



Sociological Perspectives

Unit of Study Outline

1. Unit of study information

Sociology is a kind of method to understanding the world. This course focuses on social, political, and economic phenomena by exploring social structures, social forces and group relations. Topics of this course will cover Socialization, culture, the social construction of knowledge, inequality, race and ethnic relations, poverty and political sociology.

2. Pre-requisite units and assumed knowledge

None

3. Learning aims and outcomes

By participating in this course, students will:

- Understand three main sociological perspectives;
- Understand several important sociological theories
- Be able to apply these perspectives and theories to contemporary social problems
- Be able to critical link between social structures, social forces and individual circumstances
- Be able to know how society shapes

4. Weighting of final grade

Participation 10%
Group Presentation 10%
Midterm 20%
Homework 20%
Final 40%

5. Grading

A	100-95	A-	94-90	B+	89-87
B	86-83	B-	82-80	C+	79-77
C	76-73	C-	72-70	D+	69-67
D	66-63	D-	62-60	F	59 or lower

6. Policies

Attendance Policy

Attendance in class is mandatory for all students enrolled in the course. Any excused absence must be discussed directly with the teacher. Being late to class within 15 minutes will be recorded as 1 LATE and being late over 15 minutes will be recorded as 1 ABSENCE. 3 LATES equal to 1 ABSENCE. 20% absences (11 hours) of the total teaching hours (54 hours) will cause an F (a failing grade) directly. However, students are still welcome to continue to attend class. F students have no right to drop this course anymore. Each unexcused absence will result in the lowering of the attendance grade by 1 point. Each excused absence will result in the lowering of the attendance grade by 0.5 point.

Participation Policy

Students should participate in their chosen classes actively and effectively. The Participation Grade is related to the Attendance Grade. Students' final attendance grade is the maximum of their participation grade.

Participation grade will be based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to taking part in class discussions and activities, completing assignments, being able to answer questions correctly, obeying class rules, and being prepared for class, frequent visiting your instructors and chatting in English during their office hours is highly recommended.

Policy on Assignments and Quizzes

Students should finish their assignments completely and punctually. Assignment should be submitted on the appointed date by the instructor. If a student cannot hand in the assignment on time, the reasonable excuse will be needed. Late assignments will receive a maximum grade of 80. An assignment that is late for 3 days will be corrected but receive 0.

You are recommended print all your assignment in the uniform format with the heading of Student's Pledge of no cheating. Written assignment or printed ones without the uniform heading of pledge will receive a maximum grade of 80.

It is mandatory to have weekend assignment every week. Any weekend

assignment should be submitted on first class of next week.

It is mandatory to have holiday assignment on the public holidays. Any holiday assignment should be submitted on the first day on returning to school.

Students are required to do a multitude of presentations during the course.

Plagiarism

Any form of cheating is NEVER tolerated. Any student ONCE caught cheating on a quiz, assignment or examination will receive a 0 for that particular work of the whole semester. At the beginning of the semester the definition of plagiarism will be carefully explained. When any thoughts or writings of another person are used, the sources must be clearly identified (using quotes, bibliography and giving reference).

Classroom Policies

1. No eating, cellular phones, electronic dictionaries, smoking, chatting or drowsing in class.
2. Please speak in English rather than Chinese in class.
3. Students are not allowed to attend class without textbooks.
4. Stand up when answering questions.
5. Respect classmates' ideas, opinions, and questions of your classmates.
6. You are welcome to visit the instructor's office in his/her office hours.
7. Take good care of the laboratory facilities. Do not splash water on the desktop.
8. When each class is over, hang the earphone on the hanger. Put the trash into the trash-bin.
9. All your classroom involvement, performance and after-class communications with instructor will affect your participation score.
10. All communications with the teacher must be in English, both inside and outside class time.

7. Texts and other recourses

Andersen, M. L. and Taylor, H. F. (2009) Sociology: The Essentials 6th Ed. Wadsworth Cengage Learning

8. Teaching methods

Lecture and group works

9. Week by week topic and study guide

Week 1	Chapter 1	Sociological Perspective
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		What is Sociology?
		The Sociological Perspective
		The Significance of Diversity
		The Development of Sociological Theory
		Theoretical Frameworks in Sociology
Week 2	Chapter 2	Culture and the Media
		Defining Culture
		The Elements of Culture
		Cultural Diversity
		The Mass media and Popular Culture
		Theoretical Perspectives on Culture and the media
		Cultural Change
Week 3	Chapter 3	Doing Sociological Research
		The Research Process
		The Tools of Sociological Research
		Research Ethics: Is Sociology Value Free?
Week 4	Chapter 4	Socialization and the Life Course
		The Socialization Process
		Agents of Socialization
		Theories of Socialization
		Growing up in a Diverse Society
		Aging and the Life Course
		Resocialization
Week 5	Chapter 5	Social Interaction and Social Structure
		What Is Society?
		What Holds Society Together?
		Types of Societies
		Social Interaction and Society
		Theories About Analyzing Social Interaction
		Interaction in Cyberspace
Week 6	Chapter 6	Groups and Organizations
		Types of Groups
		Social Influence in Groups
		Formal Organizations and Bureaucracies
		Diversity : Race, Gender, and Class in Organizations
		Functional, Conflict, and Symbolic Interaction: Theoretical Perspectives
Week 7	Chapter 7	Deviance and Crime
		Defining Deviance
		Sociological Theories of Deviance
		Forms of Deviance
		Crime and Criminal Justice

		Terrorism as International Crime
Week 8	Mid-Term Exam	
	Chapter 8	Social Class and Social Stratification
		Social Differentiation and Social Stratification
		The Class Structure of the United States
		Social Mobility: Myths and Realities
		Why Is There Inequality?
		Poverty
Week 9	Chapter 9	Global Stratification
		Theories of Global Stratification
		World poverty
		Globalization and Social Change
Week 10	Chapter 10	Race and Ethnicity
		Racial Stereotypes
		Prejudice, Discrimination, and Racism
		Theories of Prejudice and Racism
		Diverse Groups, Diverse Histories
		Attaining Racial and Ethnic Equality
Week 11	Chapter 11	Gender
		Gender Socialization
		Gender Stratification
		Theories of Gender
		Gender in Global Perspective
		Gender and Social Change
Week 12	Chapter 12	Sexuality
		Sex and Culture
		Contemporary Sexual Attitudes and Behavior
		Sexuality and Sociological Theory
		Sex, Diversity, and Inequality
		Sex and Social Issues
		Sex and Social Change
Week 13	Chapter 13	Families and Religion
		Defining the Family
		Sociological Theory and Families
		Diversity Among Contemporary American Families
		Marriage and Divorce
		Changing Families in a Changing Society
		Defining Religion
		The Significance of Religion in the United States
		Sociological Theories of Religion
		Diversity and Religions Belief

		Religious Organizations
		Religion and Social Change
Week 14	Chapter 14	Education and health Care
		Schooling and Society: Theories of Education
		Does Schooling Matter?
		Education and Inequality
		Health Care in the United States
		Theoretical perspectives on health Care
		The Health Care Crisis in the United States
Week 15	Chapter 15	Politics and the Economy
		Power, Politics, and the State
		Power and Authority
		Theories of Power
		Government: Power and Politics in a Diverse Society
		Economy and Society
		The Changing Global Economy
		Sociological perspectives on Work
		Characteristics of the Labor Force
		Power in the Workplace
Week 16	Chapter 16	Population, the Environment, and Social Change
		Demography and the US Census
		Diversity and the Three basic Demographic Processes
		Population Characteristics
		Theories of Population Growth Locally and Globally
		Checking Population Growth
		Urbanization
		Ecology and the Environment
		Social Change
		Modernization
		Diversity, Globalization, and Social Change
Week 17	Final Exam	