

# INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY SYLLABUS

*"Neither the life of an individual nor the history of society can be understood without understanding both."* -Wright C. Mills

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Sociology 1

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces the study of social interrelationships and human group organization. Attention is given to the foundations of society, culture, group organization, social differentiation, and the methods of sociological study. Emphasis is on American social institutions.

## STUDENT-LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- 1) Identify the current goals of sociology.
- 2) Compare and contrast the three main sociological theories in sociology.
- 3) Apply social theories correctly to examples of current or historical events.
- 4) Analyze specific sociological topics, utilizing the major theoretical models that are appropriate for each specific topic.
- 5) Differentiate social research and social research methods from other research models.
- 6) Describe the role that culture plays in affecting group as well as individual behaviors.
- 7) Differentiate between Sociology and the other social sciences.
- 8) Define and apply the sociological imagination/sociological perspective.
- 9) Identify and apply specific sociological terms and concepts.
- 10) Explain how various social locations such as class, race, gender, age and sexuality are vital to the study of sociology and apply them to specific sociological topics.

## GOALS:

- 1) Understand society, by seeing how society is structured and by experiencing its constraints firsthand.
- 2) Explain why categories perceived as real, such as gender, race, & deviance are socially constructed.
- 3) Describe key concepts in each unit and make connections between the concepts in different units.
- 4) Use sociological theories and concepts to analyze critically current and historical events.

## READINGS:

- 1) **Text:** Society: The Basics 11<sup>th</sup> edition, 2010, John J. Macionis ISBN: 0205003788 (**Any edition is fine!**)  
\* I suggest looking for it at <http://www.dealoz.com/>, because it searches all the major book-selling sites for you.
- 2) **Blackboard Reading/Video:** See Blackboard (under Handouts, Online Readings & Video)
  - Cooley Reading
  - Female Circumcision Pro & Con Articles
  - Zimbardo Video
- 3) **Optional:** These brief activities include my Evaluating Research Quick Reference, Sociology in the Media Blog <http://sociologyinthemedia.wordpress.com>, & more. See Blackboard (under Handouts, Just for Fun)

## CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) **Attendance/Participation:** 30 points

- **Attendance:** (20 points) Regular attendance is vital to success in this class, **Potential Test Question(s) will be Given at the Beginning of Every Class** and attendance will be taken at the end of every class. Lastly, each student can miss 1 class without any penalty.
    - **Note 1:** If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get caught up from a classmate.
    - **Note 2:** It is your responsibility to drop the class officially if needed.
  - **Participation:** (10 points) You can earn points by confirming the Learning Agreement **See Blackboard (Assignments)**, and doing in class practice exercises.
- 2) **Exploriment:** Worth 40 points (20 Points Each) **See Blackboard (Assignments)**
- There will be 2 exploriments offered this semester. An exploriment is to experience the constraints of society by breaking a small norm and recording what you learn about society from this. The write up will be a 1-page discussion of your experience. See Blackboard for details.
- 3) **Exams: Each** is worth 40 points
- There will be 1 midterm and 1 final, each worth the same amount. There will be multiple-choice questions and short answer questions. Study guides will be posted 2 weeks before each exam.
- 5) **Article Response Paper:** 50 points **See Blackboard (Assignments)**
- You will be investigating how a current article on any topic (from a reliable source) can be analyzed sociologically in a response paper. See Blackboard for details.
- 5) **Extra Credit:** 7 Points (Max)
- **Service Learning:** 6 Points (Max) **See Blackboard (Assignments)**  
In this activity, you have a chance to apply the knowledge you have learned this semester and use it to discuss your experience participating in 6-hours of community service and write a 1-page summary of your experience. See Blackboard for details.
  - **Extra Credit Media Clips Board:** 1 Point (Max) **See Blackboard (Discussion Board)**  
You can earn this by posting a link to an online video clip or article with an explanation of how it relates to something in lecture on the Extra Credit Video clip discussion board. Your clip or article cannot be something shown in class or already posted by somebody else on the forum.

### Grading Summary

Attendance/Participation	30 points	15%
Exploriment Papers (2)	40 points	20%
Article Response Paper	50 points	25%
Midterm	40 points	20%
Final	40 points	20%
	<b>200 points</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Grading Scale

A = 180 - 200 points	90 - 100%
B = 160 - 179 points	80 - 89%
C = 140 - 159 points	70 - 79%
D = 120 - 139 points	60 - 69%
F = 119 & below	59% & below

### GRADING POLICY:

- **Late Papers and Assignments:** 6 points will be taken from the final score of an assignment for each class meeting in which papers or assignments are late. The final exam day is the last day to turn in late papers.
- **Redoing Assignments:** Under **NO** circumstances can you redo any assignment; it would be unfair to others.
- **Make-up Exams, Extensions, or Taking an Exam Early?:** None of these are an option.

- There is another option that I give **ONLY** for excused absences, which must include **DOCUMENTED** illnesses (doctor's note required, if you do not have a doctor you can go to the Student Health Center) or emergencies (i.e. accidents with a police or emergency room report).
- I must approve these before we can discuss another option.
- If I do not approve you the other option, you will receive a zero on the exams. Remember oversleeping or a family vacation will not be approved.
- **Grade Begging:** This entails asking for a special exception to be made for you that is not outlined in my grading policy. **Grade begging is not allowed in this class.** Remember, grades are earned in this class and there is no excuse that can justify being given a grade that was not earned. Grade begging emails will receive a standard cut and paste reply from my grading policy one time and further grade begging emails will not receive a response.
- **Borderline Grades:** If a student receives a % grade that has a 9 with some decimals trailing it, I will round your grade up **ONLY IF THE STUDENT HAS AN ATTENDANCE RECORD HIGHER THAN THE CLASS AVERAGE.** Thus if you have not done this I will not be able to round your grade up even if it ends with 9.99999. If a student has a score that ends with a 9 with no decimals, you will not be considered for a grade round up, no exceptions.
- **Special Needs:** If you have a special need, you should contact the Special Services Center (949-582-4833). Their staff will assist you =).

#### STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Opinions Welcome and Encouraged:** This class will be a safe place where you can share their opinions and ask questions without fear of reproach. I feel so strongly that you share your opinions in class that I will not share mine. Multiple viewpoints (I never say what my view on them is) in class and you can choose what you believe for yourself.
- **Create a Respectful Environment:** Since you are safe to share **ANY** viewpoint, you would like as long as it is done in a respectful manner. I have a zero-tolerance policy towards racist, sexist, and/or homophobic language (You can share views that would be considered any of these in non-offensive language).
- **Cell phones & Texting:** Cell phones need to be shut off in the classroom. They are disrespectful to other students. So make sure these devices are turned off **BEFORE** entering the class. If you have a **JUSTIFIABLE** reason for having one on, come see me before class and we will work something out.
- **Avoid distracting behavior:** To make this a learning environment that is a productive learning environment it is important that you avoid distracting behavior (i.e. talking during lecture, text messaging, surfing the web on laptops, arriving late, leaving early, writing notes, cell phone use, and anything else that might bother you or someone around you). Since many students (and instructors) are distracted by such behaviors, "violators" may be removed from class and referred to the Dean of Students.
- **Academic Dishonesty:**
  - This is a serious offense and **no excuses** for such actions will be accepted. Any form of academic dishonesty that occurs will result in the following: A zero on the assignment, an academic dishonesty report, sent to my dean, and the vice president of student services (this office may choose to take further action and that will solely be up to them to decide), it will be put on a permanent record.
  - Thus, **it is your responsibility** to know what qualifies as academic dishonesty, see the following link for a detailed outline of what it is <http://www.saddleback.edu/la/ActsofAcademicDishonesty.html>
- **Learning from Each Other:** I truly believe that learning is a two-way street. You will not only learn from me, but more importantly I will learn from you!

- **Have Fun:** This class will be very hands-on. By participating fully in class activities and discussions, it is my hope that you will enjoy our exploration of sociology.

#### READING AND LECTURE PREPARATION:

- **Reading as Preparation for Lecture:** In an effort to accomplish objectives, please come to each class prepared, having read the material we are covering **BEFORE** we discuss it. Lectures are intended to complement text material and will emphasize an interactive learning-centered approach. In fact, you will actually play a role in determining and developing how we assess learning in this class. In addition to this overall interactive environment, you will work in groups to further your learning of material.
- **Annotation:** Based on previous (i.e. high school) restrictions, many students are hesitant to highlight and write in textbooks. Fear not and put that thinking style behind you! Annotation is a useful strategy that facilitates learning and you may still sell back your annotated books or keep it for your own academic library.
- **Lecture Outlines:** Before each class, an abbreviated PowerPoint presentation (in PDF form) will be posted on Blackboard. You can print it out in one of two formats, 3 slides per page or 1 slide per page. Lectures are taught with the expectation that you print them before lecture and use them to take notes on or with.
- **Blackboard & Email:** Must be checked regularly, because you will be responsible for printing out class assignments, turning in assignments on time, and knowing class announcements.

#### EMAILING:

- **Email:** (it is your responsibility to regularly check your (Saddleback Email)
  - Before Emailing Me a Question
    - Make sure you have checked the **Syllabus** (99% of answers can be found here)
  - Emailing Me
    - **Purpose of Emailing me:** Clarifying terms theories, further grade questions after reading my feedback, site glitches, etc. I am happy to help with this =)!
    - **Inappropriate Email Topics:** Asking questions that can be found in the syllabus, asking me to tell you what you missed when you were absent, telling me you were absent or will be, grade begging emails, etc.
    - **Do Not Forget to Include in All Emails:**
      - In the subject line: your ticket number
      - Sign the email with your full name so I can know who it is =).

#### TROUBLESHOOTING:

- **Student Help Page:**
  - <http://www.saddleback.edu/de/student-technical-support/>
  - <http://www.socccd.edu/help/login.htm>
- **Campus Support:**
  - Phone Number: 949-582-4357
  - Email: [scstudenthelp@saddleback.edu](mailto:scstudenthelp@saddleback.edu)
  - Website: <http://www.saddleback.edu/oe/student-resources/StudentContactforTechnicalSupport.html>

## COURSE OUTLINE

*“Warning: studying sociology can be harmful to your ego and to your illusions” -Bernard McGrane*

<b>Week</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments/Tests</b>
<b>WEEK 1</b>	Introduction	Blackboard: Cooley Ch. 1 Sociology	Assign Learning Agreement Assign Exploriment # 1 <u>Option 1</u> : The Elevator Backwards <u>Option 2</u> : The Un-Phone
<b>WEEK 2</b>	Theoretical Perspective, Theory, & Research Methods Culture	Ch. 1 Sociology Optional: Evaluating Research Quick Reference	<b><u>Due</u></b> : Learning Agreement Assign Extra Credit Service Learning
<b>WEEK 3</b>	Culture Con't Socialization	Ch. 2 Blackboard: Female Circumcision Pro/Con Blackboard: Zimbardo Video	<b><u>Due</u></b> : Exploriment # 1 Assign Exploriment # 2: <u>Option 1</u> : Personal Space in Public Spaces <u>Option 2</u> : Un-Occupied Un-Employed <u>Option 3</u> : You Chose If Approved
<b>WEEK 4</b>	Socialization Con't Social Interaction	Ch.3 & 4 Blackboard: Zimbardo	<b><u>Due (Only if doing Option 3)</u></b> : Option 3 Proposal <b>(EMAIL ONLY)</b> <b><u>Due</u></b> : Service Learning Packet
<b>WEEK 5</b>	Groups & Organization Deviance	Ch. 5 & 7	<b><u>Due</u></b> : Exploriment # 2
<b>WEEK 6</b>	Deviance Con't	Ch. 7	
<b>WEEK 7</b>	Gender Con't Review	Ch.10 Optional: Battle of the Sexes	
<b>WEEK 8</b>	Gender Sexuality & Society	Ch. 6	<b><u>Midterm</u></b>
<b>WEEK 9</b>	Sexuality & Society Con't	Optional: Kinsey's Sexual Orientation Quiz	Assign Article Response Paper
<b>WEEK 10</b>	Family & Education	Ch. 13 p. 372-393 (Family) Ch. 14 p. 410-427 (Education)	<b><u>Due</u></b> : Article for Article Response Paper (Check-in)
<b>WEEK 11</b>	Family & Education Con't Social Stratification	Optional: Helping a Victim of Abuse Relationship & Bilingual Education Debate Ch. 8	<b><u>Due</u></b> : Article Response Paper Draft (Peer Review)
<b>WEEK 12</b>	Social Stratification Con't Race & Ethnicity	Optional: The Moynihan Report Ch. 11	<b><u>Due</u></b> : Article Response Paperr
<b>WEEK 13</b>	Race & Ethnicity Con't	Ch. 11	
<b>WEEK 14</b>	Population & Segregation	Ch. 15	<b><u>Due</u></b> : Extra Credit Service Learning
<b>WEEK 15</b>	Economics & Politics	Ch.12	
<b>WEEK 16</b>	Economics & Politics Con't Review	Ch. 12	<b><u>Due</u></b> : Extra Credit Clips
<b>WEEK 17</b>			<b><u>Final Exam</u></b> :

\*Note: this syllabus is accurate to the best of my ability, but I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at anytime.