

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (SOC110)
St. Louis University in Madrid
Spring 2014 Course Syllabus

Time: Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:15 **Place:** Padre Rubio Hall 4
Professor: Dr. Mary Prendergast (email: mprende1@slu.edu)
Office hours/location: Tuesdays, 4-6 pm, San Ignacio Hall, Room 13
Credits: 3
Prerequisites: None

Course description and objectives:

Sociology is the study of the social lives of and interactions among individuals, groups and societies; simply put, it is the study of human social behavior. It is a broad discipline overlapping with and uniting anthropology, economics, history, political science, psychology and women's studies, among other fields. This course introduces students to basic concepts, theories and methods of sociology, covering issues such human behavior in groups, obedience and disobedience of social and cultural norms, and the relationships to culture to behavior. We also discuss structural inequalities within society, focusing on socioeconomic, gender and race-based inequality in the United States. We will also discuss global issues, such as globalization, immigration and development; however, the course focuses on American sociology and US-based case studies. Throughout the term, we will be "doing" sociology by relating aspects of everyday life to the underlying social forces that shape them. Students should come away from the course able to employ their "sociological imagination," i.e. to view personal and particular situations more objectively and broadly through the lens of social analysis. Students will also understand social research methods and will gain the ability to critical evaluate such research.

Requirements:

The subjects covered in this course require careful thought and debate; although the readings will provide essential background to lectures and discussions, I do not teach exclusively from them and your attendance and *active participation* in class is both expected and necessary in order to do well, with participation being a major part of your final grade. There will be three in-class exams, which will draw on readings, lectures and class discussions. Lecture slides/notes will be available online before the exams. There will also be a group project that deals with research methods. This project will be discussed early in the semester and your group must present a proposal one month before the project is due at end of term. You will ask a question that can be answered through surveys, interviews, network analysis or other methods on the SLU campus or within Madrid. The project will culminate in a poster explaining your group's question, hypothesis, data collection, analysis and interpretation.

Grading:

Active, meaningful class participation (see below): 20%
Group project on research methods: 15%
Exam 1: 20%
Exam 2: 20%
Final exam (cumulative): 25%

The grading scale is as follows:

93 and above = A
90-92 = A-
87-89 = B+
83-86 = B
80-82 = B-
77-80 = C+
73-76 = C
70-72 = C-
60-69 = D
0-59 = F

What is “active, meaningful participation” and how are participation grades determined?

Students are expected to come to class having done the readings in advance. Active, meaningful participation means: 1) attending class regularly; 2) participating in class discussions by offering comments that demonstrate understanding of course content; 3) asking questions (and/or answering classmates’ questions) in a way that demonstrates engagement with the material. As a very general guideline, students that regularly attend and actively participate in class receive a participation grade of A. Excellent attendance, but meager participation, merits a B. Students who are frequently absent and/or never participate will earn a C. See below for absence & tardiness policy.

Electronic device policy:

Use of laptops, tablets, mobile phones or other electronic devices is not allowed during class.

Attendance Policy:

Repeated unjustified absences or extreme tardiness will affect your class participation grade. *Students who arrive at class more than 15 minutes late will be marked tardy. Two tardies equals one absence.* The participation component of your grade will be decreased by one full letter for every three unjustified absences beyond the add/drop date. A student with 10 or more unjustified absences will fail the course.

Examples of absences that will not be excused:

- An email to your prof stating that you are sick and cannot attend class
- Taking off an extra day for a long traveling weekend

Examples of absences that will be excused:

- Signed/stamped justification that you visited a doctor
- A print-out of documents showing that your flight back from Paris was cancelled
- An email from a professor or Student Life indicating you are on a required class field trip

Missed exam policy:

The exams may only be missed in the event of a medical or family emergency, adequately documented; otherwise, a failing grade will be given.

Policy Statement on Academic Integrity:

The University is a community of learning, whose effectiveness requires an environment of mutual trust and integrity. As members of this community, students, faculty, and staff members share the responsibility to maintain this environment. Academic dishonesty violates it. Although not all forms of academic dishonesty can be listed here, it can be said in general that soliciting, receiving, or providing any unauthorized assistance in the completion of any work submitted toward academic credit is dishonest. It not only violates the mutual trust necessary between faculty and students but also undermines the validity of the University’s evaluation of students and takes unfair advantage of fellow students. Further, it is the responsibility of any student who observes such dishonest conduct to call it to the attention of a faculty member or administrator.

Examples of academic dishonesty would be copying from another student, copying from a book or class notes during a closed-book exam, submitting materials authored by or editorially revised by another person but presented as the student’s own work, copying a passage or text directly from a published source without appropriately citing or recognizing that source, taking a test or doing an assignment or other academic work for another student, tampering with another student’s work, securing or supplying in advance a copy of an examination without the knowledge or consent of the instructor, and colluding with another student or students to engage in an act of academic dishonesty. Where there is clear indication of such dishonesty, a faculty member or administrator has the responsibility to apply appropriate sanctions.

Investigations of violations will be conducted in accord with standards and procedures of the school or college through which the course or research is offered. Recommendations of sanctions to be imposed will be made to the dean of the school or college in which the student is enrolled. Possible sanctions for a violation of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal from the University. The complete SLU

Academic Honesty Policy can be found at the following link:
http://spain.slu.edu/academics/academic_advising/docs/Academic_integrity.pdf

Academic Accommodation:

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.

University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office or at http://spain.slu.edu/academics/learning_resources.html.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at +34 915 54 58 58, ext. 204, send an e-mail to counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu, or visit the Counseling Office (San Ignacio Hall). Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

Policy Statement on Student Work:

Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, we regularly assess our teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose we keep on file anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs such as: assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. Thus, copies of your exams for this course may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If you prefer that Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus does not keep your work on file, you will need to communicate your decision in writing to your professor.

Readings:

The textbook is a general introduction to sociology, here referred to as Giddens:

Giddens, Anthony. *Sociology, 7th Edition*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.

There will be additional required readings posted online on Blackboard. Please familiarize yourself with Blackboard as I will use it often to post readings, handouts, slides and grades. I also make use of some films in class, which I treat as texts, making them fair game on exams.

Important registrar dates (see SLU academic calendar for further information):

Jan 24: Last Day to Drop a Class Without a Grade of W and/or to Add a Class

Feb 10: Last Day to Choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) options

March 12: Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a Grade of W

April 9: Registration begins for Fall Semester

Important course dates:

Feb 18: Exam #1

March 25: Group proposal due

March 27: Exam #2

April 29: Group projects due

May 7: Final exam 12:00-2:00 PM

Course Outline (subject to minor changes):

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment Due
UNIT 1: WHAT IS CULTURE? WHAT IS SOCIETY?		
Tues Jan 14	Introduction to course	---
Thurs Jan 16	The sociological imagination and studying society	Mills, "The Sociological Imagination" In-class social analysis exercise
Tues Jan 21	Culture, values, and norms	Kluckhohn, "Queer Customs" Anderson, "The Code of the Streets"
Thurs Jan 23	Ethnocentrism & relativism	Miner, "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" Abu-Lughod, "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?" pp. 783-top of 787 only
Tues Jan 28	Explaining cultural differences	Harris, "The Abominable Pig" Douglass handout
Thurs Jan 30	The nature-nurture interplay	Stark, "Biology Culture and Society"
UNIT 2: FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY		
Tues Feb 4	Social theory	Giddens Ch. 1, from "The development of sociological thinking" to "what is sociology for?" and Ch. 3, from beginning to "feminism and malestream sociology"
Thurs Feb 6	Doing sociology I: methods	Giddens Ch. 2, from "The Research Process" to "Sociology in the Real World"
Tues Feb 11	Doing sociology II: analysis	Wyatt, "Skipping class" (print and bring paper copy to class for discussion)
Thurs Feb 13	Doing sociology III: ethics	McIntyre, "Doing the Right Thing" Meyer, "If Hitler asked you to electrocute..."
Tues Feb 18	EXAM 1	---
UNIT 3: HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN GROUPS		
Thurs Feb 20	Socialization and norms	Giddens Ch. 7
Tues Feb 25	Gender socialization	Giddens Ch. 8, from "agencies of socialization" to "the life course" Rosin, "A Boy's Life," to bottom of p.6 only Zimbardo & Duncan, "Why Society is Failing Young Boys"
Thurs Feb 27	Film: <i>The Merchants of Cool</i>	Read film handout
Tues Mar 4	WINTER BREAK – NO CLASS	---
Thurs Mar 6	Groups and social control	Take the full slide tour on prisonexp.org ; Christakis TED talk (links to be emailed)
Tues Mar 11	Deviance and social control I	Giddens Ch. 21, skipping "Patterns of crime in UK" & "Crime in global context" sections
Thurs Mar 13	Deviance and social control II	Goffman, "...Total Institutions;" Rosenhan, "...Being Sane in Insane Places"

UNIT 4: SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND INEQUALITY		
Tues Mar 18	Socioeconomic status	Giddens Ch 12 from “class” to “class and lifestyles” & Ch 13 up to “social exclusion”
Thurs Mar 20	Social exclusion & welfare	Giddens Ch 13 from “social exclusion” to “the UK welfare state” Gorski, The Myth of the ‘Culture of Poverty’
Tues Mar 25	Film: <i>Waging a Living</i>	Read film handout; Group research proposal due
Thurs Mar 27	EXAM 2	---
Tues Apr 1	Gender & stratification	Giddens Ch. 15 from “gender socialization” to “queer theory”
Thurs Apr 3	Race, ethnicity & discrimination	Giddens Ch. 16 up to “ethnic diversity” NYTimes, “College Diversity...Last Stand”
Tues Apr 8	Film: <i>Made in America</i>	Read film handout
Thurs Apr 10	Immigration & integration	Giddens Ch. 16, from “Migration in a global age” to end NYT, “Spain, like US, Grapples...”
Tues Apr 15 & Thurs Apr 17	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS	---
Tues Apr 22	Global inequality	Giddens Ch. 14 up to “International organizations and global inequality”
UNIT 5: SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS		
Thurs Apr 24	Group project completion day (NO CLASS)	Meet with your group to finish up project
Tues Apr 29	POSTER SESSION	---
Thurs May 1	HOLIDAY – NO CLASS	---
Tues May 6	Final exam review session	Optional extra credit assignment due
Wed May 7	FINAL EXAM 12:00-2:00 PM	