

Introduction to Sociology

SOC -001 Section 1830

Course Outline Fall 2014

Wednesdays, 3:20-6:35 p.m.

Instructor: D.E.A. Cunningham, Ph.D
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TEXT: Sullivan, Thomas J., ***Sociology: concepts and applications in a diverse world*** [eighth edition]. Thomas J. Sullivan. Vango Books, 2009 (Vango is a subsidiary of Pearson)

ISBN: 0-205-62806-0 978-0-205-62806-3

Additional material (e.g. a brief pertinent article or news story) **may** be distributed in class. If so, you will be informed in class.

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the discipline of sociology and its contribution in a diverse world. The objective of the course is to understand the interconnectedness of culture and society in today's world and the trends toward unification across cultures.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of:

- the major sociological perspectives/theories; what is sociology, culture, society and diversity.
- the individual's role(s) in society, especially with regard to socialization, groups and organizations, deviance, crime and social control.
- the problems of stratification and social inequality.
- the function of social institutions such as the family, religion and education.
- human ecology and social change
- the display and interpretation of numerical data and abstract models as presented in tables, graphs, charts, and diagrams.

Ultimately, the goal of the class is to foster the student's own sociological imagination in relating his or her own private experiences to larger dynamics at local and global levels of society. This includes the ability to: read and critically evaluate college-level material from a variety of sources; to distinguish between factual and judgmental statements (knowledge v. opinion), respectfully engage with other cultures in an attempt to understand them; and participate in class discussions on a variety of viewpoints on culturally relevant issues.

Accommodation: If you require special accommodations to be successful in this course, please request assistance from the professor. To receive accommodations for a special need or disability, students must register with the Office of Disabled Student Program and Services. Please contact the DSPS Director at (310) 287 4450 for information and assistance. Location: Student Services Building, 3rd floor, room SSB 320.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and participation in class are required; students are expected to complete their weekly reading assignments before coming to class and be prepared for group discussions. More than two (2) absences may impact your grade. Three (3) absences may result in your being dropped from the class.

Students are required to attend class meetings, complete assigned readings, and to participate in discussions and classroom activities (e.g. exercises, problem-solving). Students must be present for all regularly scheduled examinations unless excused in advance. I can be somewhat flexible in the case of a genuine emergency. (Please note: a heavy workload or having several assignments due at the same time does **not** constitute an emergency.)

CLASS POLICIES

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is the use of others' words and/or ideas without clearly acknowledging their source. When you incorporate those words and ideas into your own work, you must give credit where credit is due. Plagiarism, intentional or unintentional, is considered academic dishonesty and is not tolerated. Anyone found to be plagiarizing or cheating on assignments (e.g., copying or giving answers, using 'crib' sheets, etc.) will (1) receive a zero (fail) on the assignment, and (2) be referred to the Vice President of Student Services for further disciplinary action, following due process. For further information on plagiarism, go to the Writing Center website (www.lavc.edu/WCweb/plagiarism.html) and refer to the STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION in the current Schedule of Classes and Catalog.

Student Behavioral Expectations: All students are expected to assist in maintaining an environment that supports effective teaching and learning, and a culture of civility and respect for others. Therefore, any behavior that disrupts or interferes with the functioning of a classroom may result in students being asked to leave the class, and where warranted, being referred for possible disciplinary action. Disruptive behavior may also affect a student's grade.

Attendance and Participation

Because class discussions and group work are an integral part of this course, attendance and participation is mandatory. Up to 3 absences are allowed. After that, you could be dropped. Students are expected to attend every class meeting, to arrive on time and stay throughout the class period. Excessive absenteeism will lower your grade, as well as walking in and out of class. 3 tardies = 1 absence. Students may be dropped from class for excessive tardiness, or for failure to attend class the first day or during the entire first week of the class.

Walking In and Out of Class

When you arrive, please make sure you have used the restroom, had a chance to eat, check your messages, etc. Walking in and out is rude and disruptive. If you need to leave early, or have some other problem, you must notify me in advance (and this should NOT be a regular occurrence). **Any student who makes a habit of arriving late, leaving early, or walking in and out of class may be asked to leave permanently.**

Preparedness

You are expected to arrive on time, and to come to each class session prepared. Have your pens/pencils, notebook, and any paper work to turn in ready at the beginning of class.

Cell Phones, iPods, etc.

Turn them off and put them away when class begins.

Contacting Me

E-mail is the best and quickest way to contact me: cunninde@lavc.edu

Grading Breakdown:

3 Midterms @ 100 points each	300 points
2 Observation/Fieldwork Assignments @50 points	100 points*
Participation, completion of In-class assignments	50 points*
1 Final @ 150 points	150 points
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TOTAL	600 points

*Further information and instructions on these will be provided later in the term.

I grade on a straight scale (90-100% = an "A", 80-89% = a "B", etc.). Should I for some reason decide to alter the grading habits of decades and grade on a curve, I will provide you with that information. Effort and improvement count to some extent (within reason—gradual improvement from a 65 on the first Exam to an 80 on the final will probably still average out to a "C"; there are limits to everything.) I object to extra credit on principle, but will probably offer some bonus points on the later examinations.

COURSE SCHEDULE/CALENDAR (May be revised as the term unfolds)

Week 1: 9/3 Introduction, some basics, and definitions, what is sociology and how do we "do" it. Chapter 1 in your text.

Week 2: 9/10 Putting Sociology to use; elements of culture and structure in society. End of Chapter 1, begin Chapter 2.

Week 3: 9/17 Structures, comparisons and diversity. Finish Chapter 2, prepare for:

Week 4: 9/24 First examination; individuals and socialization. Begin Chapter 3.

Week 5: 10/1 Socialization, groups and organizations within society. Finish Chapter 3, begin Chapter 4.

Week 6: 10/8 Groups and organizations, deviance and social control. Finish Chapter 4, begin Chapter 5. . 1st observation assignment due.

Week 7: 10/15 Deviance and social control. Finish Chapter 5 and prepare for:

Week 8: 10/22 Second examination. Social stratification and inequality. Chapter 6.

Week 9: 10/29 More on stratification and inequality, race and ethnicity. Finish Chapter 6, begin Chapter 7.

Week 10: 11/5 Race and Ethnicity; Gender. Finish Chapter 7, begin Chapter 8.

Week 11: 11/12 Finish gender, summarize dimensions of difference. 2nd observation assignment due. Prepare for: Week 12: 11/19 Third Examination. Family, Human Sexuality. Begin Chapter 9.

Week 13: 11/26 Finish Chapter 9.

Week 14: 12/3 Chapter 12 (Education and Media), OR 13 (Politics and the Economy) OR 14 (Human ecology, population).

Week 15: 12/10 Overview, summary, and prepare for:

FINAL EXAMINATION MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 4-6 p.m. (Cumulative, but with more emphasis on the last chapters studied since the third Examination)

YOU WILL DO VERY WELL IN THIS CLASS