Introductory Sociology (Anth/Soc 105, Fall 1999)

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Office hrs: Mon/Wed, 9-10:20am; Tue/Th 9-9:40am C107, #3932

Course Statement

Sociology is the study of human relations and social, organization. When we are born we are thrown into a complex world of normative expectations and outside influences that shape our self development and relationship to the world. Sociology studies the effect of these processes - processes that constrain and restrict while simultaneously providing the order and stability needed for survival and self development. This paradox, the state of being an individual yet always, already a social product, is sociology’s key concern.

Sociology may be practiced as both 1) an empirical, social science and 2) an applied-philosophical inquiry into what it means to be human. My goal in this course is to teach both of these applications of sociology. You will learn about the history of sociology, its key concepts and findings, and how to conceptualize a sociological analysis; and you will also learn how to apply sociological concepts in order to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the world and your place in it.

I have re-designed this course to be more interactive and participatory. Every Friday we will conduct workshop assignments that will involve the application of course material. On four occasions you will complete an essay assignment (4 pages) and use it as a point of discussion for our Friday workshops. You will then revise your essay and submit it to me to be graded. There will be a midterm and a final exam and class participation will be considered when selecting your final grade. Attendance is mandatory - more than 3 unexcused absences is grounds for an “F”.

Required Texts and Grading


Gulford, CT: Dushkin.

Essays 1, 2, 3 and 4 are worth 15% each ............ 60%
Midterm essay exam ......................................... 20%
Final essay exam ............................................ 20%
Wed 8/25  Course overview and discussion of sociology
Read for Fri: Chapter 1 in Bell/McGrane
and entries on sociology and internalization

Fri 8/27  Workshop on internalization
Read for Mon: Chapter 5 in Bell/McGrane and
entry on dialectic

Mon 8/30  Wisdom and knowledge
Read for Wed: Chapter 1 in McGrane

Wed 9/1   Understanding one’s “thrownness”
Read for Fri: Chapter 2 in McGrane

Fri 9/3   Workshop on reflexivity
(students meet in classroom, complete assignment)
Read for Wed: Chapters 62 and 63 in Charon

Mon 9/6   No Class - Labor Day

Wed 9/8   Sociology is both conservative and subversive
Read for Fri: Entries on Durkheim, Comte, norms
and chapter 13 in Charon

Fri 9/10  Workshop on sui generis phenomena
Read for Mon: handout on social facts (Durkheim)
and entries on suicide, anomie, social structure,
division of labor, social fact and functionalism

Mon 9/13  Social facts
Read for Wed: NYT article on suicide in Japan

Wed 9/15  Understanding Suicide
Prepare for Fri: Essay on preventing Columbines
Read: Chapter 6 in Bell/McGrane

Fri 9/17  Workshop on institutional wellness
entry on heredity and environment

Mon 9/20  Nature and Nurture
Read for Wed: Chapter 14 in Charon
and entries on socialization, role and self
concept
(Revised essay is due)

Wed 9/22  Socialization
Read for Fri: Chapter 55 in Charon and entry on
latent and manifest function.

Fri 9/24  Workshop on the depths of socialization
(students meet in classroom, complete assignment)
Read for Mon: Chapter 19 in Charon and entries on
Thomas axiom and social interaction
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 9/27</td>
<td>Micro-level approaches to sociology</td>
<td>Read for Wed: Entries on symbolic interactionism, G. H. Mead, ethnomethodology, phenomenology, I and Me concept and E. Goffman</td>
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<td>Wed 9/29</td>
<td>G. H. Mead and American Pragmatism</td>
<td>Read for Fri: Chapter 36 in Charon</td>
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<td>Fri 10/1</td>
<td>Workshop on culture and the self</td>
<td>Read for Mon: Chapter 38 in Charon and entries on Karl Marx, conflict theory, mode of production, and dialectical materialism</td>
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<td>Mon 10/4</td>
<td>Marx and dialectical materialism</td>
<td>Read for Wed: Entries on capitalism, alienation and reification</td>
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<td>Wed 10/6</td>
<td>Marx’s critique of capitalism and reification</td>
<td>Prepare for Fri: Essay on alienation</td>
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<td>Fri 10/8</td>
<td>Workshop on alienation</td>
<td>Read for Mon: Chapter 10 in Bell and entries on class, class consciousness, stratification, Protestant Ethic and Max Weber</td>
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<td>Revise essay for Monday</td>
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<td>Mon 10/11</td>
<td>Class consciousness and reification</td>
<td>(Revised essay on alienation is due)</td>
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<td>Wed 10/13</td>
<td>Review for midterm</td>
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<td>Fri 10/15</td>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>Read for Fri: handout on Berger and Luckmann</td>
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<td>Mon. 10/18</td>
<td>Fall break</td>
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<td>Wed 10/20</td>
<td>No class meeting - Dr. McGowan on field trip to Chaco Canyon</td>
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<td>Fri 10/22</td>
<td>Workshop on constructionism</td>
<td>(students meet in classroom, complete assignment)</td>
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<td>Mon 10/25</td>
<td>The social construction of reality</td>
<td>Read for Wed: NYT article on chimpanzee cultures</td>
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<td>Wed 10/27</td>
<td>What makes humans human</td>
<td>Read for Fri: Chapter 13 in McGrane and Prepare for Fri: Essay on the social construction of reality and “humanness”</td>
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<td>Fri 10/29</td>
<td>Workshop on civilization</td>
<td>Read for Mon. Chapter 40 in Charon</td>
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Revise essay for Monday

Mon 11/1
Social controls
Read for Wed: Chapter 41

Wed. 11/3
Deviance

Fri. 11/5
Workshop on social controls and order
Read for Mon: Chapter 8 in Bell/McGrane

Mon 11/8
The Medium is the Message
Read for Wed: Chapters 3 and 4 in McGrane

Wed 11/10
Media as social control
Read for Fri: Chapters 5 and 6 in McGrane

Fri 11/12
Workshop on the body as cultural landscape
Read for Mon: Chapter 33 in Charon

Mon 11/15
The social construction of gender
Read for Wed: Chapter 35 in Charon

Wed 11/17
The social construction of rape
Prepare for Fri: Essay on gender and social institutions

Fri 11/19
Workshop on gender and social institutions
Read for Mon: Chapter 10 in McGrane
Revise essay for Monday

Mon 11/22
Discussion on walking
Read for Mon: Handout on racism

Wed. 11/24
Thanksgiving Break

Fri. 11/26
Thanksgiving Break

Mon. 11/29
Understanding racism and thrownness
Read for Wed: Chapter 30 in Charon

Wed. 12/1
The givenness of privilege
Read for Fri: Chapter 31 in Charon
Prepare for Fri: Essay on diversity at Rhodes

Fri. 12/3
Workshop on transpositional discourse
Read for Mon: Chapters 23 and 25 in Charon
Revise essay for Monday

Mon. 12/6
Superiority claims

Wed. 12/8
Final class meeting - review for final