

Introduction to Sociology



Tell me and I forget; teach me and I remember; involve me and I learn
Benjamin Franklin

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SOC 1010

Summer 2014—Sec 001

8:00 to 9:20 am

Mon/Wed—BehS 112

COURSE CONTENT

Sociology is the scientific study of human society and social behavior. Its subject matter is huge, complex, and varied, and the knowledge produced by sociological research remains imperfect in many ways. *Principles of Sociology* is an introductory college course that invites us to look at familiar surroundings as if for the first time, allowing a fresh view of a world we often take for granted. As Peter Berger, a contemporary sociologist observes: "Sociology is nothing less than a special form of consciousness" (1963). With this new awareness we will study: 1) society; 2) the nature of social life; 3) social differences and inequality; 4) social institutions; and social dynamics and social change. The content of this beginning course is designed to open new worlds and help students understand *sociology in our times*.

COURSE GOAL

Each student upon completion of this class should be able to recognize, define, and understand the major elements of sociological knowledge. *Sociology 1010* should enable us to value other perspectives, behaviors, societies, and cultures, appreciating their unique contributions. Additionally, students should be better prepared to examine their own personal attitudes and lives, particularly in relation to the increasingly diverse nation and world we live in.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A variety of assignments will be completed in order to demonstrate mastery of the subject matter of *Sociology 1010*. The student will create two *paradigm papers* counting **25%** each of the class grade, a *book report* will contribute an additional **30%**, and **10%** of the grade will reflect student responses to movies concerning topical sociological subjects. Lastly, an additional **10%** of the total score will reflect class participation, a critical aspect in learning sociology.

REQUIRED TEXT

Conley, Dalton. 2013. *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist* (3rd Ed). W. W. Norton. Paperback. ISBN 978-0393912999 (try Amazon.com used books or other online sources).

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services (CDS), 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services. Please discuss any concerns with the professor as soon as possible.

GUIDELINES FOR MOVIE RESPONSE PAPERS

During the semester students will review two current (since 2010) films concerning sociological topics. Students should elucidate their reaction to the movie in a 300-word critique, *relating it to what they have learned in sociology* (do not regurgitate the information in the film). Please use a double-spaced line format, with 10-point font, and enter the total word count at the bottom of the paper. Each critique will count **5%** of the class grade.

BOOK REPORT GUIDELINES

For *Introduction to Sociology*, a book report on an approved **non-fiction biography (of an American figure who lived in the last 50 years)**, will count for **30%** of the course grade. Students should choose a **250-300 page** book relating to one of the topics of interest in the text. **The most important aspect to be addressed is how the book reflects major ideas studied in Sociology 1010.** The report shall contain:

- 1) Minimum 2000 words (please note word count (*without abstract*) at end of the report;
- 2) one paragraph abstract;
- 3) sound *topic paragraph*;
- 4) **an analysis of the volume and tie-in of key ideas from text;**
- 5) conclusion;
- 6) 1" margins;
- 7) 10 point type, printed on one side of paper only;
- 8) English, composition and grammar reflecting 1000-level skills.

Keeping these factors in mind, students should allow sufficient time for book reading and production of the report, as well as time to thoroughly proof the final draft. A sample report will be available on *Canvas*.

ABSOLUTELY NO LATE PAPERS will be accepted, since this assignment is due at end of term!

PARADIGM PAPERS

Socrates once commented: "the unexamined life is not worth living." Understanding sociological issues is central to a sound university education and students must first question their own opinions and positions in these areas before they can effectively evaluate them. *Paradigm Papers* are designed to help students: 1) examine beliefs and values concerning topical issues; 2) critically analyze material presented in their text and in class; and 3) project ways in which their actions may change as a result of this examination process. Two *paradigm papers* will count **25%** each toward the class grade. Papers will be graded on their quality of thoughtful analysis and not on the particular views or values reflected. The papers will reflect:

Content

1. first part
 - A. previously held values/beliefs/notions/judgments concerning the topics for that section of the course;
2. second part

- A. *ways* (**concrete examples**) in which the text materials and class discussions have caused a rethinking of previously held concepts;
 - B. *how* the text materials and class discussions have caused a rethinking of previously held concepts.
3. final part
- A. *specific ways* (concrete examples) the new paradigm(s) will change actions in the future;
 - B. *why* actions will change as a result of this material.

Technical

1. 1500 words in length;
2. 10 point type/font (as exemplified on the first page of this syllabus);
3. 1" margins *all around*;
4. double spaced lines;
5. print on one side of paper only;
6. grammar, spelling, punctuation, style acceptable in 1000 level college courses;
7. legal print on final draft (no rough draft or light type printers please—no ragged edged paper);
8. logic and writing befitting a 1000 level college course;
9. "space games" such as extra lines between paragraphs will be avoided;
10. sample paper will be available on *Canvas*;
11. no binders or folders—staple in upper left corner with appropriate cover sheet.

PARTICIPATION

Research indicates that students who attend class on a regular basis earn higher marks than those who do not. This course has been purposely designed to reward those who attend, having read the assigned chapters *in advance*, prepared to discuss the material. Class size notwithstanding, each student will be able to discuss important aspects of the texts under consideration on a regular basis. One of three marks (+, √, or 0/N) will be noted on the student's card for each time they are called to comment in class. Additionally, a daily roll will be maintained for attendance. Participation contributes **10%** to the overall course grade, representing a very critical part of the student's effort. Absences for illness, work, or other **unavoidable** situations will be considered on a case-by-case basis as they arise, and may be excused if not extreme (only ½ points may be earned for excused absences). Participation marks will be available for student's perusal upon request before or after class, or by appointment.

CLASS CALENDAR

- 12 May (M)** Course introduction: presentation of syllabus
- 14 May (W)** *Elements of Humanity & Sociological Timelines*
- 19 May (M)** Sociological Imagination: An Introduction?
Conley--Chpt 1
- 21 May (W)** Sociological Imagination: An Introduction?
Conley--Chpt 1
- 26 May (M)** **MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY—NO CLASS!**
- 29 May (W)** Methods
Conley--Chpt 2
- 2 Jun (M)** Culture and Media
Conley--Chpt 3
- 4 Jun (W)** Socialization and the Construction of Reality
Conley—Chpt 4
- 9 Jun (M)** Networks and Groups
Conley--Chpt 5
- 11 Jun (W)** Social Control and Deviance
Conley—Chpt 6

16 Jun (M) Stratification
Conley--Chpt 7

18 Jun (W) Gender
Conley--Chpt 8

23 Jun (M) Race
Conley—Chpt 9

25 Jun (W) Poverty-----**Paradigm Paper 1 due!**

Conley—Chpt 10



30 Jun (M) Health and Society
Conley—Chpt 11

2 Jul (M) Family-----**Movie Reviews may now be submitted!**

Conley—Chpt 12



7 Jul (W) Education
Conley—Chpt 13

9 Jul (W) Capitalism and the Economy
Conley—Chpt 14

14 Jul (M) Authority and the State-----**Book Report Due!**

Conley—Chpt 15



16 Jul (W) Religion
Conley—Chpt 16

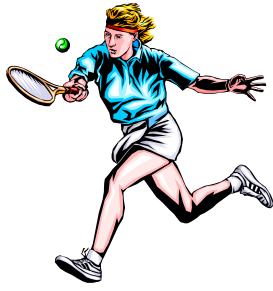
21 Jul (M) Science, the Environment, and Society
Conley--Chpt 17

23 Jul (W) Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change
Conley—Chpt 18

28 Jul (M) Sociology and you/Classes & careers

30 Jul (W) **Paradigm Paper 2 due!**





That's All, Folks!!

Have a great summer!!