

**Sociology 1, Introduction to Sociology
Distance Education Course, 8 Week
Saddleback College**

**Welcome to *Introduction to Sociology* online!
Class Meets From:**

Professor April Cubbage

Office: BGS 300

Office# (949) 582-4636

Webpage: <http://www.saddleback.edu/faculty/acubbage>

E-mail: acubbage@saddleback.edu

Office Hours: TBA

E-mail: Each student must use his or her **Saddleback e-mail for all communication with me for the duration of the class.** When e-mailing me please put the course title and course ticket number in the subject area and make sure you include your name in your e-mail message. I do not reply to student e-mails promptly if the ticket number is not in the subject area. I reply to time all e-mails on weekdays within 24 hours and 36-48 hours on weekends.

Catalog Description

A course emphasizing the sociological perspective of human behavior, institutions and patterns for human interaction, origin and nature of culture, the socialization processes, the natural forces and consequences of sociological change.

Course Description

A critical introduction to the basic concepts in sociology and a basic examination of major theoretical perspectives including structural functionalism, symbolic interactionism, and conflict theory. Students learn how to formulate research topics in sociology and evaluate current research and research methodologies. Topics for exploration include: culture, social networks, social institutions, deviance, education, religion, race and ethnicity, social class, socialization, gender identity, the social construction of the family, the community, health, social processes, social change, and social problems.

Recommended for every student interested in human behavior, social interrelationships, group organizations, foundations of society, culture, social differentiation, and social institutions.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

- Define, identify, and apply sociological terms and concepts.
- Explain, apply, and analyze the major theoretical models as well as apply the social theories to specific sociological issues and topics.
- Explain the role that cultural diversity plays in defining what it means to be a social being.
- Explain and analyze the origins and consequences of social and cultural change.
- Explain what makes a social science different from other disciplines as well as compare and contrast sociology to the other social sciences.
- Explain and analyze the relationship between trends in society, group actions, and individual behaviors to social, political, and/or economic institutions.
- Apply sociological terms, concepts, and theories to one's own life as well as the lives of others.
- Analyze and evaluate sociological concepts and theories as they apply to particular themes and social problems.
- Discuss, analyze, write about, and apply the relevant sociological issues to particular experiences, literature, and photographic mediums.

Required Readings

Text:

Henslin, James M. (2009). Essentials of Sociology: A Down-To-Earth Approach, Eighth Edition. Needham Heights, MA: Pearson and AB Publishing.
 ISBN#0205578705/9780205578702 **OR** you can purchase the Essentials of Sociology A La Carte (this is an unbound version of the text which tends to be cheaper but cannot be sold back to the bookstore at the end of the semester)

Reader:

Henslin, James M. (2009). Life In Society: Readings to Accompany A-Down-To-Earth-Approach, Third Edition. Needham Heights, MA: Pearson and AB Publishing.
 ISBN#0205578756/9780205578757 (NOTE: the second edition of the reader is also acceptable to use for the class)

*Additional readings will be required and linked to the course website.

COMMUNICATION

It is crucial to the success of this course that there is constant communication between students as well as each student with the instructor. There is a student discussion board forum for weekly questions (it is, and will remain, the first forum on the discussion board). This question forum is for students to post their specific questions regarding the

course or assignments. The instructor, as well as fellow students, can respond to these questions. It is very likely that if one student has a question other students have the same question as well. This will help to clarify instructions as well as facilitate collaborative problem solving. It is required that each student check this question forum on a weekly basis. Students who help other students with their questions (the first student to effectively answer the other student's question before the instructor) will receive one extra credit point per answer response posting (up to five extra points possible). Also note: it is extremely important that each student contact the instructor via e-mail with concerns or questions that are not appropriate for the question forum or that the student does not feel comfortable posting on the forum. It is important that there is constant and open communication with the instructor throughout the semester.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Student Expectations:

It is expected that each student is online a minimum of **four days** a week, however, I suggest that you check in daily. Each student is expected to check announcements, check e-mail (your Saddleback e-mail via Mysite), get assignments, participate on the discussion board, read weekly lectures (please make sure you read the weekly lectures as assessments are based on these as well as the required readings), read assigned readings, turn in paper assignments, and take online exams on a weekly basis and/or according to the set deadlines. Each student should anticipate devoting on average 12-15 hours per week to this course (this is the average for any 8 week course). In order to be successful in the course each student must have access to a computer with a modem, internet, and e-mail capability. It is important that each student have basic knowledge of Microsoft Word and how to navigate the web.

Participation: Your participation and virtual attendance will be essential to your overall success in the class. Each student is expected to log-on to our course website at least four days per week, check for announcements and assignments, and participate in the discussion board. Research shows that students who participate regularly tend to earn better grades than those who do not. Exams and assignments regularly cover material that may not be contained in the textbook.

NOTE: If you are no longer participating in the class it is **your responsibility to drop or withdraw yourself** from the course. It is not the instructor's responsibility to drop students who are no longer participating in the class.

Blackboard: The Blackboard system is our virtual classroom. The system includes such features as: class announcements, e-mail, discussion board (our class discussion forum), lectures, links to additional readings, study guides, exams, assignments, links to upload paper assignments, and grades.

Course Website Address: <http://socccd.blackboard.com>

Your username is your Saddleback College e-mail address given to you at registration (first initial of your first name and your last name plus a number; DO NOT included the

@saddleback.edu) and your password is either your pin number plus two zero's or the last four digits of your social security number plus two zero's.

Technical Difficulties:

If a student is experiencing difficulties with the website, which extends beyond a few hours, as the website could be temporarily down, he or she must immediately contact me. Questions regarding navigating the website usually can be found by reading the Blackboard instructions found through the campus website:

<http://www.saddleback.edu/itc/user/blackboardfaq.html>

For Blackboard or Mysite login problems contact: Sheri Nelson at snelson@saddleback.edu or (949) 582-4515

Online Etiquette:

It is essential that each student be polite and respectful at all times. When posting on the discussion board, responding to other students' postings, and throughout written assignments courtesy and respect must be maintained. A good thing to keep in mind is, "would I say this to the person's face?" or "would I say this to my grandma?" Also note that offensive language will not be tolerated. If a student is found to be disrespectful and/or providing a negative learning environment for others he or she will receive a warning or immediately dropped from the course according to the instructor's discretion. Please go to the following websites for information on "Netiquette":

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>

<http://www.chirpingbird.com/netpets/html/computer/emoticon.html>

Computer Lab Information:

Computer labs are located in IMC Lab in BGS248, LAP/ICC in VIL8-06 (in the Village), VIL3 (in the Village), and SM207.

Saddleback College Distance Education Website:

A good source of information for online students, <http://www.saddleback.edu/de/>

ASSESSMENTS

Quiz: Your first assessment will include ten multiple-choice questions testing your comprehension of the orientation information and the course syllabus. The quiz is worth 10 points. You will have 15 minutes to complete the quiz. The quiz can be found under "Assignments." Please see the information on online exams.

Discussion Board: It is required that each student participate on our course discussion board. Each student must answer one or two discussion board questions as well as provide feedback to other students' postings per week. You will "start a new thread" at the beginning of the discussion. When you are adding to the discussion or responding to a specific student you will "reply." When responding to another student's posting it is best that you specifically address the student by name in your post. It is required that you engage in a discussion with your fellow students on each topic, therefore, you should be

probing them with additional questions and offering comments that go beyond a basic statement such as “good job” or “interesting.” Please note: grammar and spelling (the discussion board has spellcheck) as well as comprehensive coverage of the topic will be taken into consideration for grading the discussion board assignments. Please use **black font** as well as the **font size default** for your responses and replies as your post can be difficult to read otherwise. Some of the discussion board questions require that you incorporate application from class, some require additional research (in this instance the student is required to cite the source or sources of the data used), and some are strictly opinion questions. Make sure you read the specific discussion board requirements each week. I suggest that you begin participating on the discussion board as early as possible in the week and read what others have posted prior to your posting. You are required to participate on the discussion board throughout the week, therefore, those who only participate on one day or only on the final day of the week will not earn full credit that week. You should be adding to what others have posted (not repeating what has already been posted) and discussing the topic with your fellow students as well as asking your fellow students additional questions. Please see the document titled “**Rubric for Online Discussions**” for additional information on the grading for this assignment. I will monitor the discussion and offer input where needed throughout. **Main posts** are due by **WEDNESDAY** each week; replies to other students and final responses are due by **SATURDAY** each week. **No late posts** considered for any reason for any of our discussion forums. The discussion board requirement is worth up to 130 points (each forum is worth 5-10 points). Scores for the discussion board will be posted after week#4 (progress report) and at the end of the semester (final score). **Note: participation on the discussion board is essential to your success in the class and the points for this assignment play an important role in your overall grade in the class.**

Online Exams: There will be three online multiple-choice exams. Each exam includes 60 multiple-choice questions and is worth 30 points. **Please note:** each exam has a specific deadline in which the exam must be completed by as well as a time limit once the exam is started. Students are allowed one hour and thirty minutes to take each multiple-choice exam. **One point will be deducted for each minute or portion of each minute beyond** the allotted time used to take the exam (up to 30 points can be deducted per multiple-choice exam). Exams availability is specifically noted on the syllabus, The exams are made available for 1 week and all exams must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on the last day of the exam (ex. exam 1: opens on 6/30 at 11:59 p.m. and closes at 7/6 at 11:59 p.m. You will not be able to access the exam before this time or after, so plan your schedule accordingly. Also note that the questions on the exam will show one at a time and backtracking is prohibited. When you move on to the next question the previous question is automatically saved. **NO MAKE UP EXAMS WILL BE PERMITTED.**

IMPORTANT: To ensure that there are no **TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES** while taking the online exams you will need to **close all OTHER BROWSERS, block all POP-UPS, and DO NOT click on “Refresh”** as this can cause the website and the exam to freeze up and kick you out of the system. In this instance it will show that you have completed the exam and any questions you have not answered or saved will be marked incorrect.

Please make sure you **click on “submit”** once you have completed the exam (if you only chose “save” the exam is not submitted to me). Please use **“Firefox”** or **“Internet Explorer”** as your internet browser (go to firefox.com to download; if you have “Vista” make sure you use Firefox as your browser), as these systems are more compatible with the Blackboard system. Students must also make sure they are on a **WIRED CONNECTION** (do not use a wireless router) when completing exams. Make-up exams will not be allowed for such avoidable technical difficulties. Also, make sure your internet connection is not moving slower than usual before you take the exam as this could cause your exam to not be processed upon submitting it. Make sure you do not wait until the last minute to take exams as technical difficulties will not be considered if it is within the last three hours allotted to complete the exam.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be two paper assignments. Specific paper instructions will be online two weeks prior to the due date. Instructions must be strictly followed. Papers must be saved in word (.doc or .docx) or rich text (.rtf) format. Papers must be **SUBMITTED online via Blackboard only** (see specific paper instructions for submission requirements). All papers must also be uploaded to the **Turnitin link** on our class Blackboard website (“Assignments” button). **NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Application and Analysis Papers: You will be required to complete three application and analysis papers in which you will incorporate application (terms, concepts, social theory, and data from class) as well as sociological analysis from class to a film or specific sociological issue. The grading for each paper will be based on your adherence to the specific requirements, your use of application and sociological analysis, grammar and spelling, and your comprehensive coverage of the particular issue. You will receive specific paper instructions at least one week prior to the due date for each paper.

1) Application and Analysis Paper – Film Analysis: You will be required to incorporate application and analysis from class to the film *“Menace II Society”* which can be rented at your local movie rental location or online. You will be incorporating application of terms, concepts, theories, and data from class. Note that this paper also includes a discussion board requirement (portions of your paper will need to be posted on the discussion board; information on the discussion board requirement will be included in the paper instructions). Other specific instructions will be available one week prior to the due date. This paper is **worth 50 points** (additional points are earned for the discussion board requirement).

2) Application and Analysis Paper – My Playing Field: The topic for this essay is “playing field”. Each student will be required to discuss his or her “playing field” while incorporating application from the course as well as sociological analysis. **Specific instructions for this paper will be available prior to the due date.** This assignment is **worth 100 points** (additional points are earned for the discussion board requirement).

IMPORTANT: Grading will be based on your adherence to the specific paper requirements, your use of application and sociological analysis, grammar and spelling,

and your comprehensive coverage of the issues presented. See the syllabus for the dates the papers will be assigned as well as the due dates. NO late papers will be accepted!

Feedback Time: You can expect feedback on the discussion board throughout the week or in the days following the conclusion of each discussion forum. I may not respond to each response individually but I do read each response in its entirety. I will have specific comments asking additional questions to those who do not thoroughly complete the discussion question for the week. Midway through the semester you will receive a progress report on your discussion board participation. You can expect to receive feedback from me on your papers and vignette essay 10-14 days after the due date. To check your grades go to “Student Tools” and “Check Grade.”

Makeup Examinations/Late Paper Policy: The instructor is under no obligation to accept late papers or give makeup examinations and will only be considered 1) if **discussed with me in advance** (on or prior to the due date or examination date) AND 2) in the instance of a **medical emergency**. In either instance **written proof** of the absence will be required in order to be considered for approval of a makeup exam or turning in a late paper. Approved late papers and makeup examinations must be turned in or completed in a timely manner and will result in a deduction of total possible points (**10% will be deducted for each day past the due date or assigned examination date**). Note: makeup examinations and late papers are rarely approved.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is cheating (obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for work by the use of any dishonest, deceptive, fraudulent, or unauthorized means). It is also academic dishonesty if you help someone do any of these things. Examples of academic dishonesty are: unacceptable examination behavior (communicating with other students, copying an exam from another person, allowing another student to copy your own exam, using cheat sheets or other unauthorized material), plagiarism (using another individual’s words as your own and/or not citing another individual’s work), fraud, unauthorized collaboration (including allowing other students to read your completed papers), document falsification, and utilizing a previous paper from another class (you must obtain permission from your previous instructor as well as the current instructor in order to use a paper you have previously turned in from another course). Academic dishonesty of any type will not be tolerated. The penalty of committing academic dishonesty will result in a zero on the assignment, lowering of the final grade in the course, or the student receiving a failing grade in the course. It is up to the instructor’s discretion as to what action will be taken. If you are unclear on what constitutes for academic dishonesty please see me for clarification. **Please note: The “Turnitin” program will be used for all papers to check for plagiarism.** See the Student Handbook for more information on academic dishonesty, <http://www.saddleback.edu/media/pdf/handbook.pdf>

Special Services

“Special Services provides support services and specialized instruction for students with disabilities.”

If you feel that you are in need of special services please contact the Special Services office:

(949)582-4249

Office location: SSC113 (Student Services Center 113; first floor)

Website: www.saddleback.edu/serv/couns/dsps/

Note: please feel free to discuss special services issues with me. If you have already been assessed through Student Services please discuss accommodations with me and get the paperwork to me as soon as possible.

Learning Assistance Program (LAP):

The LAP is available for tutoring and can help you with writing assistance for this course.

Please call or visit the LAP department.

(949)582-4519 or Library, room 114

www.saddleback.edu/library/

Point Distribution

Quiz	10 points
Discussion Board	130 points
Multiple-Choice Exams	90 points
Application paper#1	50 points
Application paper#2	100 points
TOTAL	380 points

Grading Scale

342-380	A
304-341	B
266-303	C
228-265	D
227 or below	F

Tentative Course Outline

The following dates are subject to change. Changes will be announced on our Blackboard website only. See the course schedule below and the “Assignments” button on our Blackboard website on a weekly basis for specific due dates.

Week:

- #1
- 1) **Read** the first announcement and read the orientation information and course syllabus
 - 2) **Navigate** through the course website
 - 3) Read **instructor introductions** (“Faculty Information”)
 - 4) Read the “Rubric for Online Discussions” (“Course Information”) and the “Example Weekly Schedule”
 - 5) Take the orientation **quiz**
 - 6) **Introduce yourself** on our discussion board forum titled, “Introductions” and read other students’ introductions and engage in a conversation with your fellow students (respond to other students - required)
 - 7) Make sure you let me know if you have any **questions**.

- Chapter 1
Reader
Reader
Read Lecture(s)
The Sociological Perspective
An Invitation to Sociology
Inside Organized Racism
Discussion Board: 1) Introductions 2) Social Forces
- Chapter 2
Reader
Read Lecture(s)
Culture
The Fierce People
- #2
Chapter 4
Chapter 5
Reader
Reader
Read Lecture(s)
Social Structure and Social Interaction
Social Groups and Formal Organizations
The McDonaldization of Society
The Power Elite (p. 161)
- Chapter 13
Reader
Religion section (pgs 374-389)
India's Sacred Cow
**Discussion Board: 1) Religion, Social Theory, and
"India's Sacred Cow" 2) "McDonaldization of Society"**
- #3
**Exam#1 must be completed by Tuesday, 7/6, by 11:59
p.m. (Lectures; Text, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5 and 13; readings
Reader)**
Read Lecture(s)
Chapter 6
Reader
Deviance and Social Control
Fraternities and Rape Culture
Discussion Board: 1) Deviance
**Application paper#1 assigned, due by Sunday, 7/11, by
11:59 p.m.**
- #4
Chapter 3
Reader
Chapter 12
Read Lecture(s)
Socialization
Anybody's Son Will Do
Marriage and Family
"Playing Field"
**Discussion Board: 1) Paper#1 (post portions of your
paper on the discussion board, see paper instructions)**
- #5
**Exam#2 must be completed by Monday, 7/26, by 11:59
p.m. (Lectures; Text, Chapters 3, 6, 9, 12, and
13/Education section; readings Reader)**
Read Lecture(s)
Chapter 13
Reader
Education section (pgs 358-374)
College Athletes and Role Conflict

Discussion Board: 1) Education

- Chapter 9
Reader
- Read Lecture(s)
Race and Ethnicity
How the Jews Became White Folks
Discussion Board: 1) Prejudice and Discrimination
- #6
- Chapter 10
Reader
- Read Lecture(s)
Gender section (pgs 261-281)
Learning Silence: Girls and Boys in School
Discussion Board: 1) Gender
- Chapter 7
Chapter 8
Reader
- Read Lecture(s)
Global Stratification
Social Class in the United States
The Uses of Poverty: The Poor Pay All
Discussion Board: 1) Social Class
- #7
- Chapter 10
Chapter 11
- Read Lecture(s)
Age (pgs 282-293)
Politics and the Economy
Discussion Board: 1) The Elderly
Paper#2 Playing Field, due Sunday, 8/8, by 11:59 p.m.
- #8
- Chapter 14
Chapter 15
- Read Lecture(s)
Population and Urbanization
Social Change and the Environment
Discussion Board: 1) Paper#2 (post portions of your paper on the discussion board, see paper instructions) AND 2) The Environment 3) Parting Words (optional forum)
- Exam#3 must be completed by Sunday, 8/15, by 11:59 p.m.** (Lectures, Chapters 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, and readings)
Discussion Board: 1) Parting Words (optional forum)

FINAL NOTE: Each student MUST make sure he or she keeps up with the course. Once a student is behind in an online course it is almost impossible for the student to catch up. **STAY ORGANIZED AND DO NOT PROCRASTINATE!**