

Understanding Sociology

[Introduction to Sociology]
YISS Summer 2019

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Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Simply put, sociology is the study of society. It offers a unique perspective with which to view the structures, institutions, groups, patterns and interactions in which we are immersed. This introductory course provides an overview of the key concepts, theories and substantive issues in sociology. The goal is to help students discover and use the sociological imagination to foster a greater understanding of the relationship between their everyday lives and the social world. Students also should become more aware, informed and critically-thinking members of the social world in which we live.

COURSE MATERIALS

There is one required book that you must purchase for the class:

Essentials of Sociology, 5th or 6th edition, Anthony Giddens, Mitchell Duneier, Richard Appelbaum and Deborah Carr. New York: WW Norton

Alternatively, a more inexpensive option for you is to purchase an on-line access to the e-book version of the 6th edition of the textbook at:

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/webad.aspx?id=4294993777>

There also will be some readings marked by an * that are available as PDF files on YSCEC.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance is **mandatory**. **If you come in late (10 minutes or more), your attendance will not be counted for that day but you are still required to attend.** Also, you are expected to read the assigned chapters/articles prior to class so that you can participate fully in the discussions. *Any student caught cheating on the assignments will automatically receive an F in the course.*

Your grade will be based on the following:

- Midterm Exam: 40%
- Final Exam: 40%
- Class Participation/Group Work: 20%

OVERVIEW OF COURSE

*(T) refers to the textbook, Essentials of Sociology; * refers to on-line article*

July 2: What is Sociology? An Introduction
No reading

July 3: What is Sociology (con't)
Chapter 1 (T)
*C. Wright Mills, Sociological Imagination

July 4: Sociological Methods
Chapter 1 (T)

July 8: Culture and Society
Chapter 2 (T)
*Anderson, Elijah, Code on the Street (R)

July 9: Socialization
Chapter 3 (T)

July 10: Social Interaction and Everyday Life
Chapter 4 (T)
*Goffman, Erving, On Face-work (R)

July 11: Groups, Networks, and Organizations (*Group work day*)
Chapter 5 (T)

July 15: Groups, Networks, and Organizations
GROUP WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE
*Kelman, Herbert and V. Lee Hamilton, My Lai Massacre: a Crime of Obedience?
*Erickson, Bonnie, Social Networks: the Value of Variety

July 16: Conformity, Deviance and Crime
Chapter 6 (T)
*Chambliss, William, The Saints and the Roughnecks (R)

July 17: MIDTERM REVIEW
No reading

July 18: **MIDTERM**

July 22: Stratification, Class, Inequality (*Group work day*)
Chapter 7 (T)
*Ehrenreich, Barbara, Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America

July 23: Global Inequality
Chapter 8 (T)
Chapter 13 (T, 5th edition: pgs. 411-427)

July 24: Gender Inequality
Chapter 9

July 25: Family (*Group work day*)
GROUP WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE
Chapter 11 (T)

July 29: Ethnicity and Race
Chapter 10 (T)

July 30: Education
Chapter 12 (T: Education Sections only)

July 31: Religion (*Group work day*)
Chapter 12 (T: Religion Sections only)

August 1: FINAL REVIEW #1 (Chapters 7-12)
No reading

August 5: The Body
Chapter 14 (T)

August 6: Politics
Chapter 13 (T: beginning through Terrorism section)

August 7: FINAL REVIEW (Chapters 13-14)
No reading

August 8: **FINAL**