EXAMPLE SYLLABUS

Saddleback College  Professor April Cubbage-Vega
Sociology 1: Intro to Soc  E-mail: acubbage@saddleback.edu
Fall 20XX  Webpage: www.saddleback.edu/faculty/cubbage
Ticket # XX  Phone: (949) 582-3271
Classroom: XX  Office: BGS300
Class time: XX  Office Hours: TBA

What You Need to Know


Course Objective: This course will introduce students to the discipline of sociology. We will explore the sociological perspective, how sociological research is conducted and how it is distinct from other approaches to understanding human interaction and social life. This course will utilize the textbook and lecture, along with media and current events to apply sociological concepts.

Learning Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:
after completing the course, students of Soc 1 will be able to:

- distinguish the difference between social science and other disciplines
- explain the major concepts that make sociology distinct from other disciplines within the social sciences
- use core and unique concepts to sociology such as the “sociological imagination” and “debunking” when reading, analyzing, discussing and interpreting issues presented both in class, the media and within their daily lives
- be able to distinguish between academic scholarship and other types of research
- understand the main methodological tools used to conduct social science and sociological research
- identify the major sociological theories and be able to describe how each of these perspectives are different and how they influence research
- apply the major sociological theories to any of the course materials, topics covered in the course or current social problems
- have a clear understanding of how intersectionality is vital to the study of sociology
Course Requirements: Students are expected to attend each lecture and have the assigned readings completed prior to class meetings, bring their book to class and be prepared to discuss the readings and topics in class. Random, short quizzes based solely on the readings will be given weekly, so staying on top of the assigned readings is crucial. This also means that being on time and planning on staying the entire class session is essential for you to acquire your quiz points. In addition, although the book supplements my lectures, I do not lecture “off the book”. Therefore, your attendance and careful lecture notes are very important.

Moreover, your participation is also critical to your success in this class and for your intellectual exploration and growth. I believe that collaborative learning is the best way to enhance your academic success in this class and understanding of the course objectives and outcomes. This course requires active and engaged learning. The good news about this is you will have the unique opportunity to determine some of the topics covered in class through small group learning modules. In these modules, you will get to know your group members well and work weekly with one another in various peer lead facilitations and in-class group assignments.

If you feel this course is in conflict with your schedule and you will not be able to devote the time needed each week, or you decide the course is not for you, it is your responsibility to drop this course. I will not drop you!

Student’s progress in the course will be evaluated as follows:

- 3 Exams- 150 Points (50 points each consisting of multiple choice and True/False)

- Social Change Project- 50 Points: Written assignment using concepts from class to address a social issue. This assignment will be written to a public official to either inform the chosen individual about your social problem and/or advocate for change. (Details will be provided in class)

- Field Assignments- 50 Points: You will be asked to engage in sociological research by conducting 2 field research assignments throughout the semester. These will be fun (yes, they really will be fun) ways in which you can see sociology in action and apply what you are learning in class to real life. You will write your observations in a 2 page report.

- Group Work and Participation- 75 Points: You will be put into groups at the beginning of the session and will do group work each week in these groups in class. You will also get credit for actively participating in your group. (Details will be provided in class)

- Group Facilitation- 50 Points: You will be the “educator” or facilitator in your small group twice throughout the semester as part of collaborative learning. (Details to follow in class)
- Short Weekly Quizzes- 50 Points: 12 random quizzes based on the readings will be given throughout the semester. The quizzes will be multiple choice and T/F and will be questions that may appear on your exams. The quizzes will be useful study guides to you. (You may drop your lowest two scores)

Extra Credit

I will give two extra credit opportunities throughout the semester. These will be announced in class and are typically due the next class session and are worth 5-10 points each.

Course Policies:

If you are not going to be in class on the days that you are facilitating, you will lose the points for that day. Due to the nature of the assignment, these points can not be made up as is the case with all in class work and quizzes.

If you will be absent when a written assignment is due, you must make sure you have the assignment in my campus mailbox or e-mail by the beginning of the start of the class despite your absence. There will be no exceptions unless there is a substantiated medical or other emergency.

Likewise, you are expected to take each exam at the time and day they are scheduled. IMPORTANT: Only substantiated emergencies will be given a make-up exam. You will have to have a doctor’s note or other documentation.

If you miss an exam or assignment due to an emergency, you must contact me within 48 hours after the exam or assignment was due or it will not be accepted and a make-up will not be possible.

Plagiarism and/or cheating will not be tolerated in this course and appropriate actions will be taken according to campus policy. If you are unclear of this policy, please refer to the Saddleback handbook at http://www.saddleback.edu/media/pdf/handbook.pdf

If I catch you cheating in any form, you will automatically receive an F for the assignment and will be asked to meet with me to discuss further action before being allowed back in the class.

You are required and expected to be on time, courteous and respectful of both the instructor’s and your fellow student’s opinions- ideas and contributions. Excessive talking, texting, performing work that is not related to the class will not be tolerated and you will be asked once to cease the disruptive/rude behavior. After that, you will be asked to leave the class and arrange a meeting with me before returning.
Tentative Course Readings and Outline
(for a class that meets bi-weekly for 16 weeks)

*The listed films and activities are samples of types of things I do in a typical Soc 1 class. Along with the listed films, I show many short YouTube clips to supplement our topic for the day.

**Week 1: What is Sociology**
**Readings:** None
**Topics Covered:**
- Introduction
- The “Sociological Imagination”

**Week 2: Sociological Theory and “Doing Sociology”**
**Readings:** Chapters 1
**Topics Covered:**
- Theory -- in class activity: theory application
- Methods—in class activity: academic vs. popular media research

**Week 3: Culture**
**Readings:** Chapter 3
**Topics Covered:** Culture
**Extra credit option:** “breeching experiment” (i.e. violating social norms)

**Week 4: Socialization**
**Readings:** Chapter 4
**Topics Covered:** Socialization
**Field assignment 1:** “Toy Story” (explore toy stores and report what toys say about gender socialization)

**Week 5: Social Organization**
**Readings:** Chapter 5
**Exam I**
**Topics Covered:**
- Social Interaction and Groups and Orgs—Film: *Milgram Obedience and Asch Studies*

**Week 6: Social Organization**
**Readings:** Chapter 15
**Topics Covered:**
- Social Structure and Social Control—Film: *Stanford Prison Study*
- Family
Week 7: Stratification  
Readings: Chapter 9  
Topics Covered: Class Inequality—in class activity: “making ends meet”  

Week 8: Stratification  
Readings: Chapter 12  
Topics Covered: Gender—special segment on gender based violence (possible guest speaker)  

Week 9: Stratification  
Readings: Chapter 11  
Topics Covered: Race and Ethnicity—film: American History X  

Week 10: Stratification  
Readings: Chapter 13  
Exam II  
Topics Covered: Sexuality and Aging  

Week 11: Crime and Deviance  
Reading: Chapters 7 and 8  
Topics Covered: Deviance, Crime and Criminal Justice  
Field assignment 2: Observing Deviance  

Week 12: Education and Health Care  
Readings: Chapter 16  
Topics Covered: Education and Health Care  
Extra Credit option: Sign up for student panel on education  

Week 13: Environment  
Readings: Chapter  
Topics Covered: Environment—film: An Inconvenient Truth  

Week 14: Global Inequality  
Reading: Chapter 10  
Topics Covered: Global Inequality  

Week 15: Social Change and Movements  
Readings: Chapter  
Topics Covered: Social Change  
*Social Change Project Due  

Week 16: Wrap-Up/Catch-Up  
Readings: None  
Topics Covered: Wrap-up and debrief and Facilitation group study session
Final Exam: time _________ Date __________ (Based on Finals Schedule)

Additional Information:

Learning Assistance Program (LAP)
If you need any tutoring assistance, please contact the Learning Assistance Program at www.saddleback.edu/library or at the campus library at 114 at phone number (949) 582-4519.

Computing Services
The LAP also has computers with printing capabilities available for your use.

Special Services
If you should require any specialized assistance in this course, please feel free to talk to me so we can make arrangements or contact Student Services at www.saddleback.edu/serv/couns/dspcs/ or at SSC113 at (949) 582-4249. If you have already made arrangements with Student Services, please discuss this with me at the beginning of the course so I may get the appropriate paperwork.