

Introductory Sociology (Anth/Soc 105, Spring 2004)

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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.

Tuesday	1/20	Sociology and reflexivity. Discuss #1.1 (Berger) and #1.2 (Mills). Discuss writing assignment # 1
Thursday	1/22	Culture, society and paradigms. Discuss #2.2 (Miner)
Tuesday	1/27	The concept of “human nature.” Discuss #7 (Cooley) and #8 (Davis). Discuss writing assignment # 2
Thursday	1/29	The social “self.” Discuss #3.1 (G. H. Mead) and #6.1 (Cooley).
Tuesday	2/3	Gender as an example of a foregrounding, constitutive force. Discuss #2.5 (Tannen) and #35 (Howard and Hollander). Discuss writing assignment # 3
Thursday	2/5	The phenomenon of socialization. Discuss #9 (Berger and Luckmann) and #13 (Curry). Discuss writing assignment # 4
Tuesday	2/10	The phenomenon of institutionalization. Discuss #14 (Berger and Luckmann) and #12.3 (Berger and K).
Thursday	2/12	Socialization and the institution of education. Discuss chapter 1 in Bell and #58 (Gracey). Discuss writing assignment # 5
Tuesday	2/17	Institutions and social controls Discuss chapter 3 in Bell and #37 (Martin and Hummer).
Thursday	2/19	Class does not meet as scheduled. Class meets at 6pm in C102 to view film.
Tuesday	2/24	Deviance Discuss # 43 (Goode) and # 45 (Chambliss). Discuss writing assignment # 6
Thursday	2/26	Stigma Discuss #44 (Goode) and article by McGowan.
Tuesday	3/2	Review for midterm exam.
Thursday	3/4	In-class midterm essay exam

T and TR	3/9 – 3/ 11	Spring Break
Tuesday	3/16	Durkheim, social facts and the concept of “sui generis.” Discuss handout on “Social Facts (Durkheim). Discuss writing assignment # 7
Thursday	3/18	Class does not meet as scheduled. Class meets at 6pm in C102 to view film.
Tuesday	3/23	Durkheim, religion and social order. Discuss handout on religion (Durkheim). Discuss writing assignment # 8
Thursday	3/25	Marx’s analysis of modernization. Discuss #7.1 (Marx and Engels).
Tuesday	3/30	Capitalism and alienation Discuss handout on alienation (Marx) and #6.2 (Putnam). Discuss writing assignment # 9
Thursday	4/1	Capitalism, the Protestant Ethic and instrumental rationality Discuss #6.4 (Weber).
Tuesday	4/6	The instrumental organization of life. Discuss #39 (Gini and Sullivan) and #11.3 (Ritzer). Discuss writing assignment # 10
Thursday	4/8	Easter Break
Tuesday	4/13	Pinto Madness Discuss #11.2 (Dowie).
Thursday	4/15	Class does not meet as scheduled (Professor McGowan at conference).
Tuesday	4/20	Authority and Instrumental Rationality Discuss # 22 (Meyer) and #23 (Kelman and Hamilton). Discuss writing assignment # 11
Thursday	4/22	Wisdom and Knowledge Discuss chapters 5 and 6 in Bell.
Tuesday	4/27	Desocialization and reflexive self understanding Discuss chapter 7 in Bell and article by McGowan.
Thursday	4/29	Review for final exam.

