

Introductory Sociology (Anth/Soc 105, Spring 2001)

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Office hrs: Tu. & Th. 11:15-1pm; Wed. 2-4pm C107, #3932

Course Statement

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 and its relation to the assigned readings. 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 for 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 Schw

Grading

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

Th 1/11 Sociology's context and structure
Read for Tu: 62 and 63 in Charon and 4 in Bell.

Tu 1/16 What and why of sociology
Read for Th: 1.1 and 1.2 in *Sources*.

Th 1/18 The sociological imagination
Read for Tu: 2.1 and 2.2 in *Sources*.

Tu 1/23 Cultural forces and reflexive insight
Read for Th: 7 and 8 in Charon.

Th 1/25 Sociality
Read for Tu: Handout on Durkheim.

Tu 1/30 Durkheim's sociological imagination
Read for Th: 36, 17 and 13 in Charon
Paper #1 is assigned - due 2/6

Th 2/1 The concept of social structure
Read for Tu: 2.5 in *Sources*, 31 in Charon
and 1 in Bell.

Tu 2/6 **Paper #1 is due at 5pm**
Internalization and social structure
Read for Th: 35 and 43 in Charon.

Th 2/8 Appreciating the power of social structure
Read for Tu: 14 and 12 in Charon and 10 in Bell.

Tu 2/13 Socialization and primary groups
Read for Th: 3.1 in *Sources* and 11 in Charon.

Th 2/15 The structural nature of social situations
Read for Tu: 46 in Charon and 12.3 in *Sources*.

Tu 2/20 Institutionalization
Read for Th: 13 in Bell.

Th 2/22 Dealing with social structure

Tu 2/27 Review for midterm

Th 3/1 Midterm Exam (short answer and essay)

Tu 3/6 Spring Break

Th 3/8 Spring Break

Tu 3/13 Marx and dialectical materialism
Read for Th: 7.1 in *Sources* and 22 in Charon.

Th 3/15 Class stratification and alienation
Read for Tu: 7.4 in *Sources* and 26 in Charon.

Tu 3/20 **Paper #2 is assigned - due 3/27**
Reification and displacement
Read for Th: 11 in Bell and 38 in Charon.

Th 3/22 The Protestant ethic and ideology of capitalism
Read for Tu: 6.4 and 11.2 in *Sources*.

Tu 3/27 **Paper #2 is due at 5pm**
The irrationality of instrumental rationality
Read for Th: 11.3 in *Sources* and 5 in Bell.

Th 3/29 The rationalization of the lifeworld
Read for Tu: 55 in Charon and 6 in Bell.

Tu 4/3 Instrumental rationality, knowledge and education
Read for Th: 40 and 41 in Charon

Th 4/5 Social controls and deviance
Read for Tu: 42 in Charon and 6.3 in *Sources*.

Tu 4/10 Stigma and the power of normative constraint

Th 4/12 Easter recess

Tu 4/17 **Paper #3 is assigned - due 4/26**
Inner and other directed selves
Read for Tu: 20 in Charon and 5.3 in *Sources*.

Th 4/19 Authority, obedience and self displacement
Read for Tu: Handout on McGowan

Tu 4/24 Repositioning the self and reflexive insight

Th 4/26 **Paper #3 is due at 5pm**
Review for Final