

# *Sociology 1: Introduction to Sociology*

## *Sierra College – Fall 2008*

---

<b>Instructor:</b> Jennifer Kattman	<b>Email:</b> jkattman@sierracollege.edu
<b>Telephone:</b> (916) 789-2782	<b>Blackboard Link:</b> <a href="http://sierracollege.blackboard.com">http://sierracollege.blackboard.com</a>
<b>Office Location:</b> Weaver 217	<b>Sierra Sociology Dept:</b> <a href="http://www.sierracollege.edu/sociology">www.sierracollege.edu/sociology</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b> MW 9-9:30am, 2-3:30pm TTH 12:30-2pm	<b>Division Office:</b> Weaver 107, (916) 781-0588

---

*“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”*  
*-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)*

### **Course Description**

This course examines the basics of sociology. Broadly speaking, sociology is the study of society. More specifically, sociology examines the interactions among social institutions, cultures, groups, and individuals. It focuses on how unequal power relations organize the social world and shape individual lives. It also looks at how individuals negotiate their lives in different social and economic contexts. Sociologists rely on different theories and methods to study social worlds. In this course, we will study different theories, concepts, and methods used within sociology and cover a broad spectrum of topics using critical sociological perspectives. We will pay particular attention to how people’s experiences are shaped by social forces and how they are reshaped through human action.

***NOTE: This is a web-enhanced course. You are NOT required to use the internet to take this course, but I will be using Blackboard to post grades, extra copies of handouts, extra copies of lecture notes, links to interesting websites, etc. Please make sure your email address on MySierra is current as sometimes I will email announcements or class cancellations to students. If you do not have an email address, please see me. For Blackboard login help please visit: <http://lrc.sierracollege.edu/dl/bb-login.html>. The use of the Blackboard site will be discussed further in class.***

### **Student Learning Objectives**

The student will be able to, through oral and written work:

1. define sociology and describe, analyze and evaluate sociological research;
2. apply sociological models to social phenomena;
3. describe the current paradigms and their relevance for studying the dynamic nature of society;

4. describe and discuss the relationship of sociology to other academic disciplines;
5. define major concepts of sociology and explain their interrelationships;
6. define, describe and analyze the interrelationships between major social institutions;
7. apply the sociological imagination to their own lives; and
8. evaluate personal experiences and current events in terms of Sociological questions like
  - a) What are people doing with each other here? b) What is the nature of their relationships, c) How are those relationships impacted by institutions? and d) What collective ideas move people and move institutions?

### **Required Text/Materials**

- ***The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology***, 2008, by Kerry Ferris and Jill Stein. This text is available in the bookstore and in an online version (instead of purchasing a book, you can view the entire text online at a much lower price) at [www.NortonEbooks.com](http://www.NortonEbooks.com). Also, there is a StudySpace website available to all students with study tips, review questions, etc. at [www.wnorton.com/realworld](http://www.wnorton.com/realworld) that will help TREMENDOUSLY when you are studying for the exams.
- There will be additional required readings handed out in class – you don't need to purchase these.
- Four (4) ScanTron 882E forms for the exams in class.

### **Attendance and Participation**

Students are expected to attend all classes **on time** and to complete the reading assignments **prior** to class. Attendance will be recorded **daily**. Late arrivals to and early departures from class are **disruptive** to your professor and classmates. Come to class prepared to ask any questions you may have and to participate in discussions about the subject matter in every class session. During discussions, all students are expected to speak and act respectfully and be open to the variety of values, experiences, and opinions of others. This class will be full of discussion and controversy, which is exciting and creates an environment where a great deal can be learned from all of the differing opinions and ideas. In order to learn from these experiences, though, students must attend class regularly. Students who miss class will inevitably lose participation points (see grading policy below) and should email or call the instructor **prior to the absence** about arranging for make-up exams and assignments. Make-up quizzes will be allowed **ONLY** when the student has notified the instructor ahead of time AND only for serious and unforeseeable circumstances. Students must abide by the guidelines in the Sierra College student handbook and complete all registration steps and paperwork such as add/drop forms in a timely manner.

*"Be the change that you  
want to see in the world."*

## Grading

Participation, Class Activities/Assignments/Workshops	30 points
Exams (3 total @ 15 points each)	45 points
Paper/Presentation	15 points
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>10 points</u>
TOTAL	100 points

A = 90-100 pts    B = 80-89 pts    C = 70-79 pts    D = 60-69 points    F = 0-59 points

## Extra Credit

Extra credit assignments may be completed at the discretion of the instructor. There will be extra credit opportunities announced in class, including a few Sunday field trips to GLIDE MEMORIAL in San Francisco and activities from the Cultural Activities Calendar distributed on campus. Please discuss other possible extra credit opportunities with the instructor. ***Please note that students who have missed more than 1 exam, who have not completed at least half of all assignments, OR who have been absent more than 6 class periods are NOT eligible for any extra credit!***

## Class Policies

**Late Assignments/Data Workshops:** Assignments/Data Workshops are due at the beginning of class. After the beginning of class, they are considered late. They may be turned in for ½ credit up to one week after their original due date. After one week, no late assignments will be accepted.

**Make-up Exams/Final:** Exams can be made up at the discretion of the professor ONLY when the student has notified the professor PRIOR to the exam. The Final CANNOT be made up!

**Paper/Presentation:** This will not be accepted late. It MUST be turned in on or before the due date. If a student misses his or her presentation, he or she will not be able to do it at a later time. Make sure you are on time when you are scheduled to present!

**Handouts/Assignments/Class Materials:** All handouts, assignments, and other class materials will be posted on the course Blackboard site. If a student loses something or is absent, it is the student's responsibility to log on to the course website and download/print the materials or get the materials from a classmate. The instructor will not be carrying extra materials.

**Academic Honesty:** Cheating or plagiarism will result in an automatic zero for the assignment/exam/paper/etc. Additionally, the student may be eligible for a permanent (non-repeatable) F on his or her transcript. Students should review the policy in the Student Rights and Responsibility Handbook for more information about Academic Dishonesty Policies.

**Cell Phones and other Electronics:** Students are expected to turn off cell phones, i-Pods, laptops, and other electronic devices while in class. Please speak with the instructor prior to class if you have a special circumstance requiring you to use an electronic device.

## **Activities, Assignments, and Data Workshops**

We will be doing activities, assignments, and data workshops in class regularly. There will be a combination of verbal and written activities/assignments/workshops. Therefore, your attendance is crucial as the verbal activities cannot be made-up. Some of the activities/assignments/workshops may require you to complete them at home. Point values will be assigned based on the complexity of each activity/assignment/workshop. Take-home written activities/assignments/workshops must be submitted in hard copy format or via Blackboard (which date/time stamps when an assignment was submitted) no later than the start of the class period they are due. Emailed copies will not be accepted. Please see the Class Policies above for information about late activities/assignments/workshops.

## **Exams and Final**

There will be 3 exams (refer to the schedule on the last page of this syllabus for information about what each exam will cover). The final will be cumulative and will primarily contain questions very similar to those on the exams. Both may consist of multiple choice, matching, true/false, short answer, and essay questions. You will need a ScanTron 882-E for each exam. We will review prior to each exam and the final so come prepared to ask about anything that is still unclear to you. To make-up an exam, please see the Class Policies above.

## **Paper/Presentation**

**As a requirement of the class, you will write a paper about an individual's culture and present your findings to the class.**

**Culture Paper:** Interview someone of a different culture than your own. They could belong to a different ethnic group, religious group, gender, etc. I strongly encourage students to interview someone who belongs to a culture they know very little about and/or hold negative stereotypes about. Ask the individual a variety of questions, trying at all times to go in depth and do some "real communicating." Be candid, but respectful. TAKE NOTES! Then summarize the highlights of your interaction in a paper that demonstrates your understanding of ALL of the following concepts we will learn about culture by describing that culture's shared beliefs, values, norms (including folkways and mores), sanctions, and customs. Also discuss how effective or ineffective the experience was in expanding your awareness about other people. Did you have stereotypes about the culture before you interviewed this person? What did you learn about the culture that you never knew? Did your opinions change? Often students find it most useful to participate in a custom with the person (for example, attending a religious service, wedding, birthday celebration, or just having a traditional dinner together). Below are some questions that you should ask during your interview. Keep in mind, if you are interviewing someone of a different religion, direct your questions to that religion; if you are interviewing someone of a different ethnic group, direct your questions to that ethnic group; and so forth. Here are just a few questions you may want to ask:

- What is your culture and how do you define culture?

- Is your culture important to your sense of self? Why and how?
- Explain an early memory in which culture was a prominent part.
- Did any adult ever speak to you about culture as you were growing up? If so what did you understand? If not, why not?
- Describe the neighborhood in which you grew up and describe the neighborhood in which you live now.
- Do you feel judged by others because of your culture? Why or why not?
- Have you experienced discrimination because of your culture? If so, describe how it made you feel. If not, is there a reason you think this didn't happen to you?
- What stereotypes are made about your culture by others? Where do you see or hear these stereotypes (media, general public, school, etc.)?
- What do you wish others knew about your culture?

In order to collect the most accurate information and allow your interviewee to feel the most comfortable, assure him or her in the beginning that **you will not reveal his or her identity to anyone; create a pseudonym for use in the report.** As a general rule in sociology, revealing the identity of an interviewee is unethical.

### **PAPER FORMAT**

**You will submit a paper that is 4-6 pages in length, typed, 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins on all sides.** Summarize the interview and the reactions of the interviewee and describe any experiences you had personally. It should be written as a college-level essay (not in question and answer format). Please utilize the writing center in the library for help writing a college level paper (the Writing Lab's information can be found on the next page). **You must address the following:**

### **PART I – MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO INTERVIEW OR OTHER ACTIVITIES\***

- Tell why you chose the interviewee. Describe your assumptions and/or stereotypes about this person and his/her culture prior to the interview. What do you think makes her/him different from you?

### **PART II – THE INTERVIEW PROCESS\***

- Conduct the interview and attend any events/dinners/etc. Obtain some basic historical and overall information about the person, but primarily focus on questions about culture (you must discuss all of the above underlined culture concepts in your paper such as beliefs, values, norms, etc.).
- Next focus on obtaining information as to what social issues are important to this person. Are any particularly related to her/his culture?

- Ask about experiences of prejudice and discrimination. Ask about the stereotypes that are made about this particular culture.
- Finally ask what the interviewee wished others knew about this culture and/or about him/her as an individual.

**PART III – CONCLUSION OF YOUR PAPER\***

- Discuss how you felt about this process. What did you experience as you went through this assignment?
- Did your assumptions and stereotypes change? Why or why not? If so, how did they change?
- How did what you learned about this person’s culture compare with what you learned in this class? Describe the similarities and differences.

-----  
**\*Make sure your paper contains all parts. You may turn the paper in early at any time for review by the instructor.** You will then get feedback so that you may make corrections and improve the paper *before* the final due date. **IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** you take advantage of this!

**\*\*\*\*\* PAPER DUE DATE: Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> \*\*\*\*\***

**PRESENTATION:** You will present what you learned from your paper to the class. You should prepare a **5-minute** presentation summarizing what you learned and the impact it had on you. Discuss the sociological significance of what you discovered. If you’d like, you may use handouts (if you give them to the instructor early, copies can be made for the class). You may also bring food, music, clothing, art, or other artifacts if you’d like (not required). On the day of your presentation please be prepared, organized, informative, and interesting...and try to have some fun!

**SIERRA COLLEGE WRITING CENTER**

(excellent source for FREE writing help – highly encourage students to utilize this resource as they could help you significantly improve your grade on the Paper)

(916) 789-2727

Room 424 in the LRC (Library)

[www.lrc.sieracollege.edu/writingcenter](http://www.lrc.sieracollege.edu/writingcenter)

## **If You Want to be Successful in this Class...**

- College should be among your top priorities. Treat it like a job that will lead to a better job.
- Attend all classes! You are likely to make a “C” or better if you do.
- Say something in all classes! Participate in the discussion and the activity.
- Plan for and anticipate reading assignments, papers, presentations and exams.
- Save and refer to the syllabus. Use it to know when things are due.
- Embrace learning. Humans have a unique proclivity for learning so use it to your advantage!
- Engage in the intellectual material; inspire others to do the same.
- Get to know the students in the class. Be a good leader and a good follower.
- Keep a positive attitude.
- Communicate with your professor. Your attitude affects hers!
- Keep an open mind. You are here to learn new things, **NOT** reinforce your current beliefs.
- Keep up with your grade – save exams and papers until at least the end of the semester.
- Exchange contact information with someone and agree to share notes/updates in the event of absences.
- It is **YOUR** responsibility to notify Admissions and Records should you decide to withdraw from class.

*"There are two ways of exerting one's strength;  
one is pushing down, the other is pulling up."*

*"A different world cannot be built  
by indifferent people."*

*"I wondered why somebody didn't do something...  
then I realized that I am somebody."*

**NOTE:** The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus without notice. Reading, exam, and assignment schedule may be amended in class – students are responsible for any changes regardless of whether or not they were present in class. (In other words, make sure you check the Blackboard site every time you are absent!)

## CLASSROOM EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

### EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS Fire, Medical, Police Emergencies

#### Rocklin Campus

Campus Police – Extension 1111 from campus phones, or (916) 781-0570 or  
Rocklin Police, Fire, Rescue – Dial 911

#### Nevada County Campus

Campus Police – Extension 1111 from campus phones, or (916) 781-0570 or  
Grass Valley Police, Fire, Rescue – Dial 911

#### Roseville Gateway

Roseville Police, Fire, Rescue – Dial 911

#### Truckee Center

Truckee Police, Fire, Rescue – Dial 911

### IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE:

- 1) If a fire or smoke are present, pull the nearest fire alarm.
- 2) Anytime you hear a fire alarm in the building – immediately start evacuation procedures.
- 3) Instruct students to gather personal belongings.
- 4) Gather attendance records.
- 5) Using the evacuation routes available, proceed with class to the established gathering point in the opposite direction of smoke or fire.
- 6) Wait with class at the gathering point until given further instructions by the appropriate emergency personnel.
- 7) DO NOT RE-ENTER THE BUILDING until instructed to do so.

### IN THE EVENT OF A COMMAND TO EVACUATE:

- 1) Instruct students to gather personal belongings.
- 2) Gather attendance records.
- 3) Proceed with class to the established gathering point.
- 4) Report to the emergency staff assigned to supervise the gathering point.
- 5) Wait with class at the gathering point until given further instructions by the appropriate emergency personnel.

### IN THE EVENT OF A COMMAND TO “LOCK DOWN”:

- 1) Close all doors and lock, if possible.
- 2) Close all blinds and drapes.
- 3) Turn off any unnecessary equipment.
- 4) Keep everyone away from all windows.
- 5) Instruct students to remain as quiet as possible.
- 6) Do not allow anyone to leave until notified by emergency personnel.
- 7) Ask students to turn cell phones off to free up frequencies for emergency personnel.

### IN THE EVENT OF A COMMAND TO CREATE “SHELTER IN PLACE”:

- 1) Follow all steps identified for lock down.
- 2) Ensure that all ventilation is either closed or shut down.

<b><u>Day</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Reading To Complete PRIOR To Class</u></b>
Mon	8/25	Introductions, Syllabus, What is Sociology?	
Wed	8/27	Sociology and the Real World	Chapter 1
Mon	9/1	<b>LABOR DAY – NO CLASS</b>	
Wed	9/3	Sociological Theories and Theorists	Chapter 2
Mon	9/8	Sociological Theories and Theorists (cont.)	
Wed	9/10	Sociological Research Methods	Chapter 3
Mon	9/15	Culture	Chapter 4
Wed	9/17	Culture (cont.)	
Mon	9/22	Socialization and the Self	Chapter 5
Wed	9/24	Socialization and the Self (cont.)	
Mon	9/29	<b>EXAM 1 (CHAPTERS 1-5)</b>	
Wed	10/1	Social Groups	Chapter 6
Mon	10/6	Deviance and Conformity	Chapter 7
Wed	10/8	Social Class	Chapter 8
Mon	10/13	Social Class	
Wed	10/15	Race and Ethnicity	Chapter 9
Mon	10/20	Race and Ethnicity	
Wed	10/22	Gender and Sexuality	Chapter 10
Mon	10/27	<b>EXAM 2 (CHAPTERS 6-10)</b>	
Wed	10/29	Politics, Education, and Religion	Chapter 11
Mon	11/3	Politics, Education, and Religion (cont.)	
Wed	11/5	The Economy and Work	Chapter 12
Mon	11/10	<b>VETERAN’S DAY – NO CLASS</b>	
Wed	11/12	Marriage and Family	Chapter 13
Mon	11/17	Recreation and Leisure	Chapter 14
Wed	11/19	Social Change	Chapter 16
Mon	11/24	<b>EXAM 3 (CHAPTERS 11-14, 16)</b>	
Wed	11/26	<b>Paper Presentations</b>	
Mon	12/1	<b>Paper Presentations</b>	<b><i>PAPERS DUE!</i></b>
Wed	12/3	<b>Paper Presentations</b>	Study for Final
Mon	12/8	<b>Paper Presentations</b>	Study for Final
Wed	12/10	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	