

INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

Anthropology/Sociology (ANSO) 105
Spring 2003, MWF 10:20-11:20, Clough 102

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Office hrs: MW 11:30-12:30, TTH 4:15-5:15, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the study of human social relations and interactions. It provides an overview of the field of sociology and its history, as well as general sociological concepts, theories, and methods. We begin by discussing the nature of a sociological imagination and how it helps us to better understand ourselves and the world in which we live. The rest of the course is an exploration of different types of social relationships and groups, how and why they are constituted, and the role they play in structuring our everyday lives. Along the way, we address some classical and contemporary sociological issues related to institutions, conflict, inequality, organizations, social movements and social change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

(1) Punctuality, Attendance and Participation – A good portion of the work we do is in the classroom during lectures and discussion. This means that regular punctuality, attendance and participation are required.

Punctuality - Make sure to arrive for class on time so as not to disturb others by coming in late. Attendance is taken at the beginning of class. It is your responsibility to alert me of your presence (at the end of class) if you do arrive late, otherwise you will be marked absent.

Attendance - You are expected to attend all classes during the semester. I do realize that certain circumstances will, from time to time, prevent you from attending class. It is your responsibility to make the decision, to alert me beforehand of official reasons for absences (athletics, college meetings, etc.), and to make up any work that is missed.

Participation - Active participation takes many forms including engaging in oral and written exercises, asking and answering questions, commenting on readings and lectures, contributing to a discussion, and one-on-one meetings with me in my office.

Your attendance, punctuality and engaged presence are essential for the course and count for **20%** of your final grade.

(2) Formal Assignments – There are four formal assignments to be completed throughout the semester. They are based on the topics treated in the four units we cover and should reflect your understanding of the important issues discussed. Make sure to complete them by the due date indicated. Late assignments defeat the purpose and will be penalized. Feel free to consult with me both before and after you do the assignment in order to get feedback on your ideas and progress.

Exam – After finishing unit one, there will be a written take home exam based on the concepts and issues covered. 20%

Group Presentation – The second unit will conclude with a group presentation on a particular social institution. 20%

Analytical Essay – The third unit will be assessed through a written essay analyzing a form of social inequality. 20%

Reflective Essay – The final assignment will be a reflective essay due during finals week. 20%

Together, these assignments constitute **80%** of your final grade.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Purchase these books at the bookstore. I will announce and distribute any additional readings.

Joel M. Charon, ed., The Meaning of Sociology. Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall. 6th edition.

K. Finsterbusch, ed., Sources: Notable Selections in Sociology. Dushkin/McGraw-Hill. 3rd edition.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Week 1 – Introduction to the course

Jan 15 Syllabus, handouts, survey

Jan 17 No class

I. THE SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Week 2 – Sociological Imagination

Jan 20 No class – MLK Day

Jan 22 Read Sources Chpt. 1; Meaning 1, 3

Jan 24 Sources 2.2

Week 3 – Theoretical Paradigms

Jan 27 Read Sources 2.3, Meaning 6

Jan 29 Sources 7.1

Jan 31 Sources 3.3, 4.2

Week 4 – Inquiry and Methods

- Feb 3 Read Meaning 4
- Feb 5 Selections from A. Giddens
- Feb 7 Hand out exam

II. THE ORGANIZATION AND MEANING OF SOCIAL LIFE

Week 5 – Groups, Socialization, and Social Structure

- Feb 10 Exam due
- Feb 12 Read Meaning 7-12 and 15; Sources 3.1, 3.2
- Feb 14 Read three essays of your choice from Meaning 13,16,17,19,20,21,22,23

Week 6 – Organizations and Bureaucracy

- Feb 17 Read Sources Chpt. 6
- Feb 19
- Feb 21

Week 7 - Culture and Identity

- Feb 24 Meaning Part VIII, Sources 2.1, 2.4, 2.5, 5.1, 5.4
- Feb 26
- Feb 28

Week 8 – Social Institutions

- Mar 3 Read Meaning 14
- Mar 5 Select groups and readings (Meaning Part X, XI; Sources Chpts. 10-13)
Discuss presentation techniques
- Mar 7 Presentations

Week 9 – Spring Break

Week 10 - Institutions, cont'd

- Mar 17 Presentations
- Mar 19 Presentations
- Mar 21 Presentations

III. STRATIFICATION AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Week 11 – Class inequality

- Mar 24 Meaning 5, 25 and Part V
- Mar 26 Sources Chpts. 7, 8
- Mar 28 Discussion

Week 12 – Racial Inequality

Mar 31 Meaning Part VI
Apr 2 Sources 9.1, 9.2
Apr 4 Discussion

Week 13 – Gender Inequality

Apr 7 Meaning Part VII
Apr 9 Sources 9.3, 9.4
Apr 11 Hand out essay assignment

IV. SOCIAL CHANGE**Week 14 - Collective Action and Social Movements**

Apr 14 Sources 15.1, 15.2
Apr 16 Meaning 60
Apr 18 No class – Easter Break

Week 15 – Social Change

Apr 21 Meaning Part XII
Apr 23 Sources Chpts. 14, 16
Apr 25 Discussion

Week 16 - Final Reflections

Apr 28 Read Meaning 65 and Berger essay
Apr 30
May 2 Hand out final essay

Monday May 5 Final Essay due