

SC001
Introductory Sociology
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This course will survey the many facets that make up the study of human society. Culture, sexuality, deviance, crime, race, gender, socialization, social class and social stratification are only a few of the subjects we will explore during the semester. Unfortunately, because of the wealth of topics to be covered and the fact that this is only a one semester course we will not be able to go very deeply into each subject. However, this course will give you a sense of the breadth of the discipline and the tremendous opportunities for further study in these most fascinating and challenging areas. The course will definitely cover through chapter 13 (gender). If the class moves faster, we may cover additional subjects like age and aging, family, religion and politics.

The course will have some basic goals. One goal will be to familiarize you with the terminology and techniques used by sociologists to understand social phenomena. Another goal will be to help you understand the many theories that sociologists have put forth to explain various social phenomena, and to enable you to critically examine these theories. Another aim of the course will be for you to be able to connect the abstract nature of social theory with current and historical events. Finally, the course, through the term paper, will endeavor to develop your ability to research sociologically literature and apply your own analysis.

Texts: Anderson, Margret and Howard Taylor Sociology (Belmont: Wadsworth, 2002).

Massey, Garth Readings for Sociology (New York: W.W. Norton, 2003)

Evaluations: There will be a mid-term examination on March 3 worth 30% of the final grade, a final on May 13 at 9:00 am worth 40% of the final grade and a 10 to 15 page paper due on April 10 which will be worth 30% of the final grade.

The paper is a basically a vehicle for you to explore an area of sociological phenomena that interests you. A one page outline/description of what you are going to write your paper on is due on February 9. A 3 to 5 page rough draft is due on February 24. The papers can be of three types. A basic paper will simply be expository in nature, demonstrating that you have come to understand a particular area of knowledge. A more sophisticated paper will be expository, but will also contain critical analysis. The most sophisticated paper will have an argued thesis. Use the bibliographic references in the Taylor and Anderson book to help you get started. If you need direction or have questions, please come see me.

We will cover topics in this order:

January 18, 20

1) The Sociological Perspective. Taylor and Anderson, ch. 1. Massey, 1,2.

Chapter 1 subjects: Mills, Comte, Durkheim, Marx, Weber, Spencer, Summner, functionalism, Parsons, Merton, symbolic interaction.

January 20, 25

2) Sociological Research Methods, Culture. Taylor and Anderson, chs. 2,3. Massey, 3,5,9,30,31,42.

Chapter 2 subjects: deductive reasoning, inductive reasoning, research process, independent/dependent/intervening variable, cross-sectional, longitudinal, validity, reliability, controlled experiments, content analysis, historical research, evaluation research, sample, mode, mean, median, correlation, statistic misuse.

January 27, 30 February 1

Chapter 3 subjects: material/non-material culture, language as power, norms, beliefs, values, conspicuous consumption, ethnocentrism.

3) Socialization, Society and Social Interaction. Taylor and Anderson, chs. 4,5. Massey 10,11,12,13.

February 3, 6, 9

Chapter 4 subjects: socialization, Clark and Clark study, psychoanalytic theory, object relations theory, social learning theory, Piaget, Kohlberg, Mead, agents of socialization, rites of passage, resocialization.

February 9, 10, 13

Chapter 5 subjects: group, status, role, Hastorf and Gantril study, impression management, social exchange model, mechanical and organic solidarity, types of society.

4) Groups and Organizations, Sexuality and Intimate Relationships. Taylor and Anderson, chs. 6,7. Massey, 6.

February 15, 17, 20

Chapter 6 subjects: attribution theory, Asch experiment, Milgram obedience study, groupthink, risky shift, bureaucracy, ritualism, alienation, McDonaldization, race/gender/class in organizations.

February 20, 22, 24

Chapter 7 subjects: sexual revolution, Ellis, Kinsey, Masters and Johnson, data concerning contemporary American views concerning sexual behavior, Laumann study, functionalist, conflict views of sexuality, birth control, eugenics, abortion, pornography, teen pregnancy, sexual violence.

5) Deviance, Crime and Criminal Justice. Taylor and Anderson, chs. 8,9.

February 27, March 1, 13

Chapter 8 subjects: Wilson, Herrnstein, Durkhiem (Suicide), structural strain theory, social control theory, conflict theory and deviance, elite deviance, differential association theory, labeling theory, mental illness, substance abuse.

March 15, 17, 20

Chapter 9 subjects: personal/property crimes, victimless crimes, elite crimes, organized crime, state organized crime, corporate crime, issues of class, race and gender, police brutality, racial profiling, the death penalty, mandatory drug sentencing.

6) Social Class and Social Stratification, Global Stratification. Taylor and Anderson, chs. 10,11. Massey, 18,19,20,21,22,39.

March 20, 22, 24

Chapter 10 subjects: social stratification systems (estate, caste, class), Marx's theory of social stratification, Weber's theory of social stratification, functionalist and conflict theory views of social stratification, class consciousness, false consciousness, race and gender issues, culture of poverty, structural causes of poverty, homelessness.

March 27, 29, 31

Chapter 11 subjects: global inequality, modernization theory, dependency theory, women/children and poverty.

7) Race and Ethnicity, Gender. Taylor and Anderson, chs. 12,13. Massey, 7,14,15,16.

March 31, April 3, 5

Chapter 12 subjects: race, minority group, stereotype, stereotype interchangeability, prejudice, discrimination, red lining, segregation (de jure, de facto), dominative racism, aversive racism, institutional racism, scapegoat theory, authoritarian personality, contact theory, domestic colony, affirmative action.

April 12, 17, 19

Chapter 13 subjects: Equal Pay Act of 1963, human capital theory, dual labor market theory, occupational segregation, various feminist theories.

8) Age and Aging, Families. Taylor and Anderson, chs. 14,15. Massey, 33,34,35,36.

April 19, 21, 26

Chapter 14 subjects: biological process of aging, age norms, social security, elder care, elder abuse, death and dying, theories of age.

April 28

Chapter 15 subjects: kinship systems, exogamy, endogamy, nuclear family, functionalist and conflict theory views of family, changes in the modern family, marriage and divorce rates, domestic violence.

9) Education, Religion. Taylor and Anderson, chs. 16,17. Massey, 40,41.

May 1

Chapter 16 subjects: history of education in America, functionalist/conflict theorist view of education, relationship between education, income and occupational prestige, Galton, The Bell Curve, tracking/detracking, Rosenthal and Jacobson study, Steele et. al. study, school funding, back-to-basics, multiculturalism.

May 3

Chapter 17 subjects: monotheism/polytheism, patriarchy, exclusive/inclusive religious groups, Durkheim and the role of the ritual, Weber and the Protestant Ethic, Marx and the opiate of the masses, liberation theology, churches, sects, cults, social drift theory, religious right, secularization.

