

# Understanding Sociology

[Introduction to Sociology]

YISS Summer 2021

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Office Hours: By appointment

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Simply put, sociology is the study of society. It offers a unique perspective with which to view the structures, institutions, groups, patterns and interactions in which we are immersed. This introductory course provides an overview of the key concepts, theories and substantive issues in sociology. The goal is to help students discover and use the sociological imagination to foster a greater understanding of the relationship between their everyday lives and the social world. Students also should become more aware, informed and critically-thinking members of the social world in which we live.

## COURSE MATERIALS

There is one required book that you must purchase for the class:

Essentials of Sociology, 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> edition, Anthony Giddens, Mitchell Duneier, Richard Appelbaum and Deborah Carr. New York: WW Norton

Alternatively, a more inexpensive option for you is to purchase an on-line access to the e-book version of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the textbook at:

<https://digital.wwnorton.com/essentialofsoc7>

There also will be some readings marked by an \* that are available as PDF files on YSCEC.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance is mandatory. If you come in late (10 minutes or more), your attendance will not be counted for that day but you are still required to attend. Also, you are expected to read the assigned chapters/articles prior to class so that you can participate fully in the discussions. *Any student caught cheating on the assignments will automatically receive an F in the course.*

Your grade will be based on the following:

- Midterm Exam: 40%
- Final Exam: 40%
- Class Participation/Group Work: 20%

## OVERVIEW OF COURSE

*(T) refers to the textbook, Essentials of Sociology; \* refers to on-line article*

June 29: What is Sociology? An Introduction

No reading

June 30: What is Sociology (con't)

Chapter 1 (T)

\*C. Wright Mills, Sociological Imagination

July 1: Sociological Methods

Chapter 1 (T)

July 5: Culture and Society

Chapter 2 (T)

\*Anderson, Elijah, Code on the Street (R)

July 6: Socialization

Chapter 3 (T)

July 7: Social Interaction and Everyday Life

Chapter 4 (T)

\*Goffman, Erving, On Face-work (R)

July 8: Groups, Networks, and Organizations (*Group work day*)

Chapter 5 (T)

July 12: Groups, Networks, and Organizations

GROUP WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE

\*Kelman, Herbert and V. Lee Hamilton, My Lai Massacre: a Crime of Obedience?

\*Erickson, Bonnie, Social Networks: the Value of Variety

July 13: Conformity, Deviance and Crime

Chapter 6 (T)

\*Chambliss, William, The Saints and the Roughnecks (R)

July 14: MIDTERM REVIEW

No reading

July 15: MIDTERM

July 19: Stratification, Class, Inequality (*Group work day*)

Chapter 7 (T)

\*Ehrenreich, Barbara, Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America

July 20: Global Inequality

Chapter 8 (T)

Chapter 13 (T: After Terrorism section)

July 21: Gender Inequality

Chapter 9

July 22: Family (*Group work day*)

GROUP WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE

Chapter 11 (T)

July 26: Ethnicity and Race

Chapter 10 (T)

July 27: Education

Chapter 12 (T: Education Sections only)

July 28: Religion (*Group work day*)

Chapter 12 (T: Religion Sections only)

July 29: FINAL REVIEW #1 (Chapters 7-12)

No reading

August 2: The Body

Chapter 14 (T)

August 3: Politics

Chapter 13 (T: beginning through Terrorism section)

August 4: FINAL REVIEW (Chapters 13-14)

No reading

August 5: FINAL