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ANSO 105-02, Introduction to Sociology, Fall 2002

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Introductory Sociology (Anth/Soc 105, Fall 2002)

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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 ourselves and our reality. 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.

Required Texts

Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology.
2001. Fifth edition, John J. Macionis and Nijole V. Benokraitis, eds. Prentice Hall:
Upper Saddle River New Jersey.

Brown: The Last Discovery of America. 2002. Richard Rodriguez. Viking: New York.

The Oxford Dictionary of Sociology. 1998. Gordon Marshall, ed. Oxford: New York.

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%

Tuesday	8/29	What is sociology and what are our course goals?
Tuesday	9/3	Sociology and reflexivity. Discuss #2 (Berger) and #4 (Miner) in <i>Seeing Ourselves</i> ; entries on <i>sociology</i> and <i>culture</i> .
Thursday	9/5	Objective social forces and the concept of “sui generis” Discuss handout on “Social Facts (Durkheim) and #8 (White) in <i>Seeing Ourselves</i> ; entries on <i>Durkheim</i> , <i>social facts</i> , <i>collective conscience</i> , <i>anomie</i> and <i>dynamic density</i> .
Tuesday	9/10	The social “self.” Discuss #16 (G. H. Mead) in <i>Seeing Ourselves</i> ; entries on <i>socialization</i> , <i>role</i> , <i>self</i> and <i>G. H. Mead</i> .
Thursday	9/12	Primary groups and socialization. Discuss #23 (Cooley) in <i>Seeing Ourselves</i> ; entry on <i>Cooley</i> .
Tuesday	9/17	Gender as a social control and foregrounding, constitutive force. Discuss #21 (Tannen) and #52 (Bernard) in <i>Seeing Ourselves</i> ; entries on <i>gender</i> , <i>gender stereotypes</i> and <i>language</i> .
Thursday	9/19	Class does not meet as scheduled. Class meets instead at 6pm in C102 at 6pm to view and discuss film.
Tuesday	9/24	Modernization and social-structural change. Discuss #13 (Tönnies) in <i>Seeing Ourselves</i> ; entries on <i>Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft</i> , <i>division of labour</i> , and <i>rationalization</i> .
Thursday	9/26	Marx’s analysis of modernization. Discuss #46 in <i>Seeing Ourselves</i> ; entries on <i>mode of production</i> , <i>relations of production</i> , <i>forces of production</i> , <i>Hegel</i> and <i>reification</i> .
Tuesday	10/1	Class structure and stratification. Discuss #33 (Davis and Moore) and #34 (Hacker) in <i>Seeing Ourselves</i> ; entries on <i>stratification</i> and <i>class consciousness</i> .
Thursday	10/3	Capitalism and Instrumental Rationality Discuss #55 (Weber) and #75 (Weber) in <i>Seeing Ourselves</i> ; entries on <i>Weber</i> and <i>Protestant Ethic</i> .

Tuesday	10/8	The utilitarian organization of life. Discuss #24 (Weber) and #25 (Ritzer) in <i>Seeing Ourselves</i> ; entries on <i>Fordism</i> and <i>McDonaldization</i> .
Thursday	10/10	Cultural oppression and reflexive consciousness. Discuss #39 (Du Bois) in <i>Seeing Ourselves</i> and article by McGowan.
Tuesday	10/15	Review for midterm exam
Thursday	10/17	In class midterm essay exam
Tuesday	10/22	Durkheim's analysis of modernization Discuss handout on Durkheim; entry on <i>suicide</i> .
Thursday	10/24	Anomie and Religion Discuss #74 (Durkheim).
Tuesday	10/29	Anomic, fatalistic and altruistic suicide.
Thursday	10/31	Urbanism and Modernity Discuss #64 (Simmel) and #65 (Wirth)
Tuesday	11/5	Modernism's crisis of meaning Discuss # 76 (Bellah, et. al.).
Thursday	11/7	Ageism Discuss #43 (Butler) and #45 (Hobbs and Damon)
Tuesday	11/12	Sexual Oppression Discuss #30 (Kinsey, et. al.) and #32 (Carrier); entries on <i>homosexuality</i> and <i>homophobia</i> .
Thursday	11/14	Gender as a social control Discuss #57 (Smith) and #37 (Benokraitis).
Tuesday	11/19	Postmodernism Discuss article by McGowan; entries on <i>postmodernism</i> and <i>ethnomethodology</i> .
Thursday	11/21	Class does not meet as scheduled. Students attend conferences to discuss the completion of term research paper.
Tuesday	11/26	Term Paper is Due at class time. Discussion of Term Papers

Thursday	11/28	Thanksgiving Break
Tuesday	12/3	Discussion of Rodriguez's "Brown" Discuss pages 1-123 in <i>Brown</i> .
Thursday	12/5	Discussion of Rodriguez's "Brown" Discuss pages 125-230 in <i>Brown</i> .
Tuesday	12/10	Conclude discussion of "Brown"/ review for final exam