

SOC 104 ELEMENTS OF SOCIOLOGY

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Office | Fraser 733
Hours | M-Tr 1pm-2pm

Semester | Summer 2014, June
Time | M-F 10:20am-12:30pm
Place | Fraser 106
Course | #87269

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology is an extremely diverse field of study. This course is intended to introduce you to the discipline of sociology. Sociology is the study of the micro and macro social institutions and process which shape (and are shaped by) human behavior. In this course, we will examine different aspects of sociology, using its unique and powerful perspective to address big questions about society; using sociology to understand and reveal what is often hidden and taken for granted.

COURSE INFORMATION

Organization of the Course: Summer courses are shorter and, by necessity, more condensed. As such, we will be covering a lot of material each day. It is important to make sure you are prepared each day. The course is organized around different sociological concepts. For each topic there will be a set of articles or book chapters that will complement the lecture material. Additionally, there will occasionally be sociological films shown in class that will help to illustrate topics.

Learning Outcomes: This course is intended to give you a broad, general introduction to the field of sociology. Through this course, you should learn to think like a sociologist. Sociology involves rethinking “common sense”; it involves a re-examination of our society and a reconsideration of our assumptions about basic social dynamics. The goal for this course is for you to develop a “sociological imagination” or the ability to understand human lives as shaped by historically-conditioned social forces. To develop a sociological imagination you will need to think honestly and critically about the information you are receiving, examine your own experiences and observations, and be receptive to sociological data and analyses that challenge your assumptions. By the end of the course, you should be able to understand and be able to discuss and apply basic sociological ideas. You should also develop critical thinking skills, being able to analyze claims and arguments and the assumptions behind them. You should also develop deeper understanding and valuing of the diversity of human experiences across race, sex, gender, age, and class. Finally, you should feel equipped to take additional classes in sociology.

Required Texts: You are not required to purchase any books for this class. Instead, all course readings will be made available to you on the course Blackboard site. Make sure you have the articles and/or book chapters read before class.

GRADING INFORMATION

Attendance and Participation: Summer courses are very condensed. We have only 19 days from start to finish. Thus, attendance is *crucial* for your understanding of the material. Attendance means arriving on time and not leaving early. It also means coming prepared to class having read the material and be ready to discuss. You will also be expected to participate in the class by asking questions and providing insight based on the readings. Do not be afraid to ask questions! If you are confused by something, there is a good chance others are confused by the exact same thing.

Assignments: For this course you will be expected to complete the following:

Essay (25%): The essay for this course will consist of one paper divided into two parts. This paper will ask you to utilize the lecture and reading material to apply the sociological perspective to a specific issue. The essay will be explained in greater detail on the assignment handout. Part 1 of the paper will be due by class on Friday, June 6. Part 2 of the paper will be due by class on Friday, June 20.

Midterm (15%): The midterm will consist of term identifications, short answer questions, and an essay question. The midterm will cover lecture and reading material from the first half of the course. The midterm will take place during class on Friday, June 13 (10:20am-12:30pm in Fraser 106). You must bring your own blank blue or green essay writing book to the exam.

Final (20%): The final will consist of term identifications, short answer questions, and an essay question. The final will cover lecture and reading material from the second half of the course. The final will take place during class on Friday, June 27 (10:20am-12:30pm in Fraser 106). You must bring your own blank blue or green essay writing book to the exam.

Portfolio (30%): The visual sociology portfolio will consist of two parts. This assignment will ask you to compile a series of photographs which illustrate or capture concepts covered in lecture or in the reading material and compile them in a portfolio. You will then have to write an introductory reflection essay tying the photographs together. The portfolio assignment will be explained in greater detail on the assignment handout. The final portfolio will be due by class on Friday, June 26.

Attendance (10%): Attendance is compulsory and consists of being present and engaged in class. Absences may be “excused” only for religious holidays or due to KU athletic participation, each of which requires notification ahead of time. With the exception of university-sanction absences, I do not differentiate between types of absences (illness, funeral, etc.). Instead, you are permitted two free absences during the semester. Missing any more than two classes will lead to a reduction of your attendance grade. If you anticipate missing more than two meetings during the semester due to ongoing circumstances, you must contact me in the first week of the semester to discuss appropriate arrangements.

Grade Scale: Your grade will be determined using the CLAS plus/minus grading system:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
Attendance	10%	100 points	465-500	93-100	A
Midterm	15%	100 points	450-460	90-92	A-
Final	20%	100 points	440-445	88-89	B+
Essay	25%	100 points	415-435	83-87	B
Portfolio	30%	100 points	400-410	80-82	B-
	<u>100%</u>	<u>500 points</u>	390-395	78-79	C+
			365-385	73-77	C
			350-360	70-72	C-
			340-345	68-69	D+
			315-335	63-67	D
			300-310	60-62	D-
			0-295	0-59	F

The following is a breakdown of the marking system and an indication of the quality of work that roughly corresponds to each grade:

A: Displays a thorough understanding of material and expresses original, text-supported opinions; clear, organized and thoughtful writing; consistent and intelligent contributions and insights. Has completed all required assignments and they have been among the best in class.

B: Displays a good factual understanding of material; very good preparation for class; ability to communicate ideas logically and clearly. Has completed all required assignments and they have been of good quality.

C: Displays an understanding of the basic points of all material, although the presentation may be unclear or disorganized; may also denote sporadic participation in class. Has completed all or most required assignments, which might suffer from small issues, but generally have been free of significant problems.

D: Displays incomplete work; slight grasp of basic ideas; disorganized, poorly presented or communicated ideas; little participation in class. Has failed to complete all required assignments and they have often suffered from problems.

F: Displays incomplete work; unclear and/or inaccurate presentation of the main themes of the course; poor written communication of ideas; numerous absences, and/or little or participation in class. Has failed to complete required assignments and they have routinely suffered from serious problems.

I do not *give* you a grade—you *earn* your grade. Thus, except in the case of a possible calculation error, please do not contact me to change the grade that you earned.

COURSE POLICIES

Classroom Conduct: Students are expected to behave in a respectful manner during class. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in this class. Students who behave in any manner that interferes or has the potential to interfere with other students' opportunity to benefit from this course will be subject to the Department of Sociology's Policy on Disruptive Behavior and other relevant University policies and procedures. Per the Electronic Devices policy, do not explore the Internet or play games on your portable computing device during class. It draws others' attention and is rude.

Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism: Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit. Any form of cheating or academic dishonesty will be actively investigated and punished. The University defines academic misconduct in Section 6 of the University Senate Rules and Regulations: "Academic misconduct by a student shall include, but not be limited to, disruption of classes; threatening an instructor or fellow student in an academic setting; giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations or in the preparation of notebooks, themes, reports or other assignments; knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work. . ." Cheating will possibly result in an F in the course and the filing of academic misconduct charges. As ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable excuse for academic misconduct, please consult the KU Student Handbook for further information:

http://www.writing.ku.edu/~writing/instructors/guides/academic_misconduct.shtml

For more information on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, please consult the following KU website: <http://www.writing.ku.edu/~writing/guides/>.

Make-up Exams: Make-up exams will only be given to students with excused absences. In accord with university policies, students will be allowed to take a make-up exam if they can document that they were ill or if they had a death in the family. Absences which result from participation on a university athletic team and which are documented by the university athletic office will also be excused. Transportation problems do not qualify as a valid excuse. Students without a valid and documented excuse will receive a 0 on any missed exam. Students wishing to schedule a make-up exam must contact me by e-mail within 24 hours of the time at which the original exam was scheduled. Students must be prepared to present me with documentation explaining their absence prior to scheduling a make-up exam. Exams must be taken within a week of the original exam date. It is up to students who have missed an exam to contact me, to provide documentation and to set up a time to make up the exam.

Late Assignments: Unless otherwise noted, all assignments must be submitted by the beginning of class on the assigned due date. Late submissions will be penalized at the rate of 10%, or one letter grade, per day (including weekends).

Extra Credit: There will be opportunities for you to earn extra credit in this course. These opportunities will be announced later.

Electronic Devices: The use of any handheld electronic devices will not be tolerated. Cell phones and other mobile devices are to be silenced and stowed away during all 130 minutes of class. The use of laptop computers will be allowed only in situations where the student can provide documentation from the Academic Achievement and Access Center (<http://www.achievement.ku.edu/>) attesting to their need for the device in class.

Recording & Auditing: As per the Electronic Devices policy, the use of handheld personal recorders will only be allowed in class in situations where the student can provide documentation from the Academic Achievement and Access Center (<http://www.achievement.ku.edu/>) attesting to their need for the device. Any student wishing to record lecture must consult with me before class. Additionally, course attendance is exclusively restricted to members of the class, and you need explicit permission from the instructor to attend any class sessions if you are not formally enrolled in the course.

Religious Holidays: Attendance is required for every class session. If class requirements conflict with religious holidays that you observe, this needs to be discussed with me in advance. Notification after the fact is not acceptable and will count as an unexcused absence.

Disabilities: Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him/her from fully demonstrating her/his abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so that we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate educational opportunity. To do this you must first be registered with the Disability Resources office (22 Strong Hall, 785-864-2620), which coordinates accommodations and services for KU courses. *No special needs will be accommodated without proper documentation and recommendations supplied by this office.* For further information and contact information, please consult the Disability Resources website: <http://www.disability.ku.edu/>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Read</i>	<i>Watch</i>	<i>Due</i>
June 3	Syllabus/Introduction	• N/A		
June 4	The Sociological Imagination	• Mills – “The Promise”	-----	
June 5	What is Modern Society?	• Heilbroner and Milberg – Chapters 3 and 4	-----	
June 6	Capitalism	• Wright and Rogers – Chapters 3 and 4 • Bockman – “Neoliberalism”	<i>The Corporation</i>	Paper (Part 1)
June 9	Classes/Inequality	• Wright and Rogers – Chapters 11 and 12	<i>People Like Us</i>	
June 10	Culture, Taste, and Consumption	• Collins and Makowsky – Chapter 15 • Wright and Rogers – Chapter 7 • Schor – “Tackling Turbo Consumption”	<i>Shop ‘Til You Drop</i>	
June 11	Socialization and Networks	• Gracey - “Learning the Student Role” • Collins and Makowsky – Chapter 14 • Christakis and Fowler – Chapter 1	<i>Consuming Kids</i>	
June 12	Authority and Deviance	• Becker – “Becoming a Marihuana User” • Ritzer – “Total Institutions” • Rosenhan – “On Being Sane in Insane Places” • Milgram – “Behavioral Study of Obedience”	-----	
June 13		• N/A		Midterm Exam
June 16	Gender	• Johnson – “Patriarchy, The System” • Lorber – “Night to His Day”	<i>Killing Us Softly 4</i>	
June 17	Gender	• Kimmel – “Masculinity as Homophobia” • Pascoe – “Dude, You’re a Fag”	<i>Tough Guise 2</i>	
June 18	Sexuality	• Rupp and Taylor – “Straight Girls Kissing” • Armstrong, Hamilton, and England – “Is Hooking Up Bad for Young Women?” • Wade – “The Orgasm Gap” • Coventry – “Making the Cut”	<i>The Purity Myth</i>	
June 19	Race	• Omi and Winant – “Racial Formations” • Gans – “Race as Class” • Zhou – “Are Asian Americans Becoming ‘White?’” • Alexander – “The New Jim Crow”	<i>The House We Live In</i>	
June 20	Race	• Bonilla-Silva – “Racism without Racists” • Moore – “Racism in the English Language” • McArdle – “Sociologists on the Colorblind Question”	-----	Paper (Part 2)

June 23	Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edin and Kefalas – “Unmarried with Children” • Avishai, Heath, and Randles – “Marriage Goes to School” • Dodson and Luttrell – “Families Facing Untenable Choices” • Gerson and Jacobs – “The Work-Home Crunch” • Simon – “The Joys of Parenthood, Reconsidered” 		<i>The Way We Never Were</i>
June 24	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morris – “C-Section Epidemic” • Carpiano – “Passive Medicalization” • Cockerham – “The Social Causation of Health and Disease” 		<i>In Sickness and In Wealth</i>
June 25	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster – “The Vulnerable Planet” • Auyero and Swistun – “Amidst Garbage and Poison” • Angelo and Jerolmack – “Nature’s Looking-Glass” • Norgaard – “Normalizing the Unthinkable” 		<i>Flow</i>
June 26	Globalization and Social Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pellow and Brulle – “Poisoning the Planet” • Lewis – “Environmental Movements in the Global South” 	-----	Visual Sociology Portfolio
June 27		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		Final Exam

****I reserve the right to alter or amend the course syllabus during the semester within reason.***