

Introductory Sociology: (Anth/Soc 105, Spring 2005)

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Course Statement

Sociology is a field that emerged in the late 19th as an attempt to make sense of the profound social-organizational changes that resulted from the industrial revolution. As such, it is the discipline that studies the institutional structures and problems resulting from the grand historical process known as *modernization*.

Today, sociology continues to study the historical and cultural changes that impact social organization and the experience of individual lives. In this course you will learn how and why the discipline originated, and how the field's theoretical and empirical contributions may be used to understand and respond to contemporary social issues. You will also learn how sociology may be mined for insights that inform traditional philosophical questions about the meaning of being - what we call *ontological questions*. I believe that you will find the use of sociology to study ontological conditions enlightening and directly relevant to your own ontological and educational development.

The course curriculum is separated into four quarters each consisting of an average of 6-7 class meetings. The first quarter is experimental - and because of its experimental nature, you will be evaluated exclusively on your demonstrated **preparedness** (completing all assigned readings, keeping notes on your reading, and submitting a question for each class discussion) and **portfolio**. The portfolio will contain 1) notes on your reading, 2) a one paragraph (minimum) answer to the question you developed based on your reading, and 3) observations, insights and comments based on our class discussion. The second quarter focuses on classical contributions to sociological theory and research. At the conclusion of this quarter you will be evaluated on the basis of your knowledge and understanding of the material covered, although it must be emphasized that you are obligated to demonstrate preparedness (completing all assigned readings and submitting a question for each class discussion) throughout all quarters of the semester. A failure to meet these criteria will result in grade reductions. Quarters three and four will be evaluated by the quality of your final essay exam.

Summary of Evaluation Criteria for each Quarter

First quarter:	Evaluated exclusively on preparation and portofolio
Second Quarter:	Evaluated on knowledge and understanding of classical sociology
Third Quarter:	Evaluated on knowledge and understanding of our study of the social construction of collective ontological forces
Fourth Quarter:	Evaluated on knowledge and understanding of our study of intentional, ontological experience

Evaluation Process

First Quarter Grade	(25%)	Based on evaluation of preparedness and portfolio
Second Quarter Grade	(25%)	Based on midterm essay exam
Third and Fourth Quarter Grade	(50%)	Based on final essay exam

You are obligated to demonstrate preparedness by completing all assigned readings, submitting notes kept on readings, and submitting a discussion question for all class meetings, throughout all quarters of the semester. A failure to meet this criterion will earn you grade reductions.

Class attendance is mandatory. Three unexcused absences will qualify you for an automatic "F" in this class. An excused absence is one supported by a medical note. Do not email me if you are missing class for any reason. You will be marked "unexcused absence" and it is your responsibility to provide me with a medical note, my receipt of which will qualify you for an excused absence on the date in question.

Extra Credit Option

Research Paper: Earn up to 10 extra points toward your final grade
(Topic and research plan requires approval of professor)

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 and Bernard McGrane. Fort Bragg, CA: The Small Press.

Thursday	1/13	Course Overview
Tuesday	1/18	Sociology's high water mark self identity Submit notes taken on readings and one discussion question Assigned readings: #1.1 (Berger) and #1.2 (Mills)
Thursday	1/20	An Example of an Ontological Condition: Ethnocentrism Submit notes taken on reading and one discussion question Assigned reading: #2.2 (Miner)
Tuesday	1/25	The Implications of Hegel's Phenomenological Distinction Submit notes taken on reading and one discussion question Assigned reading: article/handout (McGowan)

Thursday	1/27	Ontological Implications of Ethnocentric Foregrounding Submit notes taken on reading and one discussion question Assigned reading: book excerpt/handout (Gadamer)
Tuesday	2/1	Lessons from Gadamer's "Truth and Method" Submit notes taken on reading and one discussion question Assigned reading: article/handout (McGowan)
Thursday	2/3	Submit portfolio/ Summary discussion
End First Quarter		
Tuesday	2/8	Durkheim and the Science of Modernity Submit notes taken on reading and one discussion question Assigned reading: book excerpt/handout (Durkheim)
Thursday	2/10	Durkheim and the Essence of the Sacred Submit notes taken on reading and one discussion question Assigned reading: book excerpt/handout (Durkheim)
Tuesday	2/15	Marx's Dialectical-Materialist Analysis of Modernization Submit notes taken on reading and one discussion question Assigned reading: #7.1 (Marx and Engels)
Thursday	2/17	Marx and Capitalism's Ontological Fallout Submit notes taken on readings and one discussion question Assigned readings: #51 (Marx) and handout on Marx
Tuesday	2/22	Instrumental Displacement, Protestantism, and the Ontological Conditions of Capitalism Submit notes taken on reading and one discussion question Assigned reading: #6.4 (Weber)
Thursday	2/24	The Ontological condition of Instrumental Rationality Submit notes taken on reading and one discussion question Assigned reading: Handout (Gini and Sullivan)
Tuesday	3/1	Second quarter summary and discussion of midterm essay exam
Thursday	3/3	In-class midterm essay exam
End Second Quarter		Spring Break
Tuesday	3/15	The Social Construction of Reality Submit notes taken on readings and one discussion question Readings: #7 (Cooley), #3.1 (Mead) and handout (Berger and L.)

Thursday	3/17	Objectivation Submit notes taken on readings and one discussion question Assigned readings: #14 (Berger and Luck. and #11 (Dunphy)
Tuesday	3/22	Internalization Submit notes taken on readings and one discussion question Assigned readings: #9 (Berger and Luckmann) and #13 (Curry).
Thursday	3/24	Easter Break ---- Take home ontological directive
Tuesday	3/29	An Inductive Taxonomy of Ontological Contexts
Thursday	3/31	The Social Construction of Ontological Positionings Submit notes taken on reading and one discussion question Assigned reading: #11.2 (Dowie)
Tuesday	4/5	Engendered Ontological Positionings Submit notes taken on readings and one discussion question Assigned readings: #2.5 (Tannen) and #28 (Howard & Hollander)
Thursday	4/7	Ethnocentric Ontological Positionings Submit notes taken on readings and one discussion question Assigned readings: Handout (Dubois) and handout (McGowan)
Tuesday	4/12	Class-centric Ontological Positionings Submit notes taken on readings and one discussion question Assigned readings # 20 (Coles) and # 21 (Gans)
Thursday	4/14	Contexts Conducive to the Reification of Being Submit notes taken on readings and one discussion question Assigned readings: # 22 (Meyer) and #23 (Kelman and Hamilton)
Tuesday	4/19	Contexts Conducive to the Reification of Being (cont.) Submit notes taken on readings and one discussion question Assigned readings: 3 and 7 in Bell/McGrane & handout (Gracey)
Thursday	4/21	Contexts Conducive to Reflexive Insight and Ontological Development Submit notes taken on readings and one discussion question Assigned readings: Chapters 4, 5 and 6 in Bell/McGrane
Tuesday	4/26	Presentation of extra-credit research papers
Thursday	4/28	Summary and discussion of final essay exam