

Introduction to Sociology
SOC 100
Fall 2009

Draft & Subject to change

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Please be sure to read this syllabus carefully, you are responsible for everything on it. With that said, please let me know anytime there are questions or concerns. I totally and truly welcome polite communication.

Course Content: The focus of this course will be on gaining an understanding of the sociological perspective. We will identify, discuss and write about various topics of sociology such as: social structures and institutions, culture and history, deviance, stratification and inequality.

Student Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Recognize and use the basic terminology used in sociology.
- ✓ Effectively communicate understanding by writing on sociological topics.
- ✓ Understand the history of sociology and how it is relevant to the study of contemporary society.
- ✓ Compare and contrast issues, cultures, social groups and theories using a sociological point of view
- ✓ Identify and describe the social stratification found in contemporary societies, including socio-economic status, gender, and race/ethnicity
- ✓ Discuss the major sociological theories in analyzing social institutions, social structures, and societal issues.

Laulima access:

Each student is to have access and know how to use to the Laulima site for quizzes and other assignments. For tutorials, please contact http://www.hawaii.edu/talent/laulima_students.htm. For any problems, you must contact Laulima.

All course related communication must be done via the course Laulima cite through the Message folder. I will not respond to any email sent to any address other than Laulima unless you are absolutely unable to get into the Laulima site.

Required Texts:

Title: SOC
Author: Nijole V. Benokraitis
ISBN: 9780495601425
Publisher: Wadsworth Cengage Learning

Additional readings may be assigned

Grading:

Exams (65%):

- ✓ There will be a quiz on Laulima for each chapter, with no make-up allowed except for major extenuating circumstances. The exam dates are listed in the course outline on the last page. (15%)
- ✓ Surprise in-class quizzes may occur, with no make-ups
- ✓ There will be two mid-terms (15% each) and final (20%), all non-cumulative
- ✓ You must take the midterms and final to get a passing grade for the course.

Written Assignments (20%):

- ✓ There will be 1 writing assignment during the semester:
1,000 to 1,100 word essay discussing an aspect of the readings from the text. These essays will show an understanding of the materials and use a recent article, or articles, to be critical of the material or advance an argument made in the readings. Topics and due dates will be assigned.
- ✓ Papers must be typed and written at a college level. Those who have writing difficulties are encouraged to contact the UH Manoa Writing Program (http://www.mwp.hawaii.edu/writer_help.htm).
- ✓ There may be shorter, ad hoc writing assignments assigned as needed.
- ✓ You must turn in a hard copy of your paper and your source(s) on the due date **and** email a copy (using this course's Laulima course page) to me by noon on due date. Late papers will be penalized.
- ✓ **Plagiarism is not tolerated** and will generate penalties such as failing the assignment or failing the entire course or being kicked out of school.

How to write a paper

Read your material (book and article) and take notes as you read. Think about what you have read and whether the article supports or goes against what you have read in your text book.

Make an outline

- ✓ Introduction
Tell me what you are going to write about. Should be 4 to 8 sentences
- ✓ Body
Tell me about what the text book said and what you think about that (agree or disagree), or what you learned from reading about it. Introduce your article and tell me why you chose that article (inequality has always been of interest to me because....).
Now tie the text book to your article: "My article clearly supports/rejects what the textbook said because" Or "I think Author's Last Name's article really shows another point of view than what was in the text book because" You need to tell me what you think about what you have learned.
- ✓ Summary
Wrap it all up.
"This paper's goal was to look closely at"
Or
"..... is a very important topic. In Schaefer, I learned and it was reinforced/supported/proven wrong in Author's Last Name's article. Author's Last Name clearly showed"
- ✓ Bibliography
Please use MLA style bibliography (and citations in your paper).

If you are not familiar with the MLA style, you need to list:

For a Book (like your textbook):

the author's name, the title, the publisher, year published

For an article:

the author's name, the article title, the journal it was published in, date published, page numbers.

How to not plagiarize

- ✓ If you quote (use the exact words or almost the exact words), you must use quotation marks and (Author's Last Name, page number) at the end of the sentence.
- ✓ If you paraphrase (say the same thing but use your own words or just change some of the words around), you must have (Author's Last Name) at the end of the sentence.
- ✓ Do not put one citation at the end of a paragraph and think that it will cover the entire paragraph unless it is very clear that everything in that paragraph is from that one source.
- ✓ If it is in the bibliography, it needs to be cited in your paper. If it is cited in your paper, it needs to be in your bibliography.

Do not use more than 15 words in quotation marks.

Do not just tell me what the textbook and/or article said. Tell me what you have learned and what you think about the topic. Otherwise I will not know if you actually understand the topic.

Do not plagiarize. You must cite everything that is not your own idea, work, or concept. If you learned it from the book or from your article, you must cite it. If you put something in your paper that is not common knowledge (something that almost everyone would know), you must tell me where it came from even if it is "My high school teacher/mother/uncle/boss said ..."

Do not "patchwork." That means using so many quotations or paraphrases that most of your sentences are cited. For you to write a good paper, you have to put in your opinion or your thoughts on the topic.

Do not rant, or carry on, ramble on, or repeat yourself or try to write fancy. These papers are straight forward academic papers in which you are showing me that you understand the topic and have an opinion or some thoughts about it. Use language that you are comfortable with but not too comfortable. Meaning that you need to write it as if you are talking to someone whom you respect and whom you want to respect you. Do not write like you are talking to your friends. This is not creative writing – write clearly and to the point.

Do read your paper slowly, carefully and aloud before you turn it in. This will help you catch typos, spelling errors, bad grammar, bad punctuation, bad sentence structure, paragraphs that don't make sense, etc. Be careful of then/than, are/our, to/too/two, there/their/they're and other similar words. Too many errors will impact your grade.

Do realize that this is a learning experience and I do not expect perfection, only effort and improvement.

Attendance and Participation (15%): Students are expected to be on time and at every class, except in the case of documented (doctor's note) personal illness or family/personal emergency or by written request of the athletics dept. Attendance will be taken randomly and absences will lower your grade. Participation points will be awarded based on active involvement, participation and timely submission and correct completion of assignments/quizzes/papers.

Extra Credit: The random, surprise quizzes which will serve as an attendance record will also serve as occasional extra credit. You will receive attendance points for being there and will receive extra credit points if you are able to answer a question correctly.

There may be additional opportunities for extra credit in this class, but are not guaranteed.

Classroom conduct: All students are encouraged to voice their thoughts and opinions on discussion topics but must be respectful, brief and on topic. Students are also expected to arrive on time, listen and not speak when others are speaking, and not monopolize discussions. All laptops, cell phones and pagers are to be turned off.

Email: From time to time, I will use Lualima messages/email for assignments and/or to get in touch with the students for assignment updates or modifications, meeting place changes, etc. Please make sure that you have access to Lualima **and** that you check it frequently. I check my Lualima account daily and respond to any emails promptly.

Total number of points available for the course will vary depending on pop quizzes and ad hoc writing assignments so final grades will be calculated on the percentage of points earned:

97 -100%	A+	82-84	B	69-71	C-
93-96	A	79-81	B-	65-68	D+
89-92	A-	75-78	C+	62-64	D
85-88	B+	72-74	C	59-61	D-
				<59	F

ADA statement

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you, and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

Student Conduct

“Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms.” (University of Hawaii at Manoa, Student Conduct Code, Section H. Academic Dishonesty, Part 2, Page 6).

If you need more help with proper citing, please visit:

<http://www.english.hawaii.edu/writingcenter/>

Course Outline

Subject to changes as needed and with sufficient notice.

Readings to be completed prior to the date noted. It is important that you do the reading before class so you will have an understanding of the topic for class discussion and be prepared for any pop quizzes.

