

Introductory Sociology (Anth/Soc 105, Spring 2003)

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Course Statement

Sociology is the study of sociality – the condition of existing socially. The always-already-present, inescapable social condition of our existence is not something we typically think about. 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. Society is within us in the form of language, ideas, behavioral norms, and self-identity. 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, how to conceptualize a sociological analysis, 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. The reason for this absolutely strict requirement is that this class will be conducted as a discussion-based course, and as such attendance is essential to learning the course material.

Midterm essay exam:	30%
Term research paper:	25%
Final, cumulative, essay exam:	35%
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.

Tuesday	1/16	What is sociology and what are our course goals?
Tuesday	1/21	Sociology and reflexivity. Discuss #1.1 (Berger) and #1.2 (Mills).
Thursday	1/23	Culture, society and paradigms. Discuss #2.2 (Miner)
Tuesday	1/28	The concept of “human nature.” Discuss #7 (Cooley) and #8 (Davis).
Thursday	1/30	The social “self.” Discuss #3.1 (G. H. Mead) and #6.1 (Cooley).
Tuesday	2/4	Gender as an example of a foregrounding, constitutive force. Discuss #2.5 (Tannen) and #35 (Howard and Hollander).
Thursday	2/6	The phenomenon of socialization. Discuss #9 (Berger and Luckmann) and #13 (Curry).
Tuesday	2/11	The phenomenon of institutionalization. Discuss #14 (Berger and Luckmann) and #12.3 (Berger and Kellner).
Thursday	2/13	Socialization and the institution of education. Discuss chapter 1 in Bell and #58 (Gracey).
Tuesday	2/18	Institutions and social controls Discuss chapter 3 in Bell and #37 (Martin and Hummer).
Thursday	2/20	Class does not meet as scheduled. Students attend individual conferences with Professor McGowan to discuss term paper topics. Read chapter 7 in Bell prior to meeting with Prof. McGowan
Tuesday	2/25	Deviance Discuss # 43 (Goode) and # 45 (Chambliss).
Thursday	2/27	Stigma Discuss #44 (Goode) and article/handout on Ageism (McGowan).
Tuesday	3/4	Review for midterm exam.
Thursday	3/6	In class midterm essay exam
Tuesday	3/11	Spring Break

Tuesday	3/18	Durkheim, social facts and the concept of “sui generis.” Discuss handout on “Social Facts (Durkheim).
Thursday	3/20	Class does not meet as scheduled. Students view film at 6pm in C102 and complete assignment.
Tuesday	3/25	Durkheim, religion and social order. Discuss handout on religion (Durkheim).
Thursday	3/27	Marx’s analysis of modernization. Discuss #7.1 (Marx and Engels) and #63 (Marx).
Tuesday	4/1	Capitalism and alienation. Discuss handout on alienation (Marx) and #6.2 (Putnam).
Thursday	4/3	Capitalism, the Protestant Ethic and instrumental rationality Discuss #6.4 (Weber).
Tuesday	4/8	The instrumental organization of life. Discuss #39 (Gini and Sullivan) and #11.3 (Ritzer).
Thursday	4/10	Pinto Madness Discuss #11.2 (Dowie) and #5.3 (Kelman and Hamilton).
Tuesday	4/15	Authority and Instrumental Rationality Discuss # 22 (Meyer) and #23 (Kelman and Hamilton).
Thursday	4/17	Easter Break
Tuesday	4/22	Term Paper is Due at class time. Discussion of Term Papers
Thursday	4/24	Wisdom and Knowledge Discuss chapters 4 and 5 in Bell.
Tuesday	4/29	Desocialization and reflexive self understanding Discuss chapter 6 in Bell and article by McGowan.
Thursday	5/1	Review for final exam.