterbusch, editor. 3d edition.
Guilford, CT: Dushkin/McGraw-Hill.

This Book is Not Required. 1992. Inge Bell. Fort Bragg, CA: The Small Press.

Thursday	8/28	Course Overview and Pedagogical Goals
Tuesday	9/2	Sociology and reflexivity. Discuss #1.1 (Berger) and #1.2 (Mills). Discuss writing assignment # 1
Thursday	9/4	Culture, society and paradigms. Discuss #2.2 (Miner)
Tuesday	9/9	The concept of “human nature.” Discuss #7 (Cooley) and #8 (Davis). Discuss writing assignment # 2
Thursday	9/11	The social “self.” Discuss #3.1 (G. H. Mead) and #6.1 (Cooley).
Tuesday	9/16	Gender as an example of a foregrounding, constitutive force. Discuss #2.5 (Tannen) and #35 (Howard and Hollander). Discuss writing assignment # 3
Thursday	9/18	Class does not meet (Dr. McGowan at conference)
Tuesday	9/23	The phenomenon of socialization. Discuss #9 (Berger and Luckmann) and #13 (Curry). Discuss writing assignment # 4
Thursday	9/25	The phenomenon of institutionalization. Discuss #14 (Berger and Luckmann) and #12.3 (Berger and K).
Tuesday	9/30	Socialization and the institution of education. Discuss chapter 1 in Bell and #58 (Gracey). Discuss writing assignment # 5
Thursday	10/2	Institutions and social controls Discuss chapter 3 in Bell and #37 (Martin and Hummer).
Tuesday	10/7	Deviance Discuss # 43 (Goode) and # 45 (Chambliss). Discuss writing assignment # 6
Thursday	10/9	Stigma Discuss #44 (Goode) and article/handout on Ageism (McGowan).
Tuesday	10/14	Review for midterm exam.
Thursday	10/16	In-class midterm essay exam

Tuesday	10/21	Fall Break
Thursday	10/23	Lecture on the historical development of sociology
Tuesday	10/28	Durkheim, social facts and the concept of “sui generis.” Discuss handout on “Social Facts (Durkheim). Discuss writing assignment # 7
Thursday	10/30	Class does not meet as scheduled. Students view film at 6pm in C102 and complete assignment.
Tuesday	11/4	Durkheim, religion and social order. Discuss handout on religion (Durkheim). Discuss writing assignment # 8
Thursday	11/6	Marx’s analysis of modernization. Discuss #7.1 (Marx and Engels) and #63 (Marx).
Tuesday	11/11	Capitalism and alienation. Discuss handout on alienation (Marx) and #6.2 (Putnam). Discuss writing assignment # 9
Thursday	11/13	Capitalism, the Protestant Ethic and instrumental rationality Discuss #6.4 (Weber).
Tuesday	11/18	The instrumental organization of life. Discuss #39 (Gini and Sullivan) and #11.3 (Ritzer). Discuss writing assignment # 10
Thursday	11/20	Pinto Madness Discuss #11.2 (Dowie) and #5.3 (Kelman and Hamilton).
Tuesday	11/25	Authority and Instrumental Rationality Discuss # 22 (Meyer) and #23 (Kelman and Hamilton). Discuss writing assignment # 11
Thursday	11/27	Thanksgiving
Tuesday	12/2	Wisdom and Knowledge Discuss chapters 4 and 5 in Bell.
Thursday	12/4	Desocialization and reflexive self understanding Discuss chapter 6 in Bell and article by McGowan.
Tuesday	12/9	Review for final exam.

