
COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will give students an introduction into the academic study of society. We will explore fundamental social theories and research methods used by sociologists to examine the interactions between social structures and individuals. We will be examining concepts such as culture, socialization, social structures and institutions, groups and organizations, stratification, deviance, crime, race, ethnicity, and gender. The goal of the course is to gain a basic knowledge of sociological concepts and techniques, with a focus on the cultivation of the sociological imagination.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Students should complete the assigned readings prior to each class, bring the textbook to class and be prepared to engage in thoughtful discussion regarding the readings. Regular attendance will benefit the dedicated student since exams will cover lecture material not included in the texts. D2L will be a small component of this course, so make sure you can log in to your account at https://d2l.pdx.edu/

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. Turn off all electronic devices. This includes iPods, phones, and laptops. 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.

If you have a disability and are in need of academic accommodations, please notify me immediately to arrange needed supports.

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.
CONTACT INFO: The best way to contact me is via email. Please 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. I have a great many students so don’t expect an instant reply.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS: Every Friday we will be working on an assignment based on the topic of the week. These are a mandatory part of the course. Weekly assignments cannot be made up if they are missed. Each student’s lowest scoring assignment will be discarded for the purposes of grading. The format of the assignment will vary. Some will be take-home essays or projects, some will be in-class exercises, and others will be quizzes.

EXAMS: There will be two exams. Students must take both exams in order to earn a passing grade. No early exams will be given. I reserve the right to implement anti-cheating measures during exams.

GRADES: Grades will be based on the following:
   Exam 1 = 80 points
   Exam 2 = 120 points
   In-class exercises = 80 points (10 points apiece)
   Participation = 20 points
Final grades will be based on the standard curve. You start the quarter with 0 points and accumulate them with each successful project.

READING SCHEDULE: (a work in progress, subject to change)
Week 1 Chapters 1 & 2: Sociology in Theory & Practice
Week 2 Chapter 3: Culture & Society
Week 3 Chapter 4: Socialization & Identity
Week 4 Chapter 5: Social Interaction, Social Structure, Institutions, Solidarity
   Exam 1 is scheduled for Monday, October 26. Please plan accordingly.
Week 5 Chapter 5: Organizations, Bureaucracy, Rationalization
Week 6 Chapter 6: Conformity, Deviance, & Crime
Week 7 Chapter 7: Stratification & Inequality
Week 8 Chapter 7: Stratification & Inequality
Week 9 Chapter 8: Race & Ethnicity
Week 10 Loose Ends and Leftovers

The final exam is scheduled for Monday, December 7 at 12:30. The final exam is considered part of the class and attendance is mandatory.