

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY
SO200 INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY
Instructor: Dr. Bryan Man

Spring 2003
MWF 10 – 10:50

Office/Hours/Phone #: BS 113/WF: 9-10, TH:1:00-2:00
or by appointment / 735-4850; E-mail: bman@chaminade.edu

SYLLABUS

DESCRIPTION: Catalog: *“Introduction to the theories and to the scientific research methodology and knowledge, as they relate to the understanding of the structure, process, and functions of society and human behavior; exposure to the major issues, such as deviance, class, gender and race relations, and to the major social institutions, like the family, that make up society.”* In other words, 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 discussions and small group presentations will be interspersed throughout the term, under the assumption that learning occurs through interaction with others.

OBJECTIVES: The students are:

1. expected to think critically about and analyze everyday life and social events 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.
9. to work collaboratively in small group tasks in order to explore and explain topical issues in social life.

PAPERS: Two papers will be assigned. Each must revolve about social/sociological subject matter and the use of the sociological perspective.

The **First (Term) Paper**: Students will have the option of doing: (1) a **social research project and paper** (15-20 pages) or (2) a **service learning project & reflection paper**—(20-28 hours of community service—Chinatown Citizenship Tutorial Program, with a 5-6 page reflective report). Periodic meetings for reflective discussion and small, written reflective papers will be scheduled. 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 situation or issue presented in the movie.

All papers are to be typed, double-spaced, with appropriate references. College-level writing standards are to be followed.

No late papers will be accepted. Get started asap so you can get the papers in through a buddy in this class or another, 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 December schedules accordingly.

GRADING:	3 Exams (1 st 2 = 10% each)	35%	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
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	Total	100	

REQUIRED TEXT: Macionis, J. J. (2002). Society: The basics (6th ed.). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall .

OUTLINE:	(Tentative)
1/13-15	Introduction. What is Sociology? The Sociological Perspective. Ch. 1
1/17-22	Sociological theories and research methods. Ch. 1
1/20	Fr. Chaminade/Martin Luther King Day—No Classes
1/24	Quiz 1 Chapter 1 & lectures
1/24-29	Culture: What social groups create and pass on. Ch. 2 Discuss service learning project in relation to intercultural awareness, cultural relativity and acculturation.
1/31	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.
2/3-7	Socialization: How you came to be you. Ch. 3
2/10	Quiz 2 (Chapters 2 – 3, lectures)
2/12-14	Social Interaction: A focus on structure and process in everyday life. Ch. 4
2/17	Presidents' Day—No Classes
2/19-21	Groups and Organization: How we cluster by size and formality. Ch. 5
2/24	Quiz 3 (Chapters 4 –5, lectures)
2/26	Art and Social Life
2/28-3/5	Deviance: Why some are looked at differently. Ch. 6
3/7	FIRST EXAM CHAPTERS 1-6 & LECTURE MATERIAL

- 3/7-10 Social Stratification: Why some are more equal than others. Ch. 8
 3/12-14 Global Stratification Ch. 9
- 3/17 Quiz 4 (Chapters 8 & 9, lectures)**
 Sexuality Ch. 7
- 3/19-21 Sexuality (continued) Ch. 7
3/24-28 Spring Break
 3/31-4/2 Sexism & Gender Inequality. [Biology + Culture = Social Issue] Ch. 10
4/4 Last Day to Withdraw from Classes
 4/7-16 Race & Ethnic Diversity & Divisiveness. Ch. 11
 Discussion of the concept of inequality
- 4/7 Paper #2 is due**
4/16 Quiz 5 (Chapters 7, 10 & 11)
- 4/18 Good Friday—No Classes**
- 4/21 SECOND EXAM CHAPTERS 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & LECTURE MATERIAL**
 4/23-28 Social Institutions: Economy & Polity Ch. 12
4/28 Paper #1 is due
 4/30-5/2 Social Institutions: Family and Religion. Ch. 13
- 5/8 (Thursday) FINAL EXAM on Ch. 12 & 13, & related lectures and videos**
10:30-12:30 p.m. in H104

Group Assignments:

1. Using the interview research method and interview older members of your family (parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, etc.) or family friends of that generation about their attitudes regarding the Vietnam War (e.g., right or wrong, moral-immoral, etc.) and what they did during that war (protested the war, join the military, support the president. Etc.). Gather demographic and social data on those interviewed (sex, ethnicity, education, where they lived at the time, political party affiliation, class status). 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 to 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 world political situations or events, scenes of situations in the media (TV, movies, etc.).
Presentation date: 3/12
4. Conduct a survey of Chaminade students to determine how many in your sample were victims of crimes, what kind of crimes, how often, under what circumstances (alone at night in the streets, at a party, in a crowd, etc.), and social demographic information, such as sex, ethnicity, social class, etc. Present the information using descriptive statistics and summarize your findings. **Presentation date: 3/21**
5. Conduct a survey of Chaminade students to determine how many in your sample were victims of prejudice and/or discrimination by some dominant group or its member(s). These can be case studies. Describe the prejudice and/or 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: 4/7**
6. Do a content analysis of news media (newspapers, magazines—printed material, but not fiction) that point to sexism in American society. **Presentation date: 4/16**

Research paper #1:

The research paper must include actual research with subjects that you gather (not data reported in library sources). These data are to be reported and discussed by you in your paper. The methods you can use (only one of several) are: the survey, the interview, or field observations. You must have a sample of at least 20 subjects for the survey or interviews. Your topic or research question must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. Brief monthly meetings with me are required.