

Sociology 101: Introduction to Sociology

Spring 2020
Course Section: SOCI 101-4226
Class Location: ONLINE (CANVAS)

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VIRTUAL Office Hrs: Tues 2:00-4:00pm

***"Whatever Sociology may be,
It is the result of constantly asking the question:
What is the meaning of this?"
-C. Wright Mills***

Course Description

This course introduces students to the major theoretical perspectives, concepts, and areas of study in sociology. It critically examines the relationship between the social environment and human behavior, specifically on how social forces such as race, gender, sexuality, age, and social class shape our everyday lives. In addition to learning sociological theories and research methods, students gain an understanding of sociological concepts such as culture, socialization, social institutions, deviance, stratification, and social change.

Course Format

This course operates entirely online through CANVAS. There will be no in person classes. Modules are organized in a weekly format, and assignments are all due at certain dates and times (usually 11:59pm PST) throughout each week (I use a Tue/Wed/Fri structure). Therefore, this class requires a different type of motivation and learning for you as a student. Make sure you have a printed copy of the syllabus so you can check what your responsibilities are for each week. You should also plan to log into CANVAS on a regular basis. While it may be tempting to work ahead and complete all the modules, the assignments and rhythm of the course depend on a weekly structure. Therefore, modules will be unlocked each Friday for the following week. ***Canvas has an app that can be used on any smart device. I suggest you download and use it!***

Each time you log on to the class, make sure to do the following:

- 1) Check for any announcements on the CANVAS Dashboard.
- 2) Check on the weekly module for the progression of assigned work.
- 3) Make sure to note any emails you have received from me/fellow students.
- 4) Take note of any upcoming assignments/quizzes/discussions.
- 5) Check the "Course Help" discussion board if you have any questions or wish to help out another student!
- 6) Email me with any questions, concerns, issues, etc.

Required Text

The book can be purchased at the ECC bookstore or directly through Pearson.com. Lawston's text is available as an e-book and/or a hard copy format with a digital access card. Additionally, there may be readings/resources posted in PDF format on the CANVAS course site.

Lawston, Jodi. 2019. *Sociology: Structure and Change*. Boston: Pearson. (1st edition – ISBN 978-0133885774)

REVEL Access

You must have access to Revel (the learning platform via Pearson) in order to complete the readings and quizzes. You can access Revel within Canvas directly or by accessing the Pearson.com website. There is even a Revel app!

Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

SLO #1 Sociological Theoretical Perspectives: Students will demonstrate an **understanding** of the purpose of theoretical perspectives and **apply** sociological perspectives such as functionalism, conflict theory, and interactionism to social scenarios.

SLO #2 Sociological Concepts: Students will define and demonstrate an **understanding** of sociological concepts, such as social structure, culture, socialization, deviance, and social stratification by **applying** them to social scenarios.

Course Requirements

- **Awakening the Sociological Imagination Warm-Up (5%):** These first **TWO** mini-assignments (one quiz and one discussion) will warm you up to the class and get you thinking sociologically, as well as introduce you to the rest of your classmates. Make sure to 1) do the quiz, 2) post your information as requested, and 2) reply to five of the posts as indicated in the directions!
- **Reading Quizzes (30%):** **ELEVEN** reading quizzes (each worth 3 points) are assigned throughout the class. Each quiz has 15 multiple-choice questions. Students must take the quiz on the due date in class in order to receive credit. **NO LATE QUIZZES will be accepted; therefore, the lowest quiz score will be dropped.**
- **Reaction Papers (20%):** **FOUR** reaction papers (each worth 5 points) are assigned throughout the class. Each reaction paper is a way to critically examine issues and apply sociological skills. Some papers may involve answering questions, while others may involve activities, reflections, or specific tasks. Each paper **MUST** be uploaded as a WORD or PDF DOCUMENT by 11:59pm (PST) on the due date. **NO LATE PAPERS will be accepted.**
- **Group Discussions (20%):** **FOUR** group discussions (each worth 5 points) are assigned throughout the class that will focus on particular issues. In order to receive full credit for each discussion, each student must (1) post their written response to the discussion questions, and (2) post a response to at least **FIVE** other classmates' posts. Initial posts will be due by 11:59pm (PST) on the Tuesday of the week designated, and responses to classmates' posts are due by 11:59pm (PST) Friday of the week designated. These discussions are an opportunity to think critically, engage in healthy conversation, and practice sociological interactions. **NO LATE POSTINGS/REPLIES will be accepted.**
- **Final Exam (25%):** The final exam will consist of 3 short answer/essay questions and 60 multiple-choice questions. Students must take the exam by 11:59pm on the due date in order to receive credit. **No make-up exams are allowed unless prior arrangements are made for extraordinary circumstances only.**

Grades

Each assignment is graded in points (that translate to percentages that add up to 100%). Final course grades will follow a standard scale (90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-60=F). *Grades will be calculated in the following manner:*

Sociological Imagination Warm-Up	5%
Reading Quizzes (10 worth 3 points each)	30%
Reaction Papers (4 worth 5 points each)	20%
Group Discussions (4 worth 5 points each)	20%
Final Exam	25%

Late Policy

Students are advised that **NO LATE WORK** is accepted under any circumstances. I will stand firm on this policy as the online format of the course requires rigor and attention to detail. It is a good idea to plan for computer/internet problems by finishing any assignments in advance of the due date. **Faulty network connections, computer glitches and general Internet issues are not a valid excuse for missed work. If you should miss a quiz for any reason, remember that the lowest quiz score will be dropped.**

Student Logistics

Confirming deadlines, dates and rules for dropping and/or withdrawal classes are the responsibility of the student. **Students will be dropped if not logged into the course in the first 48 hours.** Incompletes will not be given in this class under any circumstances aside from death, duress, or extreme hardship, especially after the last date of withdrawal, and after having completed at least 75% of coursework. For information on student rights and grievance procedures, visit <http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/policies.asp>

Academic Integrity (Student Code of Conduct)

According to the El Camino College Student Code of Conduct, “It is the responsibility of all members of the academic community to behave in a manner which encourages learning and promotes honesty and to act with fairness toward others.” Therefore, incidences of academic dishonesty, collusion, and plagiarism WILL NOT be tolerated in this class. Refer to the following website for a full explanation of academic dishonesty and subsequent consequences:

<https://www.elcamino.edu/student-services/activities/codeofconduct.asp> If I find that a student has committed a violation of academic integrity, the student will receive a “0” on the assignment and may fail the course. Please remember the main goal is for students to *actually learn* about sociology!

Students with Certain Needs (ADA Statement)

El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying him/her/themselves to the instructor and to the Special Resource Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resource Center at (310) 660-3295 or visit <http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/src/>

A Word on Etiquette & “Netiquette”

We all have many responsibilities that include other classes, jobs, pets, families, friends, sports, music, eating, entertainment, socializing, and living life. At the same time, this is a college course that involves exposure to scholarly content and skills, as well as the overall professionalization process. Put forth your best effort and *engage in class responsibilities in a timely manner, be respectful to the professor and fellow students, laugh, stay informed, and keep me informed.* Good etiquette also involves respectful communication and appropriate expectations for interpersonal interactions. Please allow me 24-48 hours to respond to your emails. Finally, I take my position as “sociological mentor” seriously and have high expectations for you all as future sociologists “in training.” I genuinely love what I do as a career, so trust the process, and be the best student you can be. In return, I’ll be the best professor I can be. ☺

“Course Help” Resource

Your classmates are probably your best resource in this class. Therefore, there will be a **“Course Questions and Help”** link in the Discussion Topics that you should refer to **BEFORE** emailing me with questions. Check that link as regularly as you check the rest of CANVAS. If you have a question about *anything* related to class, post it there first. If you see a question posted that you think you can help with, respond to it! This will help us to get to know each other a little better, as well as to help us develop a sense of community, which is imperative to successful online learning. Also, I may not always be at my desk checking email, so if you have a question, perhaps a fellow classmate can give you a quick answer!

Course Objectives

- Define and describe sociology as a field of study and distinguish it from other disciplines in the social sciences.
- Explain and apply the sociological imagination as defined by C. Wright Mills.
- Identify and describe key theoretical perspectives in sociology, including functionalism, conflict, and interactionism. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of each perspective relative to a variety of social situational circumstances.
- Identify and analyze prominent classic theorists in sociology, such as Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim, as well as contemporary theorists, such as Peter Berger, George Ritzer, and Talcott Parsons and their contributions to the field of sociology.
- Identify steps in the scientific method and distinguish between qualitative and quantitative research methods.
- Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of research methodologies sociologists use to gather and analyze data.
- Articulate dimensions of material and nonmaterial culture, including norms, values, and symbols.
- Classify and define micro and macro elements of social structure, including status, role, social groups, organizations, and institutions.
- Identify agents of socialization and describe the process of socialization throughout the life course. Explain the “nature vs. nurture” debate and assess socialization theories of human development.
- Define deviance and social control. Identify and apply theories used to explain deviant behavior.
- Demonstrate an understanding of sociological concepts relating to social stratification and inequality.
- Describe major social institutions and evaluate their impact on individuals and groups in American society.
- Discuss historical and contemporary changes in these institutions.

Modules 1 & 2	Sociology, Society, & The Sociological Imagination
Fri 2/28 Tues 3/3 Fri 3/6	“Awakening The Sociological Imagination” Quiz Due (no reading necessary, just follow the prompt) “Getting to Know You” Personal Paragraph Due “Getting to Know You” Paragraph Replies Due
Module 3	Doing Sociology: Theoretical Perspectives
<i>Module Readings: Lawston: Chapter 1</i> Wed 3/11	Reading Quiz I Due (chapter 1 only) → Revel Access
Module 4	Doing Sociology: Research Methods
<i>Module Readings: Lawston: Chapter 2</i> Wed 3/18 Fri 3/20	Reading Quiz II Due (chapter 2 only) → Revel Access Reaction Paper I Due
Module 5	Culture & Socialization
<i>Module Readings: Lawston: Chapters 3 & 4</i> Wed 3/25	Reading Quiz III Due (chapter 3 only) → Revel Access
Module 6	Social Structure & Everyday Interaction
<i>Module Readings: Lawston: Chapter 5</i> Tues 3/31 Wed 4/1 Fri 4/3	Group Discussion I Posts Due Reading Quiz IV Due (chapter 5 only) → Revel Access Group Discussion I Replies Due
Modules 7 & 8	Deviance, Crime & Social Control
<i>Module Readings: Lawston: Chapters 6 & 7</i> Wed 4/8 Wed 4/8 Fri 4/10	Reading Quiz V Due (chapter 6 only) → Revel Access Reading Quiz VI Due (chapter 7 only) → Revel Access Reaction Paper II Due
April 13-17	Spring Break!!!!!!!
Modules 9 & 10	Social Stratification, Work & The Economy
<i>Module Readings: Lawston: Chapters 8 & 9</i> Wed 4/22 Tues 4/28 Fri 5/1	Reading Quiz VII Due (chapter 8 only) → Revel Access Group Discussion II Posts Due Group Discussion II Replies Due
Module 11	Race & Ethnicity
<i>Module Readings: Lawston: Chapter 10</i> Wed 5/6 Fri 5/8	Reading Quiz VIII Due (chapter 10 only) → Revel Access Reaction Paper III Due
Module 12	Genders & Sexualities
<i>Module Readings: Lawston: Chapter 11</i> Wed 5/13	Reading Quiz IX Due (chapter 11 only) → Revel Access
Module 13	Intimate Relationships and Families
<i>Module Readings: Lawston: Chapter 12</i> Tues 5/19 Wed 5/20 Fri 5/22	Group Discussion III Posts Due Reading Quiz X Due (chapter 12 only) → Revel Access Group Discussion III Replies Due
Modules 14 & 15	Social Institutions, Movements & Social Change
<i>Module 14 Readings: Lawston: Chapters 16, 18, 19</i> Wed 5/27 <i>Module 15 Readings: Lawston: Chapters 13, 14, 17</i> Tues 6/2 Wed 6/3 Fri 6/5	Reading Quiz XI (chapter 19 only) → Revel Access Group Discussion IV Posts Due Reaction Paper IV Due Group Discussion IV Replies Due
Final Exam	Assessing the Successful Introduction to Sociology
Fri 6/12	Final Exam Due