

Elizabeth Arreaga
earreaga@saddleback.edu

Intro to Sociology

Materials: Essentials of Sociology: A Down-To-Earth Approach James Henslin.

Student Attendance: Class meetings are required. Students are allowed two excused absences during the semester. If a student stops attending class it is up to that student to withdraw. It is not up to the instructor to withdraw students for no shows. In the event of excessive absences, the instructor may lower the student's grade. If a student has issues that require several absences that student will be excused only at the discretion of the instructor for extenuating circumstances. Examples of such circumstances include extended, illness, hospitalization, court appearances or death in the immediate family.

Student Behavior in Class: Be respectful in this class. It is a college level class and students must behave appropriately. Turn off cell phones. If you forget to turn off your cell phone, and it does go off, then turn it off quickly. DO NOT LOOK AROUND AND PRETEND IT IS NOT YOURS. Also, be on time. If tardiness becomes a habit students will be penalized by losing points for every tardy after the third offense. Do not talk while the instructor or other students are speaking to the class. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated. If any student is caught cheating he or she will receive an F and be referred to the college president or counseling office.

Student Conduct: These standards of student conduct and disciplinary action for violation of rules were established by a student-college staff committee in compliance with section 22635 of the State Educational Code, printed and distributed for students' information and guidance. Students shall respect and obey civil and criminal law and shall be subject to the legal penalties for violation of the laws of the city, county, state and nation. Student conduct at Saddleback College must conform to district policy and regulations and college procedures. Plagiarism is not acceptable! Any student copying from someone else will result in dismissal from or failure of this course. See the Saddleback College Course Catalog for the procedures associated with plagiarism.

Course Description: This course is an analysis of human relationships through a study of cultural origins, personality development, social interaction, community organization, collective behavior, institutional growth, social change, and social movements. This class is worth 3 units and is CSU, UC transferable. My goal for this class is to help the student understand how sociology and sociological theories apply to daily life. In addition I hope to have my students use their critical thinking skills to apply these theories and use them to solve problems and situations that they encounter.

Course Requirements: Reading is required for this class. One individual paper will be due during the semester as well as a group assignment. No late work is accepted! Make sure to complete and turn in all assignments.

Examinations will consist of multiple choice questions. All tests are drawn from class lectures/assignments. There will be a total of 2 tests worth 50 points each. All exams are taken online using Blackboard. Exams will be open on Monday and Close by Friday. The instructor will check to make sure students are not locked out of the exam. If a student is locked out, the instructor will reset the exam. Exams will close at midnight on Friday night. That being said, students that wait until Friday risk the chance of being locked out of the exam. The instructor will not be responsible for students getting locked out after 12 noon on Friday. I suggest taking the exam during normal class hours on a reliable internet connection. If you do not have a reliable internet service you should take the exam on campus. Students with disabilities should approach the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements with the Disabled Students Center on campus.

Quizzes: There will be one quiz during the semester on the syllabus. The quiz is on the course syllabus and intended to get you familiar with the online exam process. The quiz will be worth a total of 10 points and you will have 20 minutes to complete it. This quiz is due by Friday the second week of the class. (The instructor does not guarantee unlocking the quiz if you get locked out after 12 noon on the Friday it is due.)

Assignments:

There will be one essay due during the semester. The paper is based on your understanding of readings that will be provided during the semester. You must provide the following elements in your paper.

- 1.) Which of the 3 major theories (Functionalist, Conflict, or Symbolic Interactionist) corresponds to the article? You must justify why this theory applies.
- 2.) Which sociological research method corresponds to the reading as mentioned by the author or which could have been employed by the author? Again, you must justify why you stated this method was used. In the case that you do not think the research method applies, justify why they should have used a different method.
- 3.) What are four sociological concepts that you can related to the reading? Concepts would basically be any words that are highlighted or in bold in your book. Examples would be culture, ethnocentrism, and gender.
- 4.) Lastly you need to add a personal immersion aspect into your answer in this paper. Personal immersion should not be opinion. It should be an explanation as to how this particular topic affects you in your life or your decision making process.

The paper should be 3-5 pages in length and should be Times New Roman or Arial and 12 point font. The margins should be standard 1.25. All students should have your name, class day and time along with the date in the top right corner of the first page.

I do not accept late papers, but will read your essays before it is due. If you have your paper turned in early and would like to rewrite you may do so but have it turned in on the regular due date.

In addition to the essays, quizzes and in class assignments there will be a group project students must participate in. Information on this project is listed below.

Feedback Time: You can expect feedback on your papers roughly 7 days after the due date. Please make sure you read my personal feedback to you on your papers. When sending an email I generally check it several times a day. Sometimes I am unable to access or check my email. Most of the time I will send a response the same day, however that is not guaranteed. I will guarantee however that responses will be sent within 2 days.

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), and document falsification. 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. I also reserve the right to bring plagiarism to the attention of the college president. 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. See the Student Handbook for more information on academic dishonesty.

To access these articles go to www.presstelegram.com/poverty

Two groups may not use the same article. Make sure that you do not have the same article as any other group. The directions for this project are as follows

SOCIOLOGY 1 Group Project: CONNECT THE DOTS

Each group should be 5-6 people. The groups will culminate in a group presentation on FINALS DAY. The topic for each group will focus on how **sociology links to the understanding of the city of Long Beach**.

Your group project must incorporate the following sociological understanding and connection of dots:

- A. In October 2006, the *Long Beach Press Telegram* published several articles focusing on poverty and the working poor in Long Beach. The articles can also be accessed at the following link: <http://www.presstelegram.com/poverty> The group must select at least **one of these articles** to use within the presentation.
- B. Each member of the group must locate a minimum of 3 research based academic journal articles that relate a sociological understanding to the content of the *Press Telegram* article selected. You are encouraged to search proquest or jstor to locate an academic journal article. You will receive points for finding these articles.
- C. The group must select **4 sociological concepts** to present on to show the sociology of Long Beach as it relates to the *Press Telegram* article and/or the academic journal article:
- D. The group must develop one **hypothesis** that can be used to explain how at least two variables mentioned in the Press Telegram article relate to each other. You must then use the academic article to support your findings in the Press Telegram article. See Chapter 1 in the Henslin text to learn more about a hypothesis and variables.
- E. In addition the group must select **one of the three major sociological theories** (or a subtheory) to use to explain the sociology of Long Beach, in relation to the above.
- F. Lastly, the group must examine the relationship of at least two social institutions (education, economics/work, politics/government, family, religion, media, prison, health care) as they link to the sociology of Long Beach. The group must provide some depth of reference to the Henslin text and/or Lecture Notes in connection to two of these social institutions.

The group must select the Press Telegram article & inform the instructor. No two groups may select the same article. In addition to the Press Telegram article, your group must also select academic journals. The group must develop a hypothesis as well as select a list of the 4 sociological concepts and 1 theory to be used in the presentation & inform the instructor.

The group presentation time limit is 15 minutes. The presentation is worth 50 points. The group will be evaluated on: effort, creativity, sociological accuracy, depth and teamwork. Each group will evaluate team members, the entire class will evaluate each group presentation, and the instructor will evaluate each group project. The group must incorporate a useful audio or visual aid into the presentation; for example: skit, music, questions to the class, PowerPoint presentation, handout, poster, etc.

If you are having difficulties with a group member you should email them your concerns and cc it to me. If you receive an email from you group, make sure to reply and cc me on your response. This is to allow me to keep up on your communication with each other when there is a problem.

Finding a Sociology Academic Journal Article

First, the purpose of using an academic journal article for your journal entry is twofold: to expose you to how sociologists write their research or theoretical articles as well as to find sociological research on a specific topic related to the *Press Telegram* article.

You can find an academic journal article by perusing the shelves of academic journals in the library or at another college or university library. Some examples of sociology-related journal titles include: **American Sociological Review, Social Forces, Journal of Marriage and Family, Sex Roles, Journal of Popular Culture, Race, Gender & Class**, etc. There are many academic social science journals, but you should pick an article that is

sociological as opposed to psychological, historical, philosophical, etc. If you like, you can give me the title of the article and journal and I can help to determine if it is a good choice.

Or, you can find an academic article online. Directions: go to <http://www.saddleback.edu/ap/lr/> Click on "Journals/Magazines." Click on "Find Articles." Click ProQuest or JSTOR. On the search screen, you should click the tab that says advanced search and type in some sociological concept(s) or issue that you are interested in (i.e. gender socialization). You will likely have to experiment with different words to come up with a selection of relevant articles. On that same screen, you should also click the two boxes at the bottom: full text documents only and scholarly journals/peer reviewed. This should help you to find an academic journal article vs. just any article published in a newspaper, magazine, etc. Alternatively, you could search for one of the journals listed above and peruse through an entire journal volume to find an article of interest to you. Typically a research article will be more than 7 pages. Book or film reviews are not acceptable nor are articles from a newspaper or magazine.

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How to use APA Citations for your papers...

East, P.L. (1996). The younger sisters of childbearing adolescents: Their attitudes and expectations, and behaviors. *Child Development*, 67, 267-282.

Mott, FL., Kowalski-Jones, L., & Menaghan, E. (1997). Paternal absence and child behavior: Does a child's gender make a difference? *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 59, 103-118.

Save all your work! This is to ensure your grade if the instructor makes a mistake. Keep all tests and quizzes as well.

Extra Credit is allowed and will be offered throughout the semester. Students are allowed a total of 25 extra credit points throughout the semester.

Helpful Information: There are several services available on campus to help support students. Here are a few centers providing services for the students attending this school.

1. The Learning Assistance Program – Supports students in study skills, tutoring, supplemental instruction and computer labs. (949)582-4519
2. Disabled Students Programs & Services, Special Services– For any student that has a disability, believes that they have a disability or just have questions for the center contact Special Services at (949) 582-4885.

Student Learning Outcomes for this course.

1. Every student should be able to explain one of the three major theoretical perspectives.
2. Every student should be able to apply one of the three major theoretical perspectives to media or daily life events.
3. Every student should be able to define and apply sociological concepts to daily life events.

These three SLO's will be measured by papers that will be turned in throughout the semester.

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