Instructor: John F. Gomez, M.A.
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Email: john.gomez@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Friday 8 to 9 AM & By Appointment
Class Days/Time: M, W 4:30 to 5:45 PM
Classroom: Boccardo Business Center 326
GE/SJSU Studies Category: Core GE Area D1

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts, theories, and methods of sociology. My intention is to give you a broad overview of sociology so that you may then make an informed choice about further study in this discipline. Together we will critically examine the applicability of sociology to everyday life. We will assess the usefulness of a sociological perspective, and the depth of sociological method.

Course Objectives for Introduction to Sociology:

- Identify, explain, and apply four main theoretical positions in Sociology: Feminist, Conflict, Functionalist, and Symbolic Interactionist.
  - Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams.
- Explain and appropriately apply key sociological concepts.
  - Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams.
- Describe and explain the basic dimensions of social inequality and social change in contemporary society.
  - Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams.
- Use your sociological imagination to analyze your own perspective on the social world and explain how you came to possess this outlook.
  - Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams.
  - Thoughtful self-reflection, discussion, and analysis of all the ideas we cover throughout the semester will provide you the ongoing practice needed to meet this objective.
After completion of this course the student should be able to:

- Identify and analyze the social dimension of society as a context for human life, the processes of social change and social continuity, the role of human agency in those social processes, and the forces that engender social cohesion and fragmentation. [GE] Activities designed to Assist you in meeting this objective:
  - Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams.
  - Class Exercise: Defining the Sociological Imagination.
  - Class Exercise: A Reading Jigsaw on Romero.
- Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts. [GE] Activities designed to Assist you in meeting this objective:
  - Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams.
  - Class Exercise: Defining your Historical Moment.
  - Class Exercise: Play & Tell.
- Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them. [GE] Activities designed to Assist you in meeting this objective:
  - Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams.
  - Class Exercise: Campus Fieldwork on Power Relations
  - Class Exercise: A Reading Jigsaw on “The Racial Construction of Asian American Women and Men.”
  - Class Lecture & Exercise: Liberation Theory & Silent Standup Exercise.
- Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues. [GE] Activities designed to Assist you in meeting this objective:
  - Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams.
  - Instructional Video & Discussion: The Stanford Prison Experiments.
  - Film, Reading & Discussion on Hawaiian Sovereignty Movement.
  - The Academic Article Analysis is designed to address this Objective.
- To recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals. [GE] Activities designed to Assist you in meeting this objective:
  - Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams.
  - Instructional Video & Discussion: Tough Guise.
  - Class Exercise: Sexual Values.
  - Class Exercise: Family Life Show & Tell.

Required Texts/Readings:

Introduction to Sociology
ISBN: 97814129777708
Academic integrity:

Students should know that the University’s Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act:

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources:

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center:
The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The LARC website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/.

SJSU Writing Center:

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/.

Peer Mentor Center:

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop –in basis, no reservation required. Website of Peer Mentor Center is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/.

Classroom Protocol:

In keeping with the Student Code of Conduct concerning the maintenance of a learning environment, it is expected that students will not receive or place calls during class time. Should a student anticipate an emergency call during class time, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor in advance of the class and to make arrangements accordingly.

Laptops are a wonderful tool, but there is both a time and place for them in the classroom. The laptop should be used for in class activities. Hiding behind a laptop, answering e-mail, playing games, surfing the web etc. will not be tolerated. Instructors may ask students to close laptops at specific times during class.

Academic Honesty:

According to the University's Academic Integrity Policy, "... cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means" (see Section 1.1.1 through 1.1.7). Plagiarism is "... the act of representing the work of another as one's own without appropriate credit, regardless of how that work was obtained, and/or submitting it to fulfill academic requirements" (see section 1.2.1 and 1.2.2).
Violation of the university policy can result in severe consequences, up to and including dismissal from the University.

**Academic dishonesty could involve:**

- Having a tutor or friend complete a portion of your assignments
- Having a reviewer make extensive revisions to an assignment
- Copying work submitted by another student to a public class meeting
- Using information from online information services without proper citation

**Dropping and Adding:**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html. Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

**Assignment Late Policy:**

Assignments submitted after the day of the classroom session in which they are due may be assessed a point penalty. Assignments that are submitted after the due date will have a 20% reduction in score if received within 2 weeks of due date, and a “0” for anything received after that. HOWEVER, nothing will be accepted after the last day of instruction.

**Participation in Classroom:**

You will be expected to actively participate in class discussions and activities. We learn from each other as well as from the instructor. Students who miss class cannot receive participation points for that day. Students who arrive late or leave early should also anticipate a reduced participation grade. The quality of contributions will be based on:

1. Knowledge of assigned readings
2. Application of critical thinking skills
3. Application of theory to real life situations
4. Completed Online Discussion Questions

**Attendance:**

- You are responsible for all the material presented in class whether or not you are present. Exams often include questions on material presented only in class, so performance on
these indirectly reflects attendance. School is like your job. It will only pay if you attend.

- If you decide not to remain in the class, for whatever reason, you are responsible for dropping. Do not rely on the Instructor to take on this responsibility.
- In the event you miss class, talk to a friend and do your best to catch up on missed class notes, work, and films. All absences are treated the same no matter what the excuse.

### Sociological Perspective Paper

- Watch a situation comedy, drama, or reality television show "though a sociologist's eyes." While watching the show, imagine how one or more of the major theorists would explain the show's situation or story.
- Write a 700 to 1,050-word paper including a brief synopsis of the show and an explanation of the events based on a sociological perspective (social conflict, structural-functional, or symbolic interactionism).
- You may choose to focus on a specific scene or character from the show instead of the entire program. Be sure to state from which perspective you are viewing, and give specific examples from the show that relate to the basic tenets of your selected perspective.
- A minimum of 2-5 credible & scholarly (peer reviewed) sources.
- The paper must follow APA format. No hand written papers will be accepted.

### Social Mobility Paper

- Reflect on the similarities and differences between you, your parents, and your grandparents in regard to various stratification variables (education, religion, income, occupation, area of residence, consumption patterns, and political participation).
- Write a 700 to 1,050-word paper on the similarities and differences, and consider to what extent you are upwardly or downwardly mobile. Explain why some of these differences exist, what caused them, and if they have changed or influenced your attitudes and behaviors.
- How have these differences changed your life from how it was when you were young?
- A minimum of 2-5 credible & scholarly (peer reviewed) sources.
- The paper must follow APA format. No hand written papers will be accepted.

### Team Project:
Examine American Society through Sociological Perspective

- Utilize your team’s assigned sociological perspective & social problem
- Based on Review of Literature:
  - Explain why your social problem occurs in American Society.
  - Generate a top 5 to 10 list of symptoms/indicators/variables of the social problem.
  - Identify the role mass media {music, radio, television, video games, etc.} plays in the development of the social problem.
  - 8-15 PowerPoint slides and 15-20 minute team presentation

- Team 1: Functionalist perspective
- Team 2: Conflict perspective
- Team 3: Feminist perspective
- Team 4: Symbolic Interactionist perspective
- Team 5: Functionalist perspective
- Team 6: Conflict perspective
- Team 7: Feminist perspective
- Team 8: Symbolic Interactionist perspective
- Team 9: Conflict perspective
- Team 10: Symbolic Interactionist perspective

Exams:

There will be three exams that will be based on concepts and ideas from the discussions, readings, and presentations. These exams will assess your understanding of lecture materials, text book readings and films associated with this course. All exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. More Details Will Be Forthcoming.

Point Values for Course Assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sociological Perspective Paper</td>
<td>9/18/13</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam # 1 {Ch 1-5}</td>
<td>9/25/13</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam # 2 {Ch 6-10}</td>
<td>10/30/13</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Project &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>11/18/13</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Mobility Paper</td>
<td>11/27/13</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation (including online discussion questions)</td>
<td>All Semester</td>
<td>20</td>
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Grades:

A = Excellent performance. Work is exemplary and worthy of emulation by others. Student constructively contributes to the learning environment.

B = Above average performance. All assignments are complete and on time and exhibit a complete understanding and an ability to apply concepts.

C = Average performance. Student accomplishes only the minimum requirements or does not complete all assignments. Oral and written communication is at an acceptable level for a college student.

D = Work is below acceptable level for a college student. Student shows only a very basic understanding of the material or does not meet all assignment requirements as described in this syllabus.

F = Work is not passing. Student’s work is incomplete, chronically late, or does not apply information and concepts in a satisfactory manner.

Grading Scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>74-76</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>93-96</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>70-73</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>64-66</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>84-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>60-63</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<td>80-83</td>
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<td>59 or less</td>
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<td>77-79</td>
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<th>Monday</th>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/21</td>
<td>Introductions, Course Expectations</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/26 &amp; 8/27</td>
<td>Review Chapter 1 PPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/2 &amp; 9/4</td>
<td>In Class Activities, Team Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/9 &amp; 9/11</td>
<td>Review Chapter 3 PPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/16 &amp; 9/18</td>
<td>In Class Activities, Team Work</td>
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<td>9/23 &amp; 9/25</td>
<td>Review Chapter 4 PPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/23 &amp; 9/25</td>
<td>Sociological Perspective Paper</td>
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<td>9/30 &amp; 10/2</td>
<td>Review Chapter 5 PPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/7 &amp; 10/9</td>
<td>Exam # 1 {Ch 1-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/14 &amp; 10/16</td>
<td>Review Chapter 6 PPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/21 &amp; 10/23</td>
<td>In Class Activities, Team Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/28 &amp; 10/30</td>
<td>Review Chapter 7 PPT</td>
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<td>11/4 &amp; 11/6</td>
<td>Review Chapter 9 PPT</td>
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<td>11/11 &amp; 11/13</td>
<td>Exam # 2 {Ch 6-10</td>
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<td>11/18 &amp; 11/20</td>
<td>Review Chapter 10 PPT</td>
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<td>11/25 &amp; 11/27</td>
<td>Team Project Presentations</td>
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<td>12/4 &amp; 12/6</td>
<td>In Class Activities, Team Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>Review Chapter 14 PPT</td>
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<td>Final Exam (2:45 to 5pm)</td>
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