

Syllabus

Principles of Sociology

Sociology 131.08 – Fall 2007

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Textbook: John Macionis, Society: the basics. Ninth edition

Catalog Description:

This course is an introduction to the basic elements of society. In looking at human behavior, this course includes an introduction to dynamics of society, culture, social groups, social institutions, socialization, social processes, and social structure.

Learning Outcomes:

Sociology is the scientific study of human society. This course in Sociology is designed to help you understand the society you live in. This course will explore the various elements of sociology. During the course, you will:

- Develop a sociological imagination, the ability to see and understand how societal issues can both positively and negatively affect the inner world of the individual and his/her relationship with others.
- Define, compare and contrast the major theoretical perspectives within the field of sociology.
- Relate theoretical assumptions to everyday behaviors.
- Examine and summarize the role of values and ethics in social science research.
- Define, examine, and analyze the ways in which different types of research methodology can be used to determine the underlying patterns of the social order.
- Define and evaluate the concepts in the areas of inequality, social institutions, group formation and behavior, deviance, and social change.
- Enhance the ability to critically examine the social structure, both in terms of one's own "community" and humanity in general.

Course Structure:

This course has elements of lecture, discussion, student participation, outside exercises, and current events. Participation and discussion are encouraged to further the understanding of sociology and current social events. Respect will be expected of all opinions and statements made during class discussion and should remain within the walls of the classroom. Inconsiderate behavior will not be tolerated.

Grading:

Your final grade will be cumulative of four in class exams, one final exam (lowest grade dropped), one book review, a course evaluation, and a series of outside assignments. The total amount of points accumulated will be divided by 500 to decide your final grade.

Tests 1-5500 points/ lowest test dropped

Outside Assignments...100 points

500 total points available. Final grade will be based on points accumulated throughout semester.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes and participate fully in class activities. A record of attendance will be maintained by the instructor. Punctual attendance is also expected of each student. Please be respectful and arrive to class on time. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for both absences and tardiness and are also expected to initiate action to satisfy all missed class work. Failure to do so will affect grades.

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive an F for that assignment with more severe sanctions as appropriate.

Americans with Disabilities Act

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities must register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center and then arrange a conference with the instructor at the very beginning of the semester in order that accommodations can be made to assure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

Religious Holidays

The Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious Holy Day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20 of the Tax Code. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding any missed classes due to "Religious Holy Days".

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students shall arrive to class on time and be respectful to their other students. If a student needs to arrive to class late or leave class early the student will make the professor aware of these needs prior to class time. All cell phones, iPods, and beepers must be turned off and stowed away while in the classroom. Students who disrupt the class will be contacted by the professor to adjust their behaviors. In extreme cases students who cannot comply to these requirements can be removed and resigned from the class.

Visitors to the Classroom:

Unannounced visitors to the class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor is allowed to remain in the classroom.

Course Guidelines:

1. It is your responsibility to drop the course. I will not drop classes on your behalf.
2. Cell phones should be turned off at all time, exceptions can be made for emergency situations.
3. Plagiarism and Cheating will be not be tolerated in any form, in the event of either, failure of the assignment or class may be imposed at instructors' discretion.
4. Attendance is expected to do well in the class; excessive absences will result in a lower final grade.
5. Classes will contain a mixture of lectures, presentations, in class discussions, and internet activities.
6. Points will be deducted from late assignments; missed tests can be made up at the testing center at the end of the semester.

Course Schedule – Tentative

Week of:

- Aug. 20: Macionis: Ch. 1- Sociology: Perspective, Theory, and Method
- Aug. 27: Macionis: Ch. 1- Sociology: Perspective, Theory, and Method
- Sept. 3: Macionis: Ch. 2 - Culture
- Sept. 10: Macionis: Ch. 3 - Socialization: From Infancy to Old Age
Macionis: Ch. 4 - Social Interaction in Everyday Life
- Sept. 17: Macionis: Ch. 5 - Groups and Organization
- Sept. 24: Macionis: Ch. 6 - Sexuality and Society
Macionis : Ch. 7 -Deviance
- Oct. 1: Macionis: Ch. 7 -Deviance
Exam 1: Thursday the 4th.
- Oct. 8: Macionis: Ch. 8 - Social Stratification
- Oct. 15: Macionis: Ch. 9 - Global Stratification
- Oct. 22: Macionis : Ch. 10 - Gender Stratification
Macionis : Ch. 11 - Race and Ethnicity
- Oct. 29: Macionis Ch. 13 - Family and Religion
- Nov. 5: Macionis: Ch. 14 - Education, Health, and Medicine
Exam 2: Thursday the 9th.
- Nov. 12: Macionis : Ch. 12 - Economics and Politics .
- Nov. 19: Macionis: Ch. 12 - Economics and Politics
(Thanksgiving)
- Nov. 26: Macionis: Ch. 15 - Population, Urbanization, and Environment
Quiz #5: Thursday, Nov. 29th.
- Dec. 3: Macionis: Ch. 16 - Social Change: Modern and PostModern Societies
- Dec. 10: **Final Exam: Tuesday, Dec. 11. 8 - 10 a.m.**

