Sociology 101
Introduction to Sociology

Summer 2014
#10766 & 10896
100% Online
6/9/14-7/11/14

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Course Description

This course examines small group interactions and cultural patterns of American and other societies using the conceptual, theoretical, and methodological principles and applications to explain how values, roles, norms, social interaction, and social inequality as well as other concepts influence individuals, groups, and society.

There are no prerequisites for this course, however it is recommended that you be prepared for English 101. The course is CSU and UC transferable.

Introduction to sociology provides a firm foundation for other courses in the social sciences as it provides an insight into areas of social life.

Student Learning Outcome

Students will be able to analyze contemporary social issues using the Sociological Imagination and the three major theoretical perspectives.

The sociology Department at College of the Canyons offers two Associate’s degrees. The AA degree and the AA-T degree for students planning to transfer to CSUN.
Course Objectives

Students will be able to
1. Define sociological terms and concepts.
2. Compare and contrast the three major theoretical perspectives used in the discipline to understand human behavior.
3. Distinguish the strengths and weaknesses of the theoretical and methodological perspectives used in the discipline.
4. Examine the concept of social norms and determine why they exist in every culture worldwide, and how they function as social control.
5. Analyze human social interaction based on verbal and non-verbal communication, as determined by culturally shared meanings.
6. Contrast cross-cultural examples of human behavior, especially cultural differences regarding customs, traditions, and values.
7. Examine the subfields of sociology and discuss their relationship to understanding both personal and structural changes to human behavior.

Required Textbook

There is a link to the free open source textbook in the menu in Blackboard. Additional articles from the library are in the unit folders. You may read them on your computer or print them.

The first folder in the Unit Folders menu item contains a chapter about getting through school, a discussion forum, and a quiz—these must be completed by the date on the calendar or I may drop you from class due to non attendance. Merely entering the class does NOT constitute attendance—you must complete the quiz and initial forum posting to stay in class.

The free textbook chapters are available in the Unit Folders. Each unit folder (Units 1-5) contains a link to one or more articles, an exam, and a link to the
COC provides student email accounts for all college business and communication. In order to comply with FERPA (Family Education Rights and Privacy Act), correspondence with the college not coming from your student email account may be disregarded. Please go to [http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/Admissions/StudentEmail.asp](http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/Admissions/StudentEmail.asp) to access your student email. If you use POP or IMAP to access your student email through an outside client, be aware that certain e-mail providers will either block or send messages sent from this course to a spam or bulk mail folder.

I have more than one class, so the subject line of your email should include the 5 digit class section number (e.g., Soci100, #86900)

Remember that you may be working on this class in the middle of the night, but I am not. Please do not expect me to tend to your issues outside of normal work hours; I may do so at times, but please do not expect it on a regular basis. I will respond to emails within 48 hours unless I am out of town. I will notify the class if I am going to be out of town.

Please take the opportunity to practice proper grammar and netiquette (see my website) in your emails.

Many of the functions of Blackboard use pop-ups. You will need to disable the pop-up blocker on your browser to use these items.

I love when working adults hold onto their email address they got at age 14. There’s nothing like getting a personal email from your boss “sparkleprincess79.”

—Aaron Karo

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**Course Requirements**

1 Quiz (15 points)
Research paper (50 points each)
5 Discussion board forums (25 points each)
5 Unit exams (30 points each, lowest score dropped)

Total 350 points

After dropping the lowest exam score
A-315-350  B-280-314  C-245-279  D-210-244
discussion board (no discussion forum for unit 5). Everything for each unit is available for at least one full week. I do not accept late assignments. Do not wait until the end of the time available to complete assignments. Think of the first available date as the due date and think of the last date available as your personal extension. Everything is available at 1 AM and due at 10 AM. I do not use midnight as a due time since I won’t be doing anything with your work at midnight, so I give you 10 more hours to submit it.

**Research Papers**

**CHOOSE ONE OPTION**
Unit 2 Socialization paper—due Thurs 6/26 at 10 AM
Unit 3 Deviant Act paper—due Thurs 7/3 at 10 AM
Unit 4 Inequality paper—due Thurs 7/10 at 10 AM

**General guidelines**
No matter which option you choose, all papers will be graded on grammar, mechanics, organization, and length (10 points). All papers should be organized using the headings listed for that paper. Each section should be a series of fully formed and cohesive paragraphs. Use college-level English writing skills. Think about how many points each section is worth (more points=more important, longer).

All information must be cited in APA format, see [owl.english.purdue.edu](http://owl.english.purdue.edu) for details on how to cite in APA format. Also see [plagiarism.org](http://plagiarism.org) for details on how to not plagiarize. Papers are to be typed, double-spaced, using a 12 point serif font, such as Times New Roman. Papers can be submitted to the Drafts box in Blackboard to check for plagiarism—it is your job to check your paper to be sure you have not plagiarized. Final papers are to be submitted to the final paper box in Blackboard before the due date and time.

*The pupil who is never required to do what he cannot do never does what he can do.*
—John Stuart Mill
Unit 2-Socialization Paper
For this paper you are to observe socialization in groups and report on your observations. You must make your observations now, not report on something you observed in the past. You must make observations many times or over several hours/days so that you can obtain a variety of observations.

Address the following topics and use these headings in your paper.
1. The Situation (5 pts) (at least 1/2 page): Describe the place and conditions of the day and time for each observation. Who was present? What were they doing?
2. The Socialization (10 pts) (about 1 page: What type of socialization took place? What type of group did you observe? What was the status of the person doing the socialization? What was the status of the person being socialized? ) Cite where you got your ideas.
3. Feelings (5 pts) (at least 1/2 page): What were your feelings as you observed these people? Address specific emotions. If the people you were observing noticed you, how did they react?
4. Perspective (15 pts) (at least 1 page): Which ONE of the three major perspectives (Symbolic Interactionism, Structural Functionalism, or Conflict) could you use to frame your observations? Thoroughly tell me about the theory as if I knew nothing about it (this part is at least 1/2 page) and then Fully discuss how this ONE theory would be useful in explaining your findings. Demonstrate that you can think like a sociologist (this part is at least 1/2 page). Your textbook discusses each of these theoretical perspectives and a variety of internet sites do so also. Do NOT copy from the text or another source, I want to read your words. Cite where you got your ideas.
5. Other class concepts (from any unit) (5 pts) (at least 1/2 page: Incorporate other concepts from class to discuss your findings and to support your choice of perspective). Cite where you got your ideas.

Unit 3-Deviant Act Paper
For this paper you are to commit a minor act of deviance and report on the responses you receive. You must do this act now, not report on something you did in the past and not report on something you saw someone else do. You must commit this act many times or over several hours/days so that you can obtain a variety of observations. It must be something that is deviant for you—you do not usually do this. It must be viewed as deviant by your audience. Do NOT commit an act that is permanent, illegal, or may get you into any trouble!

Address the following topics and use these headings in your paper.
1. The Situation (5 pts) (at least 1/2 page): Describe the place and conditions of the day and time for each instance. Who was present? Describe what you did.
2. The Norm (5 pts) (at least 1/2 page): What norm did you violate, what makes the act deviant, who has defined it as deviant, and how has socialization played a part in the definition of this deviance? Cite where you got your ideas.
3. Observations and Feelings (10 pts) (about 1 page): What were your
observations about those who observed you? Address specific examples. How did you feel committing the act? Address specific emotions.

4. **Perspective (15 pts)** (at least 1 page): Which **ONE** of the three major perspectives (Symbolic Interactionism, Structural Functionalism, or Conflict) could you use to frame your investigation of deviant acts? **Thoroughly** tell me about the theory as if I knew nothing about it (this part is at least 1/2 page) and then **Fully discuss how this ONE theory would be useful in explaining your findings. Demonstrate that you can think like a sociologist** (this part is at least 1/2 page). Your textbook discusses each of these theoretical perspectives and a variety of internet sites do so also. Do NOT copy from the text or another source, I want to read your words. Cite where you got your ideas.

5. **Other class concepts (any unit) (5 pts)** (at least 1/2 page): Incorporate other concepts from class to discuss your findings and to support your choice of perspective. Cite where you got your ideas.

You need to be sure that the act you commit is in fact deviant; littering, which may be deviant for you, at a fair where most people litter is not deviant in the context of that situation and will not count.

Some suggestions:
- Give strangers change, a bean, paperclip, rubber band, or other odd object-do this for a full day.
- Pay for everything in pennies-do this for many different purchases in different locations.
- Shave off half of your beard and moustache and go to work, school, shopping.

**Unit 4-Inequality Paper**

For this paper you are to choose one of the inequality chapters and research inequality for that category of people. For example you might be interested in the Aging chapter and how people are discriminated against for being too old or too young. Use resources in the free text, library, and internet. When using internet sites, be sure they present valid information. Go to [Cornell University's evaluation page](http://example.com). Go to the [COC library for articles](http://example.com). See Blackboard for the login and password this semester.

Address the following topics and **use these headings** in your paper.

1. **The History of this Category as a Protected Class (10 pts)** (at least 1 page): Describe the history of prejudice and discrimination for this group. You may start with Wikipedia (wow, I never thought I'd say that, but this page is a good starting point [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protected_class](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protected_class)). Cite where you got your ideas.

2. **Current Issues for this Category of People (10 pts)** (at least 1 page): What are the issues and challenges of this category of people in today’s world? Are these issues different in the US and other countries? What inequality have you observed in your life with regard to this category? Cite where you got your ideas.

3. **Perspective (15 pts)** (at least 1 page): Which **ONE** of the three major perspectives (Symbolic Interactionism, Structural Functionalism, or Conflict) could you use to frame your investigation of this category of people?
Thoroughly tell me about the theory as if I knew nothing about it (this part is at least 1/2 page) and then Fully discuss how this ONE theory would be useful in explaining your findings. Demonstrate that you can think like a sociologist (this part is at least 1/2 page). Your textbook discusses each of these theoretical perspectives and a variety of internet sites do so also. Do NOT copy from the text or another source, I want to read your words. Cite where you got your ideas.

4. Other class concepts (any unit) (5 pts) (at least 1/2 page): Incorporate other concepts from class to discuss your findings and to support your choice of perspective. Cite where you got your ideas.

If it isn’t on the first page of Google search, it doesn’t exist.

—Aaron Karo

The goal of the discussion board is to have students interact with each other. For each forum post a minimum of one thought provoking response to the question posed. Each posting should be no less than six complete sentences written using college level English skills. Each posting is worth 10 points. Initial responses are due a few days after the available date—see the calendar for specific dates. You will need to post an initial response before you can reply to other students, even if you miss the deadline for the initial response and receive no points for it.

Also post a minimum of three thoughtful replies to anyone else’s original posting or reply. Due one week after the available date. These postings should be no less than six complete substantive sentences, again using college level English skills. Three sentences telling that you agree with the person does not qualify; be sure to add something to the conversation (e.g., discuss why you agree). Each response is worth 5 points. Please use the QUOTE button when replying to another student so that the layers of conversation appear.

Replies that say “good job,” “Dear Tom,” “I agree with you” and similar statements don’t count as sentences. You must have at least six substantive sentences that add something, you can also have the cheerleading (good post!) and the salutations (Dear Tom) and the lead in sentences
(I agree with you), but they don’t count when you’re counting your sentences, and I know you are, which is a shame because I really just want you to focus on substance.

So to recap, for each of the forums I post, you will respond with at least one original response and at least three replies to other students’ postings. A given posting can have many layers of replies. If the posting is not thoughtful and relevant you will not earn points.

You can see the grading rubric in the grade details. I go into the forums almost daily and grade what has been posted. If you posted your initial response, and have met the criteria, you will see 10/25 in the gradebook for that forum. If you did not meet the criteria for a post or set of posts, you will see a note in the gradebook (e.g., missing replies, replies are short, post does not meet the substance criteria). If you don’t understand what’s wrong after you read your note please email me.

Discussion Forum Tips
1. Be sure to use the minimum number of substantive sentences.
2. When agreeing or disagreeing with a post, always explain why.
3. Stick to the topic. Read over what you have written and ask yourself “Does this answer the question that was posed?” or “Does this add to the conversation?”
4. When responding to other postings, be sure to add to the discussion.
5. Always check back to your postings for any responses and keep the discussion going by responding back.
6. Use proper Netiquette: respect, full sentences, proper grammar—this is not texting or IMing
7. Title your post with a short description of what your posting is about. Remember, if it has an interesting title, the more likely it is your fellow classmates will read and respond.
8. Proofread your posts before submitting to ensure they are well prepared. Take advantage of available tools in the message box such as spell check or use a word processing program such as Word to edit your postings prior to submitting.
9. Compose your initial thread to a discussion prior to reading your fellow classmates’ postings. This may help prevent you from feeling that you have nothing to add because everything has already been said.
Material for all quizzes and exams is taken from the appropriate chapters, videos, and supplemental materials. There is one quiz on the introductory chapter. The quiz is worth 15 points and will be 20 minutes. (If you have been added to the class after the quiz is due, you are exempt from this quiz and the points will not be used to calculate your grade. There are five, unit exams, each on three chapters. Questions are multiple choice, true/false, or short answer. You have 30 minutes to complete each exam of 30 questions. You cannot restart the exam after you click OK. Be sure you are ready to take the exam. It is open book but you do not have time to look up each question in the textbook so be sure you have read the chapter and articles thoroughly. Your exam results will be recorded in the Blackboard grade book immediately.

If you start an exam in error I can’t help you, sorry, do your best. If an exam gets stuck I can clear it for you, but you have to notify me in enough time to get an email to me and for me to respond. I don’t access email in the middle of the night and I am in class most mornings during fall and spring. If you request several exams to be cleared, I’ll ask you to come to school to take the rest of them. If I don’t clear an exam in time you can’t take it after the due date and time, sorry, deal with it. Since you have a minimum of one week to complete each exam and I drop the lowest score, I do not allow make ups unless you have legal documentation showing you were unable to access the class for the entire time available. Documentation might be a hospital admission record showing you were in the hospital for this time period or incarceration documentation. Not having access to the internet at home is not a valid excuse nor is being out of town due to vacation or work.

If you take more than the allotted time on an exam, Blackboard will tell me exactly how much time you took. You have one minute grace. I will deduct one point for each minute or portion of a minute over time. You get one free overtime pass. If you go overtime your grade will appear as an exclamation point! I look at the exams every few days and fix these as I see them, no need to tell me. If you need more time for tests please see the Disabled Students office now http://www.canyons.edu/offices/dspw/.

A timer should appear just above your start button, but some computers don’t seem to display it (mine doesn’t). Some computers give a one minute warning, but again some students tell me they have never seen it. So, you will need to keep an eye on your clock or set a timer for yourself.
**Class Policies**

**Important things to know**

- Check your grades online periodically throughout the semester. Please do NOT email me after the semester ends to ask me to reconsider your grade unless I have made an error on the final exam/project grade.
- Do NOT email me to tell me that another person in your class got the next higher grade and only had ½% more than you or even ½% less (think about your attendance and class participation). If you have an 89.9% you have earned a B. If you *have* participated fully in the class, *I may* bump your grade up to an A.
- Back up all of your work on the computer. I am not responsible for computer or printer malfunctions or loss of electricity. Save all of your graded work until your grade for this class is posted to your record. In fact, you should save everything until your diploma is in your hand.

I am not responsible for your computer or internet malfunctions. If Blackboard has malfunctions please inform me or Blackboard support (bbsupport@canyons.edu) 661/362-3344 ASAP and we will rectify problems immediately. I strongly suggest you complete the chapter requirements early in case of technical malfunctions. All chapters will be available for an ample amount of time given the constraints of the semester in which you’re taking this class.

**Non Progress/Attendance in Class**

- If you are not making progress in this class you will need to drop yourself in MyCanyons. Check the drop and withdrawal deadlines on the course calendar and make sure you drop yourself before the deadline http://www.canyons.edu/Faculty/marencoa/Pages/Syllabi.aspx.
- In the online environment failing to meet deadlines represents an absence from class.
- As per college policy I can also drop you for failing to attend class during the drop period.
- After you drop the class you will still remain in Blackboard until I manually purge you and you will continue to receive class emails until you are purged. Feel free to send me an email letting me know you have dropped the class and I’ll purge you right away.
**Academic Dishonesty**

Students are expected to do their own work as assigned. At College of the Canyons, we believe that academic integrity and honesty are some of the most important qualities college students need to develop and maintain. To facilitate a culture of academic integrity, College of the Canyons has defined plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Due process procedures have been established when plagiarism or academic dishonesty is suspected.

At COC, we define plagiarism as follows: Plagiarism is the submission of someone else’s work or ideas as one’s own, without adequate attribution. When a student submits work for a class assignment that includes the words, ideas or data of others, without acknowledging the source of the information through complete, accurate, and specific references, plagiarism is involved. This may include dual submissions of a similar work for credit for more than one class, without the current instructor’s knowledge and approval.

To be specific, below are some of the situations that will be considered plagiarism at COC:

- Use information from any source, online or in print, in one’s own writing *without* acknowledging the source in the content *and* in the reference page of the assignment;
- Simply list the sources in the reference page, without parenthetical citations in the body of the essay;
- Take more *than one printed line of words consecutively from the source without putting quotation marks around them, even though the student has put the author’s name in the parentheses or in the reference page*;
- Turn in work done for other classes, regardless how large or small the assignment may be, without the current instructor’s approval, this is considered “self-plagiarism,” which is a form of academic dishonesty; or,
- Turn in work by another student, even by accident.

In addition, COC has strict rules against using electronic devices during exams without the instructor’s approval. To be specific, absolutely no cell phones or any electronic devices can be on the desk or in sight during a test or exam without the instructor’s approval. The presence of electronic devices in sight during exams may be considered as intention to cheat and will be processed as a form of academic dishonesty.

Cases of alleged academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism or cheating, will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for investigation.

See the college catalog for the full statement on academic integrity.
Incompletes
Do NOT ask me to give you an incomplete when you don’t fit the criteria. You must fit all three of the following criteria.
1. a major unforeseen circumstance that can be legally documented
2. passing work up until the time of the circumstance
3. only missing a minority of the course work
If you decide you do not want to continue in this class, it is your responsibility to drop the class prior to the drop date. Failure to do so will result in a grade of “F” in the class.

Blackboard & Student Accountability Online
Use of online programs such as Blackboard is strictly limited to the students who are enrolled in that particular course. Individual login information is provided to each student and all activity within an online course is monitored and recorded. To insure the highest level of integrity of student data, user login and password information must never be shared. It is your responsibility as a student to take every measure possible to safeguard your individual login information and never allow other persons (whether a student or not) to have access to this information. Each student must submit his or her own work. Sharing login information or submitting work under another user’s identification is a violation of College policy and may result in a formal report of the incident to the Dean of Students. If you feel another person has obtained your unique login information or has accessed your account, contact me and the Distance Learning technology support team immediately.

Challenges
- If you need more time for exams, see the Disabled Students office now www.canyons.edu/offices/dsp.
- If you are stressed by exams see the TLC now www.canyons.edu/offices/tlc.
- If you have financial challenges see EOPS www.canyons.edu/offices/eops.
- Emotional challenges or a headache, see the health center www.canyons.edu/offices/Health.
- I am here to help you with class work as well as personal challenges, but you need to come to me if you are having difficulties, I can’t read your mind.

Time Management
- Late assignments will not be accepted–don’t ask me to make an exception for you.
- Plan for those unforeseen problems by starting on your assignments early–I will gladly accept any assignment early.
• Reflection assignments are due by email on the due date and time listed in the course calendar for that chapter.
• They may NOT be emailed, faxed, or left in my mailbox, however they may be hand delivered to me.

Grading Scale
I strongly suggest that all students check their grade progress regularly during the semester. A=90%+  B=80%-89.9%  C=70%-79.9%  D=60%-69.9%  F=59% and below