

University of Houston-Downtown

Course Prefix, Number, and Title: SOC 1303: Introduction to Sociology

Credits/Lecture/Lab Hours: 3/3/0

Foundational Component Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Prerequisites: None: Credit or enrollment in ENG 1301

Co-requisites: None

Course Description: An introduction to the scientific study of human society. This sociological perspective focuses on new ways of looking at society and its component parts, so the student is encouraged to develop a critical view of society, social processes and individual roles.

TCCNS Number: SOCI 1301

Demonstration of Core Objectives within the Course:

Assigned Core Objective	Learning Outcome Students will be able to:	Instructional strategy or content used to achieve the outcome	Method by which students' mastery of this outcome will be evaluated
Critical Thinking	Evaluate assumptions and develop defensible conclusions based on interpretation and analysis of information relevant to course content.	Social theories, along with a combination of empirical studies, ethnographic and/or case studies within subareas will be compared and contrasted. The above presentation will include discussion of the methods and limitations of the studies. Students will evaluate readings from original theory texts and/or journal articles	While individual instructors will determine the specific assignments and grading scheme for their sections, assessment would be based on one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exams consisting of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching items, short answer, and/or essay questions. • Essays based on assigned reading of empirical studies and/or excerpts from original theory texts or journal articles • <i>Exams/essays will include questions about assumptions, interpretation and analysis.</i>
Critical Thinking	Synthesize and deliver organized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional lecture • Power Point presentations 	*Assessment would be based on a combination of the following:

<p>Communication</p>	<p>and well-constructed arguments about course content using multiple modalities (including written, oral, and visual formats) to include the use of technology.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text book • Assigned readings from original theory texts or journal articles • Videos/documentaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exams including essay questions • Essays based on assigned reading of empirical studies including quantitative tables and figures and/or excerpts from original theory texts or journal articles • Individual or group oral presentations with audio-visual aids • Contributions to structured in-class discussion including discussion of quantitative data (tables and figures)
<p>Empirical and Quantitative Reasoning</p>	<p>Analyze or interpret empirically derived information and infer logical conclusions.</p>	<p>Presentation and discussion of empirical studies, ethnographic and/or case studies within subareas including a review of methodologies, data analysis and conclusions Students will evaluate empirical findings in assigned readings or journal articles</p>	<p>While individual instructors will determine the specific assignments and grading scheme for their sections, assessment would be based on one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exams consisting of multiple choice , fill-in-the-blank, matching items, short answer, and/or essay questions • Essays based on assigned reading of empirical studies/journal articles • Contributions to class discussion concerning empirical findings
<p>Critical Thinking Empirical and Quantitative Reasoning</p>	<p>Apply theory or findings from empirical research to a contemporary social problem.</p>	<p>Discussion of theory in the context of current social phenomena/social problems that incorporates intercultural awareness, and the potential for civic responsibility and engagement. Discussion will include relevant statistics where appropriate. Students' own role in current events will be discussed when appropriate.</p>	<p>While individual instructors will determine the specific assignments and grading scheme for their sections, assessment would be based on one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exams consisting of multiple choice , fill-in-the-blank, matching items, short answer, and/or essay questions • Essays based on assigned reading of empirical studies and/or excerpts from original theory texts

			<p>or journal articles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions to class discussion regarding social problems
Social Responsibility	<p>Identify the interplay among individuals, groups, institutions, and events within the context of society and culture.</p>	<p>All subsections of intro sociology (chapters and lectures) address and identify the interplay among individuals, groups, institutions, and events within the context of society and culture.</p> <p>Example Content Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durkheim: Problem of order • Durkheim: Suicide • Marx: Problem of Order • Marx: Mode of production • Weber: elective affinity • Weber: protestant ethic and capitalism • Propaganda • Culture and Change 	<p>While individual instructors will determine the specific assignments and grading scheme for their sections, assessment would be based on one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exams consisting of multiple choice , fill-in-the-blank, matching items, short answer, and/or essay questions • Essays based on assigned reading of empirical studies and/or excerpts from original theory texts or journal articles • Contributions to class discussion of course content

Additional Course Outcomes:

- Students will be able to discern how human action is impacted by social forces beyond the immediate control of individuals.
- Through the reading of empirical studies, students will be able to examine various research methodologies and evaluate their application to a diverse range of social phenomenon.
- Students will be able to interpret how the main sociological paradigms relate to diverse contemporary social phenomena.
- Students will be able to apply key sociological concepts to their understanding of the relationship between social forces and the lives of individuals.
- Through discussion and evaluation of research studies, students will be able to summarize and evaluate basic empirical findings within subfields of sociology.

Course Outline:

INTRODUCTION: THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION.

- A. Scientific Study of Social Life: Structure & Process.
- B. Origins of Sociology.
- C. Theoretical Perspectives.
 1. Structural functionalism & the organic analogy.
 - a. Exemplar: Emile Durkheim & problem of order.
 - b. Suicide.
 2. Conflict perspective & dialectical materialism.

- a. Exemplar: Karl Marx & problem of order.
- b. Mode of production: substructure of society.
- 3. Social constructionist perspective & causation of action by values.
 - a. Exemplar: Max Weber & elective affinity.
 - b. Protestant Ethic & capitalism.

D. Research Methods.

E. Ethics.

II. PROPAGANDA

- A. Everyday Persuasion.
- B. Pre-Persuasion: Setting the Stage for Effective Influence.
- C. Communicator Credibility: Real & Manufactured.
- D. The Message & How It Is Delivered.
- E. Emotional Appeals.
 - Hitler: *Triumph of the Will*
- F. When Information Fails: The Challenge of Propaganda for Society.
- G. Counteracting the Tactics of Propaganda.

III. CULTURE, SOCIETY, & SOCIAL CHANGE.

- A. Culture & Society.
- B. Types of Societies.
 - 1. Hunting & gathering.
 - 2. Horticultural & pastoral.
 - 3. Agrarian.
 - 4. Industrial.
 - 5. Post industrial/post modern.
- C. The Great Transformation: Industrial Revolution.
 - 1. Communal relationships.
 - 2. Associational relationships.
- D. Theories of Change & Development.
- E. Catalysts for Change.

Grading/Course Content which Demonstrates Student Achievement of Core Objectives:

Course Grade	A: 90-100	B: 80-89	C: 70-79	D: 60-69	F: 0-59
Summary of Course Exams, Quizzes, Activities, and Final					
	Exam 1 - Multiple Choice & Short Essay			30%	
	Exam 2 - Multiple Choice & Short Essay			30%	
	Exam 3 - Take Home Essay			30%	
	Presentation			10%	