**Introduction to Sociology**

**Syllabus - FALL Semester 2013**

San Jose State University – (Soci 001.01) (48361)

**Instructor:** Mark Pasion  
**Class Hours:** M / W 9:00 – 10:15 AM,  
**Room-** WSQ 207

**Office Hours:** M / W 8:30-9:00 AM, Room- WSQ 207

**Office Telephone:** (I do not check voicemail messages, please e-mail)  
**E-mail:** markpasion@att.net  
**Instructor website:** (www.markpasion.com)

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**GE Course Learning Objectives**

This course meets the requirement for the Core GE Area D1 for the Social Sciences. Following are the GE course objectives and some sample course activities designed to assist in meeting those objectives. After completion of this course the student should be able to:

**Learning Objective:** Students will 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
- Writing assignments & small group discussion
- Video & discussion

**Learning Objective:** Students will be able to 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
- Small group discussion
- Writing assignments are specifically designed to meet this objective

**Learning Objective:** Students will be able to 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
- Small group discussion
- Video & discussion

**Learning Objective:** Students will be able to 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
- Small group discussion
- Writing assignments are specifically designed to meet this objective

**Learning Objective:** Students will be able 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
- Writing assignments & small group discussion

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**Course Objectives for Introduction to Sociology**

1) Identify, explain, and apply three main theoretical positions in Sociology: Conflict, Functionalist, and Symbolic Interactionist.
   - Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams are all designed to address this objective

2) Explain and appropriately apply key sociological concepts.
   - Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams are all designed to address this objective.

3) Describe and explain the basic dimensions of social inequality and social change in contemporary society.
   - Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams are all designed to address this objective.

4) Use your sociological imagination (sociological perspective) to analyze your own perspective on the social world and explain how you came to possess this outlook.
   - Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams are all designed to address this objective.
   - The writing assignments are specifically designed to address this objective.

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( Core GE – Area D1)
Course Description

In this introductory course, I hope to guide students toward understanding this complex system that we call a “society”. I think that with the proper effort, the study of Sociology can help students to better understand the workings of their own society and of other societies and cultures. The goal of this course is to help students develop a “sociological eye” and “sociological perspective” so that they can see the sociology in everyday life. By exploring a wide variety of subjects, it gives us the opportunity to increase our understanding of ourselves and world in which we live. Course goals include:

• Providing students with the basic core concepts of scientific sociology.

• Introduce students to the complexities of social structure, acknowledging the importance of different social locations.

• Allow students to see how sociology is a relevant part of our everyday lives.

• Encourage students to practice critical thinking when analyzing and questioning the social opinions, viewpoints, and experiences of others, as well as their own.

INSTRUCTOR MESSAGE

• I strive for objective grading for fairness and equity: I use your exam scores as the primary basis for assessing class grades. There are other class assignments, but the major assessment comes by way of exams. You must pass the exams in order to pass the class.

• I would like everyone to succeed in the class. Please come see me, or talk to me if you are having problems understanding the material. Although, I cannot offer additional extra credit to help you pass the class, I can offer support and suggestions for studying and preparing for the exams.

Instructor Website

• Course material is posted on my instructor website. Be sure to access the correct class link, so that you have the proper information that pertains to your own class. You are responsible for knowing what is happening in the class, and you must have access to the website.

• Download any class documents that you need; I will not be printing any material for you, nor will I pass out course handouts. You can check your student grades, and keep current on class announcements by utilizing the instructor website.

• Students must take responsibility. If you do not have access to a personal computer, you can check with the school library; school computer lab; or other public facility that offers computer usage.
CLASS ORGANIZATION

- Primarily a lecture-based class. Classes consist mainly of lectures and discussions. These may be supplemented by some videos and small group work.
- Taking class notes during lecture is encouraged. Lectures are designed to clarify and expand upon the required readings.

Class Material List


Other Required Material: Three (3) scantron score sheets (100 questions) (Form no. 2052, or Form no. 882-E)

Textbook Readings

- Reading should be done prior to coming to class. (Usually 1 - 2 chapters per week) Students will be better prepared to discuss the material, and better prepared for class quizzes.
- Students are expected to use the proper edition of the assigned textbook. Older editions may not contain all the information that is listed on your exam study guides, and I will not be providing missing information to students that use the wrong textbook.

Attendance & Participation

- Attendance to class sessions is an important part of the learning process. Sharing ideas with other class members, class discussions, and instructor lectures are fundamental to classroom education. Class attendance will be monitored.
- Small-group and open class discussion are useful venues to explore a variety of social issues and topics. Attend and participate in these activities. Group work and class discussions are considered in the grading structure.
- Excessive tardiness to class and/or leaving early before class has ended is rude behavior, to the instructor, and to other members of the class. Participation in class discussion is encouraged, but talking when others are speaking is also disruptive behavior. Please be courteous, rather than engage in the manner described.
Class Grade Scale  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>378-385</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>338-345</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>300-307</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>261-268</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>219-230</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>218- below</td>
<td>Fail</td>
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- **Class Quizzes** - 60 points
- **Writing Assignment** - 25 points
- **Major Exams** – 300 points
  - Exam #1 - 100 pts
  - Exam #2 - 100 pts
  - Exam #3 - 100 pts

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**Exam Information**  
(300 points total)

- **Exam #1** - September 25 – covers chapters 1-5
- **Exam #2** - October 30 – covers chapters 6-10
- **Exam #3** - December 11 – covers chapters 11-15

- There are three major exams given in this class. Each exam is worth 100 points and will consist of 52 questions (50 plus 2 extra credit questions). All exams may be a combination of multiple-choice, true/false, and possibly matching of terms to definitions.
- Exams are closed-book; no books and no notes are to be used during the exams

**Missed exams:**

- Missed exams are problematic, and I do not offer scheduled alternate exams. Students with a valid emergency, that miss the scheduled exam, should contact me within 24 hours. Students should be prepared to make-up the exam, immediately upon return to class, and within 1 week of the original exam date.
- Students cannot pass this class if they miss taking any of the exams. Missed exams will be marked as zero points, and will be figured into the final grading.
Exam Study Guides:

- Study for the exams using the exam study guides that I put together for you. Copies of the exam study guides can be accessed on my instructor website (Students must download a class handout – SEE “Exam Study Guides” handout)

Other Exam Material:

- Students should also bring #2 pencils, an eraser, and a scantron exam score sheet.
- Please do not bring electronic dictionaries or electronic translation programs to exams. No electronics during the exam. See me for approval of using a paperback language translation dictionary, or feel free to ask me questions about words and vocabulary that you do not understand.
- Cell phones should be put away during the exam. All backpacks, books and other personal items should be off of the desk.

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CLASS & WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Class Assignments (60 points total)

- Several class assignments will be offered. These will consist of small group work, class quizzes, and possibly some homework. Attendance & participation in class assignments may be considered for final class grading

- These assignments are designed to encourage regular class attendance, and to give students incentive to stay current with the class readings and their sociology studies.

- No late work or make-up work will be accepted for quizzes, homework, and class discussions. If students come late to class, or are absent for in-class assignments or quizzes, there is no make-up allowed, even with excused absences. *One late quiz may be accepted during the semester for partial credit up to 80%, if turned-in within 48 hours of the original due date. No other late work will be accepted.

Homework / Small Group / Class Participation – * considered for final grading

- Students must be on time, and attend the entire discussion, or class period

- Graded as Credit / No Credit. No partial credit is given. Credit is based upon attendance and participation.
In-Class Quizzes - 60 points available
- 6 quizzes in total, each quiz worth 10 points.
- 10-12 questions, multiple choice, Covers 2-3 chapters.
- Group quiz or take-home quiz
- No make-ups allowed for quizzes. *One late quiz may be accepted as described above.

Quiz Grading (Each quiz worth 10 points) 12 questions each quiz.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions Missed</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
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<td>4 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-12</td>
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Writing Assignment (25 points total)

- All students are required to do a writing assignment of 1500 words, as part of the G.E. class requirement. Students will have a choice of limited topics concerning social issues. A writing handout will be available that explains the assignment in full detail. This is a GE requirement, and all students must comply.

Paper #1 - September 16
Deadline date is September 16. Paper can be submitted to turnitin.com before this final deadline date. Re-write deadline for papers that do not receive full credit is September 23. No papers after September 23.

Paper #2 - October 21
Deadline date is October 21. Paper can be submitted to turnitin.com before this final deadline date. Re-write deadline for papers that do not receive full credit is October 28. No papers after October 28.

Paper #3 - November 25
Deadline date is November 25. Paper can be submitted to turnitin.com before this final deadline date. Re-write deadline for papers that do not receive full credit is December 2. No papers after December 2.
**EXTRA CREDIT**

**Extra Credit/ Extra Advantage Policy**

- There is very limited extra credit offered in this class. The major exams have extra credit questions to help students with their scores. Also, all quizzes are open book, so I consider that as a type of extra grade advantage.

- **Extra credit grade adjustment:** The grade adjustment is not guaranteed. Although only a small adjustment of (3 points), the grade adjustment may allow a student to move into the next grade level. I will take into consideration quiz participation, participation in group work, and overall class attendance. Based on that information, if a student is within a couple of points of a higher grade, I will consider the grade adjustment in order to improve the student’s grade. Students with poor attendance and participation will not be considered for the grade adjustment.

- No additional extra credit will be offered in the class. **PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR ADDITIONAL EXTRA CREDIT.**

**SCHOOL POLICIES**

**Academic Integrity Policy:** 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.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** “If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need 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 97-01 requires that students with disabilities register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

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THIS SYLLABUS SHOULD BE VIEWED AS AN OUTLINE FOR THE COURSE AND A GUIDELINE OF EXPECTATIONS. THESE POLICIES AND SCHEDULING INFORMATION ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS CALENDAR</th>
<th>DUE DATES</th>
<th>READING / LECTURE / DISCUSSION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 – Aug 21</td>
<td>Orientation, Discuss the syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2 – Aug 26 &amp; 28</td>
<td>Introducing Scientific Sociology, Culture Read chps 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3 – Sep 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Holiday- No Class</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sep 4</strong></td>
<td>Quiz #1 (chaps 1-2) Culture Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4 – Sep 9 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Socialization, Read chap 3</td>
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<td><strong>Week 5 – Sep 16 &amp; 18</strong></td>
<td>Soc Interaction, Social groups, Read</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sep 16</strong></td>
<td><strong>Paper #1 deadline date</strong> chps 4 &amp; 5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 6 – Sep 23</strong></td>
<td><strong>Quiz #2 (chaps 3-5)</strong> <strong>Paper #1 re-write due</strong> Exam on chapters 1-5</td>
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<td><strong>Sep 25</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam #1</strong></td>
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<td>Week 7 – Sep 30</td>
<td>Student Review Exam #1</td>
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<td><strong>Oct 2</strong></td>
<td>Deviance &amp; Deviant behavior, Read chap 6</td>
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<td>Week 8 - Oct 7 &amp; 9</td>
<td>Social stratification, Read chaps 7-8</td>
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<td><strong>Week 9 – Oct 14</strong></td>
<td><strong>Quiz #3 (chaps 6-8)</strong> Racial inequality , Read chap 9</td>
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<td><strong>Oct 16</strong></td>
<td><strong>Paper #2 deadline date</strong> Race Relations, Gender Inequality, Read chap 10</td>
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<td><strong>Week 10 – Oct 21 &amp; 23</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam #2</strong> Exam on chapters 6-10</td>
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<td><strong>Oct 21</strong></td>
<td><strong>Paper #2 re-write due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11 – Oct 28</td>
<td>Student Review Exam #2</td>
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<td><strong>Oct 30</strong></td>
<td>Politics &amp; Economics, Read chap 11</td>
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<td><strong>Week 12 – Nov 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Holiday – No Class</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Nov 6</strong></td>
<td>Family, Read chap 12</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 13 – Nov 11</strong></td>
<td><strong>Quiz #5 (chaps 11-12)</strong> Education &amp; Schools, Read chap 13</td>
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<td><strong>Nov 13</strong></td>
<td><strong>Paper #3 deadline date</strong> Religion, Read chap 13</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 14– Nov 18</strong></td>
<td><strong>No Class Meeting- Independent Study</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Nov 20</strong></td>
<td><strong>Paper #3 re-write due</strong> Population, Social Change, Read chaps 14 –15</td>
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<td><strong>Week 15- Nov 25</strong></td>
<td><strong>Paper #3 re-write due</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Nov 25</strong></td>
<td><strong>Quiz #6 (chaps 13-15)</strong> Overview Q &amp; A chapters 11-15</td>
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<td><strong>Nov 27</strong></td>
<td><strong>Finals Week</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 16 – Dec 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Optional Early Final Exam / Independent Study</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dec 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam # 3 ( Wed., Dec 11, 8:00 – 9:15 am ) LAST DAY OF CLASS</strong></td>
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