

### SYLLABUS

**DESCRIPTION:** The course is designed to introduce students to the discipline of Sociology, its "sociological imagination," theories of society and human interaction, and research methods. The components of society, its basic social institutions, the role of the diversity of culture and groups in how we live, who we are, how we interact with one another, and how sociologists study social life. Major sociological theories will be the underlying threads that tie all the chapters together, as means for understanding the subject matter and issues brought up in each chapter. Class and small group discussions will be interspersed throughout the term, under the assumption that learning occurs through interaction with others.

**OBJECTIVES:** The students are:

1. expected to think about and analyze everyday life from the sociological perspective;
2. to know the sociological imagination;
3. to know the major theoretical perspectives in sociology;
4. to be able to do basic sociological research;
5. to understand the social nature of the basic social institutions of society;
6. to be able to apply social theory in their understandings of everyday life;
7. to be able to demonstrate an understanding of cultural relativism in a culturally diverse society & world; and
8. to be able to explain, sociologically, major social issues, such as racism, sexism, etc.

**PAPERS:** Two papers will be assigned. Each must revolve about social/sociological subject matter and the use of the sociological perspective. The **Term Paper:** Students will have the option of doing: (1) a social research project and paper (10-12 pages) or (2) a service learning project & reflection paper—5-6 pages (28 hours of community service—Chinatown Citizenship Tutorial Program, with a 5-6 page reflective report). Each student will meet with me individually to discuss the details of this requirement. The **SECOND paper** will be a movie review (5-6 pages) of a current movie or one in the library (to be decided by the class). The intent of the paper is for you to articulate your understanding of the principles and theories that you have learned and to apply this understanding to the social situations or issues presented in the movie.

**All papers are to be typed, double-spaced, with appropriate references.**

**No late papers will be accepted.** Get started asap so you can get the papers in through a buddy in this class or not if you are too ill to get to class on the due dates.

**EXAMS & QUIZZES:** The exams will cover material presented in class (lectures, film, video, etc.) and required readings. These will be primarily multiple choice and short answer items. Quizzes will be short answer in design and are to encourage students to keep up with the readings and to assess their understanding of the key concepts and /or themes. Keep best 4 of 5 quiz scores. **University policy is that there are no early finals.** Please plan your May flight schedules accordingly.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Group assignments will be made throughout the semester. Each student will be placed in a group and each group will be given an assignment to do. The assignments will require a documentation of the work (poster board display, paper, video, or portfolio) and a class presentation.

**ABSENCES:** More than 4 unexcused absences will result in the loss of 5% of your total.

GRADING:	2 Exams (10% each)	20%	A = 90 and above
	4 Quizzes (of 5)	20	B = 80 – 89
	Attendance & Participation	10	C = 70 - 79
	2 Papers (#1=25%)	35	D = 60 – 69
	Group Assignment	15	F = less than 60
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	Total	100	

REQUIRED TEXT: Macionis, J. J. (2001). Society: The basics (6th ed.). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall .

OUTLINE:	(Tentative)
1/15-17	Introduction. What is Sociology? The Sociological Perspective. Ch. 1
1/18	<b>Spiritual Convocation—No 11 A.M. Classes!</b>
1/21	<b>Fr. Chaminade Day—No Classes!</b>
1/22	Organization of Assignment Groups
1/24	Sociological theories and research methods. Ch. 1
1/29-31	Culture: What social groups create and pass on. Ch. 2 Discuss service learning project in relation to intercultural awareness, cultural relativity and acculturation.
2/5	Library Orientation--Library Resources for Paper/Review Topics (Doing Social Research: Introductory Level Only! (Ch. 1)) Work in library to identify your research topic (question) and the literature and research articles on the topic/question.
2/7-12	Socialization: How you came to be you. Ch. 3
2/14	<b>1<sup>st</sup> quiz (Chapters 1 – 3, lectures) Begin Ch. 4</b>
2/18	<b>President's Day—No Classes!</b>
2/19-21	Social Interaction: A focus on structure and process in everyday life. Ch. 4
2/26-28	Groups and Organization: How we cluster by size and formality. Ch. 5
3/5	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> quiz (Chapters 4 –5, lectures)</b>
3/5-7	Deviance: Why some are looked at differently. Ch. 6
3/12	<b>FIRST EXAM CHAPTERS 1-6, &amp; LECTURE MATERIAL</b>
3/14-19	Social Stratification: Why some are more equal than others. Ch. 8
3/21	Global Stratification Ch. 9
3/25-29	<b>Spring Break—No School</b>
4/2	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> quiz (Chapters 8 &amp; 9, lectures)</b>
4/2-4	Sexism & Gender Inequality. [Biology + Culture = Social Issue] Ch. 7 & 10
4/9-11	Race & Ethnic Diversity & Divisiveness. Ch. 11
4/16	Ch. 11 continued
4/18	<b>4<sup>th</sup> quiz (Chapters 7, 10 &amp; 11, lectures &amp; video)</b>
4/23	<b>Movie Review paper is due.</b>
4/23-25	Social Institutions: Economy & Polity Ch. 12
4/30-5/2	Social Institutions: Family and Religion. Ch. 13
5/2	<b>5<sup>th</sup> quiz (Chapters 12 &amp; 13, lectures &amp; videos)</b> <b>Project paper or reflection paper is due.</b>
5/6	<b>(Mon.) FINAL EXAM on Ch. 7-13, &amp; related lectures and videos 8-10 AM, in E201</b>

**Group Assignments:**

1. Use the interview research method and interview older members of your family (parents, grandparents, aunts & uncles) about their attitudes regarding the Vietnam War (e.g., right or wrong, moral-immoral, etc.) and what they did during that war (protest the war, join the military, support the president, etc.). Gather demographic and social data on those interviewed (sex, ethnicity, education, city/state where they lived at the time, political party affiliation, class status—working, middle, upper. Present the information using descriptive statistics and summarize your findings. **Presentation date: 2/12**
2. Explore one distant society's culture, i.e., cultural components, and compare and contrast these components with those of American society. **Presentation date: 2/28**
3. Demonstrate the utility of the "Thomas theorem" in understanding the social construction of reality (of situations). You can use American and/or political situations or events, scenes of situations in the media (TV **Presentation date: 3/19**
4. Conduct a survey of Chaminade victims of crimes, what kind of *Form Groups* in your sample were *have* circumstances (alone at *Then* demographic information, such as sex, ethnicity, social class, etc. *pick from* descriptive statistics and summarize your findings. **Present** *rep. a hat*
5. Conduct a survey of Chaminade stu *are* now many in your sample were victims of discrimination by some da *... group* or its member(s). These can be case studies. Describe the discriminatory actions or practices experienced by the subject. Identify the dominant group and the subordinate nature of the victim (your subject) and the circumstances surrounding the incident(s). **Presentation date: 4/16**
6. Do a content analysis of news media (newspapers, magazines—printed material, but not fiction) that point out sexism in American society. **Presentation date: 4/25**