Instructor: Vince Montes, Ph.D.
Office Location: DMH 210
Email: vince.montes@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1:20 – 2:20 PM
Class Days/Time: Monday and Wednesday, 12:00-1:15 PM
Classroom: HGH 122

Course Description
This course provides an introduction to the field of sociology. The course readings will include sociological theory as well as the examination of empirical studies, which focuses on how social forces shape our lives. While social forces are powerful, we also learn that individuals can act as agents of change. This course will emphasize three main themes: (1) the usage of order and social conflict theories to analyze society; (2) Social Structure as seen in major social institutions such as the economy and politics; and (3) Social inequalities (such as class, racial, gender, and cultural oppression), their causes, and their consequences.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives
1. To develop basic knowledge of some of the major theoretical perspectives in sociology.
2. To enhance critical comparative and historical skills in analyzing social problems.
3. To enhance critical thinking, reading, and verbal skills.
4. To enhance the application of sociological theory and concepts to better explain the social world.

Required Texts/Readings
Textbook

Canvas
Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at http://sjsu.instructure.com. You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas for the messages and all updates.
Classroom Protocol

Teaching and learning are most likely to take place in a classroom environment that is characterized by mutual respect and freedom from unnecessary distractions. It is very distracting when students engage in private conversations, talk or text on cell phones, listen to headphones, read newspapers, or surf and face-book on the Internet. Cell phones and similar devices must be adjusted so that they do not ring or beep during class. Laptops and other devices are only allowed for note taking.

In addition, an exchange of ideas is more likely to occur in an atmosphere free from ridicule, insults, or personal attacks. An exercise of common courtesy on the part of both the instructor and the students will enhance the success of this class. Please come to class prepared to discuss the issues in the reading. You will be called upon on occasion to respond with comments about the reading and their larger relevance.

No recording devices are allowed to record lectures or class discussion under ANY circumstances (please read below).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

Course Evaluation & Grading Policies

Your final course grade will depend on the following:

1. Midterm (150 points) will consist of short responses (in class).
2. Final (200 points) will consist of short responses (in class). The final will not be cumulative, meaning that the exam will cover material since the midterm exam.
3. Small discussion groups (40 points). Throughout the semester there will be small group discussions. The class will be placed into small groups who engage in critical collective dialogue and respond in writing to a set of questions and then will report back to the larger class. Each group discussion = 4 points. (You can make-up two of these assignments if done within the week missed.)
4. Two critical response paper (100 points). Each is worth 50 points.

Final grade will be based on a 490 point scale.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LETTER GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Above 93</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 - 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 92</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>63 - 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 - 76</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 - 62</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 86</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 - 72</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
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Important Information about Course:

1. Missed or Late assignments will not receive full credit unless adequate documentation (e.g., medical documentation) is presented. You will be deducted a half of grade for everyday it is late.
2. In order to do well in this course you will need to do all the assigned readings before class, take notes, actively engage the ideas in the reading, and participate in class discussion.
3. All written work such as papers and class notes that are important to you should be backed up on a on a flash drive or other means so that in the event of a disruption to your computer you will not lose your documents. Lost documents will not be considered a legitimate reasons for an extension.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90–5 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.

In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.

- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

**Academic integrity**

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) requires 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 [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

**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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/aec](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) to establish a record of their disability.

**Accommodation to Students’ Religious Holidays**

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf).

**Student Technology Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab 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 DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.
SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.
All assigned readings must be read before class. All exams are based on these readings, class discussion, and video clips/documentaries.

**Note:** The readings below are the core readings for this course. I will update the readings weekly on Canvas in which I may add additional brief readings, Internet links, and video clips in order to supplement the below readings. All changes to the reading schedule will be posted on Canvas. Changes include either substituting or skipping particular readings due to time constraints.

### Table 1 Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>W 1/24</td>
<td>Introduction to course</td>
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</table>
| 2    | M 1/29 - W 1/31 | **THE SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**  
|      |            | The Sociological Perspective (ch.1)                                           |
| 3    | M 2/5 - W 2/7 | Duality of Social Life: Order and Conflict (ch. 2)                           |
| 4    | M 2/12 - W 2/14 | **THE INDIVIDUAL IN SOCIETY: THE SOCIETY IN THE INDIVIDUAL**  
|      |            | Culture (ch. 3)                                                              |
| 5    | M 2/19 - W 2/21 | Socialization (ch. 4) (selected readings)                                    |
| 6    | M 2/26 - W 2/28 | Social Control (ch. 5)                                                       |
| 7    | M 3/5 - W 3/7  | Readings on the Criminal Justice System documentary (Canvas)                  |
| 8    | M 3/12 - W 3/14 | Deviance (ch. 6)                                                            |
| 9    | M 3/19 - W 3/21 | **SYSTEMS OF INEQUALITY**  
|      |            | Social Stratification (ch. 7), Film TBA                                      |
| 10   | M 3/26 - W 3/28 | *Spring Recess – No Classes*                                                 |
| 11   | M 4/2 - W 4/4    | Class (ch. 8)                                                                |
| 12   | M 4/9 - W 4/11   | Racial Inequality (ch. 9)                                                    |
| 13   | M 4/16 - W 4/18  | Gender Inequality (ch. 10)                                                   |
| 14   | M 4/23 - W 4/25  | **SOCIAL INSTITUTION**  
|      |            | Power and Politics (ch. 11)                                                  |
| 15   | M 4/30 - W 5/2   | Economy (ch. 12)                                                            |
| 16   | M 5/7 - W 5/9    | Human Agency (ch. 17)                                                        |
| 17   | M 5/14          | Last Day of Instruction                                                      |
| Final Exam | W 5/16 | Wed., May 16th  
|      |            | Time: 9:45-12:00                                                            |