Soc 200-003 Intro to Sociology  
Winter 2019

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed for you, as an introduction to the study of society. Throughout this course we will explore the fundamental social theories and research methods used by sociologists to examine the interactions that happen between social structures and individuals. We will analyze concepts such as culture, socialization, social structures and institutions, groups and networks, stratification, deviance, race, and gender. The goal of the course is to analyze and apply sociological concepts and techniques that are used to understand our social world. This course will survey the scope of sociology as a discipline and teach you to critically interrogate social constructions of reality.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon successfully completing this course, you will be able to:
  • Identify the sociological perspective, including the idea of social construction, and methods for studying social life.
  • Explain different elements of culture and the ways in which we enforce cultural norms.
  • Apply concepts to analyze everyday social life.
  • Explain the importance of socialization and the processes through which it occurs.
  • Evaluate the accuracy of common beliefs about social trends.
  • Identify how major forms of social stratification influence life experiences and outcomes.
  • Critically examine the social constructions of reality.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED ONLINE TEXTBOOK/Podcast: please visit https://www.sociologyexperiment.com/entry-for-students/ for access to the text book. Each chapter is $1. I will provide the first chapter and you are required to invest in the rest of the chapters. Additionally, there will be podcast assigned in addition to the required reading. The podcast will be posted on d2l, a week before we will cover them. It is your job to check your PSU email and d2l, daily for information.

IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS (15%): Everyone should complete the assigned reading prior to each class and be prepared to engage in thoughtful discussion regarding the reading. We will regularly have in-class assignments. Assignments will consist of multiple choice questions, individuals writing, group writing, and/or small group discussions assignments. If you miss class (or arrive late/leave early) and miss the assignment, you will receive a grade of a zero (0) for in-class assignments; these assignments cannot be made-up.

TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENTS (40%): You will complete three take-home assignments (13.334 % each). Assignments will be individual written assignments that require you to either listen to podcasts, watch films, or research peer review academic sociological articles. I will provide detailed instructions about each assignment when I hand out the prompt. You will have a week to complete the assignments once the prompt has been handed out (e.g. If I hand out the assignment on Monday, it will be due to the following Monday before class). Assignments turned in late will be deducted 10% each day after it is due. I consider an assignment late after the minute it is due. I will not accept assignments that are 5 days late (e.g. if the assignment is due on a Wednesday the latest date you can turn it in would be Monday).
Assignments are only accepted late if you have an incomplete or proper documentation for an excuse-able excuse (see policy below).

**EXAMS (45%)** There will be three major exams (15% each). Exams will include the material covered in readings and material presented in class. The exams will not be given early, unless you have proper documentation of an excuse-able absence. I reserve the right to implement anti-cheating measures during exams (e.g. if I catch you cheating you will receive a zero and cannot make up the exam). For the exams you will need a Scantron, form 882-E (sold at both the bookstore and at the university market in the Smith Center) and a #2 pencil. The first two exams are not cumulative. However the third will be cumulative. The exams will cover the topics discussed in class and the topics that are covered in the book for the required readings or podcast(s). If you miss an exam, you will need to inform me as soon as possible and have an excuse-able excuse to make-up the missed exam. If you arrive late to the exam, you will only have until the end of the class time to take it.

**Exam I:**
**Exam II:**
**Exam 3/Final: Wednesday June 12th from 10.15am-12.05pm**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria for grading</th>
<th>Grading Scheme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class assignments</td>
<td>15% A 100-94; A- 93-90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take-home assignments</td>
<td>40% (3 @ 13.33% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Exams</td>
<td>45% (3 @ 15 each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100% D+ 65-62; D 61-58; D- 57-55</td>
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**POLICIES**

**CLASS CONDUCT:** In an effort to make this class a learning environment for everyone, please be considerate of the other students in class. Please try to get to class on time and refrain from leaving before class is done. I strongly suggest turning off all electronic devices; however I am aware that emergencies happen, please keep electronic devices silent or off. If you want to have a chat with your classmates, do it outside. We will be discussing topics that may be controversial, so it is very important that we all maintain respect for the diversity of opinions represented in the class. This is an educational environment, so ideas may be questioned and critiqued but personal attacks will not be tolerated.

**Having Kids in the class:** The student body at Portland State University is Diverse. I am sure there are some of you who have small kids or teenagers. I understand that having a child, whether it be your own or a small sibling, can be a lot to handle. If something does happen to your child/sibling or other immediate family members, please reach out to me. Additionally, if something does happen to where you have to have your child(ren)/sibling(s) that is fine; just shoot me an email on your way to class if you can. Also if you have a toddler and they start crying, I will offer to hold them because I have been told I am a baby whisperer.
**ESL/EFL:** For those of you whose English is not your first language, you may use a translator during class. However, you will not be able to use a translator during exams. If you are a person whose English is not your first language please speak with me. Additionally, for those of you who were not born/socialized in America, please be aware that majority of the material comes from an American-cultural perspective. Please see me if you were not born/socialized in American culture.

**ACCESS & INCLUSION:** PSU values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. My goal is to create a learning environment that is equitable, useable, inclusive, and welcoming. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment. If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 503-725-4150, drc@pdx.edu, https://www.pdx.edu/drc.

- If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received a faculty notification letter and discuss your accommodations.
- Students who need accommodations for tests and quizzes are expected to schedule their tests to overlap with the time the class is taking the test.
- Please be aware that the accessible tables or chairs in the room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not useable.
- For information about emergency preparedness, please go to the Fire and Life Safety webpage(https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-health-safety/fire-and-life-safety) for information.

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. Please be aware that federal, state, and PSU policies require faculty members to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. Similarly, PSU faculty are required to file a report if they have reasonable cause to believe that a child with whom they come into contact has suffered abuse, or that any person with whom they come into contact has abused a child. If you would rather share information about these experiences with an employee who does not have these reporting responsibilities and can keep the information confidential, please contact one of the following campus resources (or visit this link):
- Women’s Resource Center (503-725-5672)
- Queer Resource Center (503-725-9742)
- Center for Student Health and Counseling (SHAC): 1880 SW 6th Ave, (503) 725-2800
- Student Legal Services: 1825 SW Broadway, (SMSU) M343, (503) 725-4556
**Disability Access Statement:** If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 503-725-4150, drc@pdx.edu, https://www.pdx.edu/drc

**Title IX Reporting:** As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. Please be aware that as a faculty member, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of those individuals on PSU’s Enrollment Management & Student Affairs: Sexual Prevention & Response website at http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault. For more information about Title IX please complete the required student module “Creating a Safe Campus: Preventing Gender Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Assault” in the “My Courses” section of D2L.

**Safe Campus Statement:** Portland State University desires to create a safe campus for our students. As part of that mission, PSU requires all students to take the learning module entitled Creating a Safe Campus: Preventing Gender Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Assault. See http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/safe-campus-module. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources on PSU’s Enrollment Management & Student Affairs: Sexual Prevention & Response website at http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Academic honesty is a cornerstone of meaningful education and a reflection of maturity and integrity. Portland State University is committed to the highest standards of academic honesty. The Student Conduct Code prohibits all forms of academic cheating, fraud, and dishonesty, but not limited to plagiarism, buying and selling of assignments for others, unauthorized disclosure and receipt of academic information and other practices understood to academically dishonor. Copies of the Student Conduct Code may be obtained by contacting 503-725-4422, or by visiting room 433 in Smith Memorial Center. Any assignment or exam found to be academically dishonest will receive no points for the whole exam/assignment and a referral to the appropriate authority.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is a vital part of the educational experience at PSU. Please see the PSU Student Code of Conduct for the university’s policy on academic dishonesty. A confirmed violation of that Code in this course will result in failure of the course.

**PLAGIARISM:** If you use a direct quote (i.e. someone else’s words), you must include it in quotation marks and cite the source, including author(s) name(s), the date of publication, and the page number. If you summarize or paraphrase an idea from another person, you must cite the source, including author(s) name(s) and the date of publication. Failure to cite your sources, whether intentional or not, is plagiarism. Instances of plagiarism will result in failing the assignment and will be reported.

**CONTACT INFO:** The best way to contact me is via email. Be sure to put “Soc 200” in the subject line so I can find your email amidst the spam. If you do not put that in the subject line, I might not read your email. Generally I will respond within 24-48 hours during the weekday. If I take more than 72 hours to respond to your email, feel free to email me again (unless it’s the weekend). During the weekend emails sent after 4:30pm on a Friday will usually be answered by 5:00pm on Monday.

**CANCELLED CLASSES:** In the case of inclement weather or other emergencies, please refer to the PSU web page: http://www.pdx.edu/. In the event that the instructor has to cancel class, he will email the
class as soon as possible. If the instructor has not arrived to class 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, consider class cancelled for the day.

**ABSENCES:** In the event you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to ask at least 3 classmates for notes, announcements, and any other missed material. If you have any questions after you have checked with 3 classmates, please schedule an appointment with me. If you miss a test, you will need to inform the instructor, have a documented excuse, and schedule a makeup at the PSU testing center. Exams must be made up within one week. In order to make-up a missed assignment or exam, you must have proper documentation reasons for why you missed the assignment/exam. That is out of town due to prior engagements, taking care of a family member who is not well, etc. The excuses that do ensure for assignment/exams NOT to be made up, overslept, missed bus/transit, etc.


**SCHEDULE**

The instructor does their best to carefully construct the schedule and then stick to it. However, the schedule may change if he believes it’s necessary as the term progresses. He will always provide advance notice and discuss any changes with you in class.

**Please be sure you’ve completed all readings before class on the day they’re listed!**

- **Part 1: Thinking Like a Sociologist**
  - Week 1 A Sociology Experiment
  - Week 2 Research Methods
    - Homework 1
  - Week 3 Social Structure and the Individual
    - Exam 1, Wednesday, April 24th
  - **Part 2: The Organization of Society**
    - Week 4 Culture
      - Homework 2
    - Week 5 Social class, Inequality, and Poverty
    - Week 6 Race and Ethnicity
    - Week 7 Gender and Sexuality
    - Exam 2 Friday, May 17th
  - **Part 3: Our Social World**
    - Week 8 Deviance, Crime and Violence
      - Homework 3
    - Week 9 Sociology of Families
    - Week 10 Sociology of Education
  - Exam 3/Final **Wednesday June 12th from 10.15am-12.05pm**