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

Textbook

1. OpenStax College. *Introduction to Sociology 2E*. ISBN: 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.

Additional readings and videos will be posted on Canvas, the colleges Learning Management System, at the website: http://sjsu.instructure.com. There will be links to required readings and to short animated videos or films. You will be required to read and view all of these links.

Other Necessary Equipment/Materials and Canvas

1. You will need access to the internet and you will need to check your Canvas course messages frequently as this will be the primary method of communication between instructor and student.
2. The course will use Canvas, the colleges 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/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources/index.html

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
Weekly Discussion (10x20 = 200): Ten times throughout the semester you will engage in a discussion forum online 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 and follow the guidelines for posting in order to receive credit. Each week, forum posts are to be submitted no later than Thursday at 10pm. See the handout titled “Weekly Discussion Instructions” in the “Course Assignments and Guidelines” folder for instructions.

Unit Quizzes (5x20=100): At the end of each unit, you will complete a quiz. These quizzes will contain multiple choice and short answer questions. These are due on Friday’s by 10pm at the end of each unit. See course syllabus schedule for due dates.

Essays (2x200 = 400): Students are required to compete two essays throughout the course. Two times during the semester I will give you a set of questions based on the course readings. The response will be due about 1-2 weeks after I post you the prompt. You will be graded on your ability to fully answer the prompt, and draw connections to the assigned readings. Each short essay should be 3-4 pages, typed, double-spaced, proof read and include a bibliography. Due dates for these assignments are in the syllabus.

Final Exam (300 points): The final exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer and short essay questions drawing equally from readings and class discussions. The final exam will be cumulative and it will be timed.

Online 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. If you would not say it in class, don’t say it online.
2. Discussion assignments may be informally worded, similar to how you would speak in class. While I will not grade you on spelling and grammar, your posts must be intelligible. Discussions are not the same things as texting; you must use complete spelling of words. Proofread what you write prior to clicking the ‘submit’ button.
3. You are expected to turn in work on time. **I have a no late work policy. Having computer problems is NOT a valid excuse for not completing your work.** Make sure that you do not wait until the last minute to access materials, complete online assignments, etc. in case you encounter any technological issues. You can enter and work on the class Canvas page anytime during the day or night that you would like but please know that the weekly discussions, quizzes, exams, and assignments have certain due dates and times. It is your responsibility to keep track of assignment due dates.
4. You are expected to participate in course activities weekly. This is a critical factor for student success. Failure to participate in course activities for more than one week will
constitute an unexcused absence and could result in you being dropped from the course.

You are also required to complete an introduction by the end of the first week to remain enrolled in the course.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/
# Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 21-30</td>
<td><strong>UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION</strong></td>
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<td>- Read: the course syllabus</td>
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<td>- Watch videos</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Read: OpenStax: Ch. 1, An Introduction to Sociology</td>
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<td>- Review powerpoint notes</td>
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<td>- <em>Post an introduction to discussion forum no later than Friday at 10pm to remain enrolled</em></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sept 2-6</td>
<td>- Watch videos</td>
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<td>- Read: C. Wright Mills, The Sociological Imagination</td>
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<td>- Read: Coontz, “How History and Sociology Can Help Today’s Families”</td>
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<td>- Review powerpoint notes</td>
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<td>- <em>Post to discussion forum by Thursday 10pm</em></td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sept 9-13</td>
<td>- Watch videos</td>
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<td>- Read: OpenStax: Ch. 4, Society and Social Interaction</td>
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<td>- Read: Hunter and McClelland, “Theoretical Perspectives in Sociology”</td>
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<td>- Review powerpoint notes</td>
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<td>- <em>Post to discussion forum by Thursday at 10pm</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>- <strong>Complete unit quiz by Friday at 10pm</strong></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Sept 16-20</td>
<td><strong>UNIT 2: SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS</strong></td>
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<td>- Watch videos</td>
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<td>- Read: OpenStax: Ch. 2, Sociological Research</td>
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<td>- Review powerpoint notes</td>
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<td>- <em>Post to discussion forum by Thursday at 10pm</em></td>
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<td>- Scan: Examples of quantitative and qualitative research</td>
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<td>- <em>Post to discussion forum by Thursday at 10pm</em></td>
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<td>- <strong>Complete unit quiz by Friday at 10pm</strong></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Sept 30-Oct 4</td>
<td><strong>UNIT 3: CULTURE AND SOCIALIZATION</strong></td>
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<td>- OpenStax: Ch. 3, Culture</td>
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<td>- Read: Becker, “Culture: A Sociological View”</td>
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<td>- Review powerpoint notes</td>
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<td>- <em>Post to discussion forum by Thursday at 10pm</em></td>
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<td>Week</td>
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| 7    | Oct 7-11 | - Watch videos  
- OpenStax: Ch. 5, Socialization  
- Review powerpoint notes  
- **Post to discussion forum by Thursday at 10pm**  
- **Complete unit quiz by Friday at 10pm** |
| 8    | Oct 14-18 | **UNIT 4: INEQUALITIES (CLASS, RACE, GENDER)**  
- Watch videos  
- OpenStax: Ch. 9, Social Stratification in the U.S.  
- Review powerpoint notes  
- **Essay #1 due by Friday at 10pm** |
| 9    | Oct 21-25 | - Watch videos  
- OpenStax: Ch. 11, Race and Ethnicity  
- Read: McIntosh, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Backpack”  
- Review powerpoint notes  
- **Post to discussion forum by Thursday at 10pm** |
| 10   | Oct 28-Nov 1 | - OpenStax: Ch. 12, Gender, Sex, and Sexuality  
- Read: Riseman, “Gender as Structure”  
- **Post to discussion forum by Thursday at 10pm**  
- **Complete unit quiz by Friday at 10pm** |
| 11   | Nov 4-8 | **UNIT 5: SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS**  
- Watch videos  
- OpenStax: Chapter 14, Marriage and Family  
- Review powerpoint notes  
- **Post to discussion forum by Thursday at 10pm** |
| 12   | Nov 11-15 | - Watch videos  
- OpenStax: Chapter 16, Education  
- Review powerpoint notes  
- **Post to discussion forum by Thursday at 10pm** |
| 13   | Nov 18-22 | - Watch videos  
- OpenStax: Ch. 19, Health and Medicine  
- Review powerpoint notes  
*No more discussion forum posts* |
| 14   | Nov 25-29 | - OpenStax: Ch. 8, Media and Technology  
- Review powerpoint notes  
- **Complete unit quiz by Friday at 10pm** |
| 15   | Dec 2-6 | - Openstax: Ch. 21, Social Movements and Social Change  
- Review powerpoint notes  
- **Essay #2 due by Friday at 10pm** |
|      | Dec 9-13 | **FINAL EXAM (TBD)** |