

## **Introduction to Sociology** SOC 2303:001

Class Meetings: MWF 11:00am-11:50am, Lawrence Hall 300

Instructor: Dr. Jen McCormack

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Instructor Office Hours and Location: LH 302; 10:00am-10:50am MWF or by appointment



### **Welcome to Introduction to Sociology**

The essence of sociology is the study of human relationships and institutions. In this introductory course, we will survey how humans create their societies, and how society shapes individuals, groups and institutions. Through readings and research, we will analyze power, culture and agency. We will examine the social

categories of race, gender, class and citizen; and concepts like deviancy, norms and performance. This course will introduce sociological inquiry and research methods. And we will ask how those things that are considered natural or “inevitable” are socially constructed and permeable to change.

### **Course Objectives and Skills**

- Acquisition of a sociological perspective on human society: individuals, groups and states.
- Development of a sociological imagination and critical analysis of data, theory and texts
- Acquisition of research skills:
  - Primary research sources (data collection in group research project)
  - Application of social theory
  - Written and verbal presentation of original research
- Analyze meta queries: What is considered “natural” and what is socially constructed? If social life is constructed, what is our responsibility in changing injustices in society? How do we determine agency in society? What is social power?

### **Class Policy**

Sociology is a dynamic discipline and is based on controversial topics—that is human society! We will look at race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, crime, politics, religion, revolution and all the topics your grandmother told you not to talk about in order to make new friends. We won’t always agree and that is what makes a stimulating discussion. However, we owe each other respect to listen and articulate diverse viewpoints.

### **The Americans with Disabilities Act**

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with

Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832, Telephone Number 432-837-8203.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated at any level.

### **Textbook**

The text is available for purchase at the Sul Ross State University Bookstore or online:

*Introduction to Sociology* by Giddens, Duneuer, Appelbaum and Carr. W.W. Norton & Co., 10<sup>th</sup> Ed., 2016.

### **Additional Readings**

In addition to the textbook, this course will survey contributions to sociological thought. These readings will allow us to dig deeper in the theories, methods and/or relevant discussions in sociology. All readings are fair game for exams and quizzes, and the content should be utilized in student essays and group projects. The readings are listed on the schedule and uploaded to the class site on Blackboard.

### **Grading**

**Participation and Reading (50 points)**- attendance, preparation and contribution to class discussions

**Exams (200 points)**- 1 midterm (100) and 1 final exam (100)

**Response Essays (200 points)**- two 3-5 page response essays (100 points each)

**In-class/Homework Assignments (50 points)**-

quizzes, data analysis, and short answer assignments

**Small Group Project (100 points)**- research project



600-540	A
539-480	B
479-420	C
419-360	D
359-0	F

## Assignments

- A) **Participation and Reading**- Reading the assigned chapters and supplemental readings is critical to passing this course. Being present and participating in discussion of these materials is a major component of the course, as well as the content for the midterm and final.
- B) **Small Group Research Project**- You are going to use the methods introduced in class and Giddens et al., chapter 2 to develop a small group research project. As a group, you will formulate a research question, design an approach, do the research, analyze the findings against your question and share your results with the class.
- Deliverables include:
- 1) A 3-5 page report including the research question, theory and/or concepts informing the research, the perimeters of the research and the results.
  - 2) An oral presentation including all of the components included in the report.
  - 3) Assessment of group dynamics due final class day, Wednesday Nov 30.
  - 4) **The report is due on the day of your group's presentation. Group presentations will be Mon Nov 21 and Mon Nov 28. Three groups will present each day, one 10-15 minute presentation to the class.**
- C) **Response Essays**- You will have two response essays of 3-5 pages, 12-point font, double-spaced text answering a prompt given by the instructor. You should employ relevant concepts/terms from the textbook, examples from class materials (readings, films, discussions) and your own experiences. Every essay should include a works cited page. **R1 due Oct 14; R2 due Nov 11.**
- D) **In-class/Homework assignments**- In-class discussions, quizzes, homework data analysis assignments and worksheets will be offered to review course concepts and accumulate points.
- E) **Midterm and Final**- There will be a midterm and comprehensive final exam. Each test day will be preceded by an in-class review session.

## Schedule

\*subject to change at discretion of instructor

### Aug 22/Week 1: Introduction to Sociology, Sociological Research

Mon: Welcome!

Wed: Giddens, et al. Ch 1

Fri: Giddens, et al. Ch 2 and Small Group Research Group Assignments

Fri Supplemental (*in class*): "Millennials in Adulthood" Pew, 2015; Appendix A&B.

### Aug 29/Week 2: Culture and Society

Mon: Giddens, et al. Ch 3

Wed: Giddens, et al. Ch 4

Friday: Small Group Research Workshop (*research question due at end of class*)

### **Sept 5/Week 3: Social Interactions and Groups**

Mon: Giddens, et al. Ch 5

Wed: Giddens, et al. Ch 6

Fri: “Preface” and “Performances [Ch 1]” (Goffman) *only the Preface and Ch 1, pp. 10-46*)

### **Sept 12/Week 4: Conformity, Deviance, and Crime**

Mon: Giddens, et al. Ch 7

Wed: “Lucifer Effect” (Zimbardo) (*trigger warning: details of Abu Ghraib war crimes*)

Fri: “Life Comes From It” (Yazzie)

### **Sept 19/Week 5: Stratification, Class, and Inequality**

Mon: Giddens, et al. Ch 8

Wed and Fri: “Fetishism of Commodities” (Marx)

### **Sept 26/Week 6: Gender Inequality**

Mon: Giddens, et al. Ch 10

Wed: “Mapping the Margins” and “Why Intersectionality Can’t Wait” (Crenshaw)

Friday: Small Group Workshop

### **Oct 3/Week 7: Race and Ethnicity**

Mon: Giddens, et al. Ch 11

Wed: “Terrorism is part of our history” (Davis), “Black Power” (Carmichael)

Fri: “Mujeres of the Young Lords” (Gonzalez), “We Were Young Lords, not young ladies” (Velez)

Film: *Black Power Mixtape*

### **Oct 10/Week 8 Political Power, Social Movements and Work Life**

Mon: Giddens, et al. Ch 13

Wed: “For America to Live” (Means), “Owning Red” (Riley and Carpenter)

Fri: Giddens, et al. Ch 14

**\*Response Essay 1 Due Friday, Oct 14 in class.**

### **Oct 17/Week 9 Mid Term**

Mon: Midterm Review

Wed: Midterm

Fri: Small Group Workshop

### **Oct 24/Week 10 Families and Intimate Relationships**

Mon: Giddens, et al. Ch 15

Wed/Fri: “Dorian ‘Doc’ Paskowitz dies at 93” (Chawkins), “Life Through Navah’s Eyes” (Dixon)

Film: *Surfwise: The Amazing True Odyssey of the Paskowitz Family*

**Oct 31/Week 11 Education**

Mon: Giddens, et al. Ch 16

Wed: Selections from “Pedagogy of the Oppressed” (Freire)

Fri: No class meeting for group projects.

**Nov 7/Week 12 Religion and the Body**

Mon: Giddens, et al. Ch 17

Wed: Giddens, et al. Ch 18

**\*Response Essay 2 Due Friday, Nov 11 in class.**

**Nov 14/Week 13 Globalization and Social Change**

Mon: Giddens, et al. Ch 19

Wed: Giddens, et al. Ch 20

Fri: Small Group Workshop

Film: *The Economics of Happiness*

**Nov 21/Week 14 Presentations and Thanksgiving Break**

Mon-Group Presentations

Wed-Fri-Thanksgiving Break

**Nov 28/Week 15 Presentations and Final Review**

Mon-Group Presentations

Wed-Final Review

**Dec 5/Week 16**

Final TBA