

Sociology 101: Principles of Sociology (CRN: 63852)

Mesa College—Spring Semester 2016

Monday, Wednesday: 9:35am-11:00am (SB207)

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Course Website: sdccd.blackboard.com

Description of Course: This course is an introductory study of the basic concepts, theoretical approaches, and methods of sociology. We will think conceptually about the social structures (durable patterns of relationships, such as institutions and social networks) and cultural structures (patterns of broadly shared, taken-for-granted ideas and values), that shape life chances and identities. The course includes exploration of classical ways of thinking about society and its relationship to the individual and empirical research on how life chances in the United States vary across the dimensions of socio-economic class, race or ethnicity or citizenship status, and gender or sexuality. We will ask, is America a meritocracy? Why is there a wage gap between men and women? Do we live in a post-race society? Crucially, we will carefully evaluate the evidence in these and other debates, and commit to reasoned and cautious answers to these questions. This course is intended for students considering careers in counseling, teaching, social work, or nursing as well as anyone wishing to apply sociological ideas to everyday life. Units: 3 (Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass Option)

Required Texts: Each class is accompanied by a reading assignment. You should plan to spend approximately one to two hours on each assignment. If you have difficulty accessing a computer or a financial hardship which prevents you from purchasing the textbook, please see me to discuss alternative strategies for accessing the reading. The following texts are required:

1. Conley, Dalton. *You May Ask Yourself*. 4th Edition. Norton. (Textbook available at the campus bookstore; second or third editions are also acceptable, and may be available at a discount from online retailers)
2. Additional readings will be available electronically on the course website.

Method of Instruction and Evaluation: This course will be taught through lectures and interactive discussions. Your grade will be determined by the following:

1. Attendance and Participation (10%): Your grade in this class will be partially determined by attendance and active participation. You are expected to attend all classes, having completed the assigned readings, with a copy of your reading in hand, prepared for discussion. If you arrive late to class, you are responsible for checking in with me at the end of class to ensure that your attendance has been recorded. If you must miss a class, please let me know by email prior to your absence and visit me in office hours when you return to recoup your participation points.
2. Writing Assignments (30%): You are required to complete two writing assignments, worth 15% each, which will be announced in class and on the course website. Required assignments are officially due at the beginning of the class period on the assigned day. Late written assignments will be accepted but will incur an automatic grade reduction after the due date.

3. Midterm and Final Exam (60%): Two in-class blue book exams will be given; each worth 30% of the course grade. The exams may include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The final exam is not cumulative.

It is the student's responsibility to drop all classes in which he/she is no longer attending. It is the instructor's discretion to withdraw a student after the add/drop deadline due to excessive absences. Students who remain enrolled in a class beyond the published withdrawal deadline, as stated in the class schedule, will receive an evaluative letter grade in the class.

Prerequisites: Advisory. 1) ENGL 047A with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent or Assessment Level W5/R5 or 2) ENGL 048 with a grade of with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent or Assessment Level R5 or 3) ENGL 049 with a grade of with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent or Assessment Level W5.

Classroom Environment: Each person plays a role in the classroom atmosphere, so please be aware of your impact on the class as a whole and respectful of your fellow classmates. Limit your use of laptops to note-taking and do not use your cell phones in class. Arriving late, leaving early, and walking in and out of class (although sometimes unavoidable) is distracting to those around you; try to keep such interruptions to a minimum. Always be respectful of your peers, even when you disagree with them.

Academic Integrity: I assume your familiarity with the San Diego Community College District Policy on Honest Academic Conduct and with scholarly norms concerning proper attribution and citation (see Administrative Procedure 3100.3 Honest Academic Conduct and Administrative Procedure 3100.2, Student Disciplinary Procedures). If you are unsure whether your work conforms to this policy, ask me for help before you turn it in. The bottom line for this course is that it is never acceptable to represent others' work as your own, even a little bit, even by mistake. If I find evidence of academic dishonesty, I will assign a failing grade on the assignment and may report the incident to the Dean of Students.

Accommodation of Disability: Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should notify the instructor within the first two weeks of classes. All information will be kept confidential.

Conflict Resolution Procedure: If you have an unresolved conflict during the present class, you must first contact the course instructor in an attempt to resolve the problem. If the results are unsatisfactory, you should next contact the Department Chair. If the results are still unsatisfactory, you should speak with the Dean.

Statement of Retention: Students who are contemplating withdrawal should speak with me first, as I may be able to offer other possible options.

Course Learning Outcomes: Students who complete Sociology 110 will be able to:

1. Evaluate the difference between the sociological imagination and common sense.
2. Compare and contrast the theoretical perspectives of functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interaction.
3. Categorize methods of research as stemming from either positivist or interpretive approaches.
4. Weigh the relative influence of culture and social structure on behavior.

5. Compare and contrast sociological and psychological theories of socialization.
6. Describe the social constructionist, dramaturgical, and ethnomethodological approaches to the study of social interaction.
7. Apply theory to substantive areas, such as race, class, medicine, deviance, and gender.

Student Learning Objectives: Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain key sociological concepts and apply them to everyday life.
2. Identify, compare, and apply key sociological perspectives.
3. Understand and apply the sociological imagination to a variety of contemporary social phenomena.
4. Appraise the historical development of sociology as a separate discipline compared to other social sciences.
5. Distinguish among the various methods of research and data collection
6. Describe the various sociological theories on the role of interaction on the process of socialization
7. Assess how social processes and organizational structures shape, guide and influence individual and group behavior in contemporary society.
8. Describe and explain the basic dimensions of social inequality, stratification, and social change in historical and contemporary society.
9. Apply sociological theories to substantive areas including, but not limited to: class, race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and key social institutions.

Course Schedule & Outline:

Wk	Date	Reading Assignment	Important Dates
1	1/25/16 1/27/16	1. Conley, Chapter 1: Sociological Imagination 2. Conley, Chapter 1: Sociological Imagination	
2	2/1/16 2/3/16	3. Conley, Chapter 2: Methods 4. Conley, Chapter 3: Culture	Add/Drop by 2/5
3	2/8/16 2/10/16	5. Miner, Horace. 1956. "Body Ritual of the Nacirema" <i>American Anthropologist</i> , 58(3): 503-507. 6. Chapter 4: Socialization and the Construction of Reality	
4	2/15/16 2/17/16	No Class – Holiday 7. Chapter 4: Socialization and the Construction of Reality 8. Goffman, Erving. 1959. "The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life," reprinted from <i>The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life</i> , Doubleday Anchor Books.	
5	2/22/16 2/24/16	9. Chapter 5: Groups and Networks 10. Conley, Chapter 14: Capitalism and the Economy	Assignment 1 Due
6	2/29/16 3/2/16	11. Conley, Chapter 14: Capitalism and the Economy 12. Marx, Karl. Copyright in the Public Domain. "Manifesto of the Communist Party." Parts 1 and 2, or Pp. 14-27.	
7	3/7/16 3/9/16	13. Conley, Chapter 7: Stratification 14. Planet Money. 2013. "Episode 496: Where the Planet Money T-Shirt Began" National Public Radio.	
8	3/14/16 3/16/16	15. Conley, Chapter 15: Authority 16. Conley, Chapter 15: Authority	
9	3/21/16 3/23/16	17. No Reading 18. No Reading: In-class exam	Midterm Exam
	3/28/16 3/30/16	No Class – Spring Break No Class – Spring Break	
10	4/4/16 4/6/16	19. Conley, Chapter 10: Poverty 20. Conley, Chapter 6: Social Control and Deviance	
11	4/11/16 4/13/16	21. Conley, Chapter 6: Social Control and Deviance 22. Conley, Chapter 8: Gender	
12	4/18/16 4/20/16	23. Conley, Chapter 8: Gender 24. Messner, Michael A. 2000. "Barbie Girls versus Sea Monsters: Children Constructing Gender" <i>Gender & Society</i> 14(6): 765-784.	
13	4/25/16 4/27/16	25. Conley, Chapter 9: Race 26. Conley, Chapter 9: Race	
14	5/2/16 5/4/16	27. Conley, Chapter 17: Science, Environment and Society 28. Conley, Chapter 17: Science, Environment and Society	Assignment 2 Due
15	5/9/16 5/11/16	29. Conley, Chapter 18: Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change 30. Conley, Chapter 18: Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change	
16	5/16/16 5/18/16	31. No Reading 32. No Reading: In-class exam	Final Exam