Course Description

This course will introduce students to the basic concepts, theories, and methods of sociology. Sociology is a social scientific study that explores minute aspects of social life (microsociology) as well as global social processes and structures (macrosociology). Any social phenomenon can be studied from a sociological perspective: culture, race, gender, class, socialization, economic and global inequality, families and intimate relationships, education, and many more. This course will explore a variety of these topics and more. The overall purpose of this course is to give students a broad overview of sociology.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

- Identify, explain, and apply the major theoretical positions in sociology (i.e. Conflict, Functionalist, Symbolic Interactionist, and Feminist).
- Explain and appropriately apply key sociological concepts.
- Describe and explain the basic dimensions of social inequality and social change in contemporary society.
- Use your sociological imagination to analyze your own perspective on the social world and explain how you came to possess this outlook.

GE Learning Outcomes for Core GE Area D1

Students will be able to:
• Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.
• 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.
• Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.
• Recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals.

Core GE, D1 Writing Requirement

Students will meet the 1500-word writing requirement by completing in class writing responses throughout the course and a formal reflection paper nearing the end of the course.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

1. OpenStax College. *Introduction to Sociology 2E*. IBSN: 978-1-938168-41-3 A PDF is available for FREE download at this website: https://openstax.org/details/introduction-sociology-2e. If you prefer a hard copy, this textbook is also available in the campus bookstore and is reasonably priced.
2. Additional readings will be posted via Canvas.

Other Necessary Equipment/Canvas

You will need 4 scantrons (form 882-E) for the course exams. You will also need access to the internet for course readings and assignments. The course will use Canvas, the university’s Learning Management System. Information about how to find your Canvas username, how to log into your account, and how to use Canvas can be found here:

http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/ and

If you encounter problems with Canvas and need help with technical support issues, (i.e. password reset, browser problems, etc.), you will need to contact the Informational Technology (IT) Help Desk. Their phone number is (408) 924-2377 and their email address is: ecampus@sjsu.edu. You may also visit the websites listed above.
Assignments and Grading Policy

Grade Distribution: I grade using a point system. Your final grade is an accumulation of points you have earned throughout the semester. The grading scale is as follows:

- A+ = 970-1000
- A  = 940-969
- A- = 900-939
- B+ = 870-899
- B  = 840-869
- B- = 800-839
- C+ = 770-799
- C  = 740-769
- C- = 700-739
- D+ = 670-699
- D  = 640-669
- D- = 600-639

In Class Responses (10x10 points = 100): Ten times throughout the course you will be required to do an in class writing response or group activity based on either the readings for that week, a film shown in class, or guest speaker. These responses are my way of assessing that you are completing the readings as well as coming to class. You cannot make up these responses. If you are not in class when they are assigned you will lose points.

Weekly Discussion Forum (10x10 points = 100): Ten times throughout the semester you will engage in a discussion forum online (via Canvas) with your classmates surrounding a question that I will post into the forum. You are required to submit 2 postings each week: 1) original response to one of the discussion questions and 2) a response to a classmate’s posting. You must complete both of these tasks by the deadline in the syllabus in order to receive credit. More details on this to follow.

Reflection Paper (200 points): Near the end of the semester, you will write a (2-3 page) paper reflecting on what you have learned in the course and how sociology is relevant to your life. More detailed instruction will be provided at a later date.

Exams (3x100 = 300 points): The exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions drawing equally from readings and class discussions. The exams will cover everything we have covered up until the exam date.

Final Exam (300 points): The final exam will consist of multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions drawing from the course readings and class discussions. The final exam will be cumulative.

Email Etiquette and Policy

Often times I receive emails with questions and concerns that can be handled much faster in person. If you have request or want to discuss something with me, I want to encourage you to come talk to me in my office hours. If, however, you do need to email me, put our course number and the days our class meets in the subject. This will help me respond to emails in a timely manner.
Classroom Protocol

1. You are expected to behave in a courteous manner to other students and the instructor at all times. Racist, sexist, homophobic, crude, or inappropriate remarks of any kind will not be tolerated.

2. You are expected to do all of the assigned reading for the day before class. You are expected to arrive on time, and participate in class discussion by asking and answering questions. Anticipate a reading load of about 25-50 pages per week.

3. You are welcome to use laptops to take class notes. However, surfing the web during class is often distracting to other students in the class and I reserve the right to ask you to turn off your computer if it becomes an issue. Cell phones and other electronic devises must be turned off and put away during class time. **Do not text in class.**

4. You are expected to turn in work on time. **I have a no late work policy.** You may submit your work or take an exam early by prior arrangement.

5. You are responsible for all assignments and announcements presented in class. If you are late or absent, it is your responsibility to contact another student.

6. You are expected to participate in class discussion. Participating as a good listener while your peers are speaking is also critical. Good listening requires effort and energy; “audience member” is not a passive role. Good listening entails offering attentive, supportive nonverbal feedback, and asking questions or offering comments.

A Climate of Mutual Respect

A climate of mutual respect requires free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. All of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment or personal attack. This means opening ourselves to the lived experiences of others, which may not be our own, and treating those experiences as valid. No one is entitled to harass, discriminate, or belittle another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. On the other hand, we cannot permit ourselves to be silenced because we feel awkward discussing politically sensitive issues.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodation, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs at the webpage: [http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/).
# Course Schedule

*This schedule is subject to change with fair notice.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 23</td>
<td><strong>UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION</strong>&lt;br&gt;Introduction to the course, syllabus</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Aug 28/30</td>
<td>• OpenStax: Ch. 1, An Introduction to Sociology&lt;br&gt;• Canvas: C. Wright Mills, The Sociological Imagination&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>Post to discussion forum no later than Thursday at 10pm (via Canvas)</em></td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sept 4/6</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH (LABOR DAY)</strong>&lt;br&gt;• OpenStax: Ch. 4, Society and Social Interaction&lt;br&gt;• Canvas: Hunter and McClelland, “Theoretical Perspectives in Sociology”&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>Post to discussion forum no later than Thursday at 10pm (via Canvas)</em></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Sept 11/13</td>
<td><strong>UNIT 2: SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS</strong>&lt;br&gt;• OpenStax: Ch. 2, Sociological Research&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>Post to discussion forum no later than Thursday at 10pm (via Canvas)</em></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Sept 18/20</td>
<td>• Canvas: Schwalbe, “Finding Out How the Social World Works”&lt;br&gt;• Canvas: Sociological Research Examples&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;EXAM #1 ON 9/20</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Sept 25/27</td>
<td><strong>UNIT 3: CULTURE AND SOCIALIZATION</strong>&lt;br&gt;• OpenStax: Ch. 3, Culture&lt;br&gt;• Canvas: Becker, “Culture: A Sociological View”&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>Post to discussion forum no later than Thursday at 10pm (via Canvas)</em></td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 2/4</td>
<td>• OpenStax: Ch. 5, Socialization</td>
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<td>Week</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 9/11</td>
<td><strong>UNIT 4: INEQUALITIES (CLASS, RACE, GENDER)</strong>&lt;br&gt;• OpenStax: Ch. 9, Social Stratification in the U.S.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Film:</strong> People Like Us (in class)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>Post to discussion forum no later than Thursday at 10pm (via Canvas)</em></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Oct 16/18</td>
<td>• OpenStax: Ch. 11, Race and Ethnicity&lt;br&gt;• Canvas: McIntosh, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Backpack”&lt;br&gt;<strong>Film:</strong> Race, The Power of an Illusion (in class)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>Post to discussion forum no later than Thursday at 10pm (via Canvas)</em></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Oct 23/25</td>
<td>• OpenStax: Ch. 12, Gender, Sex, and Sexuality&lt;br&gt;• Canvas: Riseman, “Gender as Structure”&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;EXAM #2 ON 10/25</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Oct 30/Nov 1</td>
<td><strong>UNIT 5: SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS</strong>&lt;br&gt;• OpenStax: Chapter 14, Marriage and Family&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>Post to discussion forum no later than Thursday at 10pm (via Canvas)</em></td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 6/8</td>
<td>• OpenStax: Chapter 16, Education&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>Post to discussion forum no later than Thursday at 10pm (via Canvas)</em></td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 13/15</td>
<td>• OpenStax: Ch. 19, Health and Medicine&lt;br&gt;<strong>Film:</strong> Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick? (in class)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>Post to discussion forum no later than Thursday at 10pm (via Canvas)</em></td>
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<td>Date</td>
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| 14    | Nov 20/22 | EXAM #3 ON 11/20  
NO CLASS ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22\textsuperscript{ND} (THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY) |
| 15    | Nov 27/29 | • Openstax: Chapter 8, Media and Technology |
| 16    | Dec 4/6 | **UNIT 6: SOCIAL CHANGE AND WRAP UP COURSE**  
• Openstax: Chapter 21, Social Movements and Social Change  

*Reflection Paper Due on Wednesday, 12/6 by 10pm (via Canvas)* |
| 17    | Dec 11 | Catch up and Review for Final Exam  
**Final Exam is Tuesday, December 19\textsuperscript{th} from 2:45-5pm.** |