



广东金融学院
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Guangdong University of Finance

2019 Summer Program

SOC 111 Introduction to Sociology

Course Syllabus

Term: June 3 – July 5, 2019

Class Hours: 12:00-13:50PM (Monday through Friday)

Course Code: SOC 111

Instructor: Dr. David Youkey

Home Institution: University of Colorado, Boulder

Office Hours: TBA

Email: David.Youkey@Colorado.edu

Credit: 4

Class hours:

This course will have 72 class hours, including 40 lecture hours, professor 10 office hours, 10-hour TA discussion sessions, 2-hour review sessions, 10-hour extra classes.

Course Description:

Sociology is the study of human societies.

Some sociologists ask very broad questions, like Karl Marx, who wanted to describe how one kind of society (like feudalism) evolved into another kind of society (like capitalism), or how an entire society developed its ideologies. Other sociologists ask much narrower questions, like: why do some people choose to get tattoos? In other words, sociology has a very broad range. We will look at both sorts of topics, the wide ones and the narrow ones.

Course Objectives:

This five-week course is designed to provide a general introduction to the discipline of



sociology. The course is divided into fifteen sections. First, we will try to understand what sociology is and what it is that sociology studies. Second, we will examine different types of inequality in society, including race, class, gender, sexuality, and disability and learn how they affect people's lives. Third, we will explore the workings of a variety of social institutions, including the economy, politics, religion, the family, and education.

We are in an ideal position to study sociology together. We all know, from our own personal experiences, that there are many cultural differences between the US and China. Perhaps some of us have lived in other countries as well. The goal of sociology is to methodically study these sorts of differences, to ask about the reasons for the differences, and so on.

Course Requirements:

Each class session will be a combination of lecture and student discussion. Students are expected to attend class, complete the assigned readings in advance of the class meetings and participate in discussion.

Grading:

Midterm Exam: 35%

Final Exam: 35%

Two short papers: 10% each

Attendance: 10%

Required Materials:

George Ritzer, Introduction to Sociology (SAGE)

There will be a few other readings; I will provide those electronically.

Schedule:

Week 1:

We will spend the first week discussing what sociology is. Then we will look at three of the foundational theories in sociology: Marx&Engels, Weber, and Durkheim. Then we will work our way through Ritzer's book.

Introduction: What is Sociology?

We'll discuss the case of Daniel Kish, known as "batman," who has no eyes but rides a bicycle and climbs trees and lives a normal life, because he has learned something known as "echolocation." Echolocation is how bats get along in the world. Kish, though he has no eyes, says that he is not blind. In fact, he claims that blindness is a "social construction." This sort of thing is basic to Sociology, the view that, what most people take to be "reality" is in fact socially constructed.

Foundations: Marx/Engels and Historical Materialism

Read Marx and Engels: Notes on historical materialism

We'll discuss several features of Marx/Engels theory: determinism, materialism, false



consciousness, and so on.

Foundations: Weber's Criticism of Marx

Read Ritzer, "Introduction to McDonaldization"

Marx, Weber and Durkheim are often considered the Big Three in the foundations of sociology. We're not going to read Weber, but we will read a recent essay by George Ritzer, who is a follower of Weber.

Foundations: Durkheim

Read "Social rituals and Sacred Objects" (excerpted from Elementary Forms of Religious Life), Durkheim, 1912.

Marx thinks that religion is part of the "false consciousness" of society, and we ought to get rid of it. It's not that Durkheim disagrees with the false consciousness part, but Durkheim gives religion a very different social role than Marx does.

Week 2:

Ritzer: Introduction to Sociology

Sociology among the social sciences Ritzer, Chapter 1 and 2

Classical and Contemporary Sociology Ritzer, Chapter 3

Culture Ritzer, Chapter 4

Week 3:

Socialization and Interaction Ritzer, Chapter 5

Organizations, Societies and the Global Ritzer, Chapter 6

Deviance and Crime Ritzer, Chapter 7

We will have our midterm exam this week.

Week 4:

Social Stratification Ritzer, Chapter 8

Race and Ethnicity Ritzer Chapter 9

Sex and Gender Ritzer Chapter 10

The Family Ritzer Chapter 11

Politics and the Economy Ritzer Chapter 12

Week 5:

The Body, Medicine, Health and Health Care Ritzer Chapter 13

Population, Urbanization and the Environment Ritzer Chapter 14

Social Change, Social Movements, and Collective Behavior Ritzer Chapter 15

Religion and Education Ritzer Chapter 16

We will have our final exam this week.



Classroom Policies:

Electronic Devices in the Classroom

There have been MANY studies that show: (1) students who use electronic devices (like smartphones, or laptops) in the classroom have lower grades than students who do not.

Not only do smartphones distract you, they also distract people around you, and they distract me, the teacher. The distract from a serious learning environment. IF YOU INTEND TO BE A SERIOUS STUDENT, DO NOT BRING YOUR SMARTPHONE OR YOUR LAPTOP TO CLASS. IF YOU DO NOT INTEND TO BE A SERIOUS STUDENT, YOU SHOULD NOT BE ATTENDING THE CLASS.

For further information, see the following:

<http://news.stanford.edu/news/2009/august24/multitask-research-study-082409.html>

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2F978-1-4419-0852-2>

<https://teachingcommons.stanford.edu/teaching-talk/class-multitasking-how-laptops-hurt-learning>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/04/28/why-students-using-laptops-learn-less-in-class-even-when-they-really-are-taking-notes/>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/mental-wealth/201402/gray-matters-too-much-screen-time-damages-the-brain>

<https://www.winona.edu/psychology/media/friedlaptopfinal.pdf>

Cheating

CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. If you cheat, I will catch you. If I catch you cheating, you will fail the class. If you plan to cheat, there is no point in taking the class. Do not waste my time, do not waste your time, do not waste your money.