

Schedule for Sociology

Sociology is a field of study that explains social, political, and economic phenomena in terms of social structures, social forces, and group relations. In this course we will be studying a variety of contemporary issues, including themes of socialization, culture, the social construction of knowledge, inequality, race and ethnic relations, poverty, education, and political sociology.

Social Psychology views behavior as a joint product of the person and the situation. It also views the person as strongly influenced/shaped by his/her social connections. As a part of this class we will also be studying groups and group behavior, persuasion, conformity and obedience, social roles, attribution, stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination.

Here is the tentative schedule of the class for the 2022-2023 school year.

If you have any questions about the dates or times please feel free to email me over the summer at: appmrsg@gmail.com

Although the schedule for when we cover particular chapters is suggested in this schedule, it is not “set in stone”. It is subject to change depending on the students’ comprehension of the material and the class interest in particular subject areas.

August 23– 28 Orientation Week – I will be hosting a live orientation session on August 23 during our regular class time at 3:00 PM. This session will last for approximately one hour, depending on questions. This orientation session will introduce the Zoom live lecture and chat platform; and to explain the Canvas class website. If you are unable to attend this session it will be recorded for future viewing. We will officially begin class, covering subject material, on August 30 at 3:00 PM

August 30 – September 2– Chapter 1 part 1 History of Sociology and Sociological Perspectives; we will cover the origins of sociology, and the sociological perspective. We will be looking at the theories of Auguste Comte, Emile Durkheim and Max Weber. A discussion question on raising the minimum wage using each sociological perspective will be the assignment for this first week of class.

September 6 – 9 – Chapter 1 part 2 Sociological Research; (we will be skipping the book’s explanation of ethics, and I will be presenting a lecture on ethics in psychology and sociology). Designing our own social psychology or sociological study in class will be the assignment for this week. A quiz on the perspectives, and research methods will be posted on Friday, September 9 and will be due on Tuesday, September 13.

September 12 – 16 – Chapter 2 part 1 Culture. Discussion of culture and how culture affects our behavior, communication and behavior. Our assignment will be a discussion of breaching and designing an experiment to prove this sociological principle on nonconformity.

September 19 – 23 – Chapter 2 part 2; Culture continued. Values, norms, mores and taboos; counterculture and subcultures; values; and technology in the global world. You will complete a writing assignment on media consolidation and its impact on our culture. Alternate assignment on culture shock.

September 26 – September 30 – Chapter 3 part 1 Socialization. Socialization and the self, role taking, Piaget and reasoning, Kohlberg and morality. Research into the nature/nurture of the self. We will also be discussing the development of self-esteem, and the importance of self-presentation. This week's assignment will be a discussion question on Erving Goffman's theory of role performance: the show must go on.

October 3 – 7 – Chapter 3 part 2 Socialization continued. Agents of socialization, resocialization and socialization through the course of life. A look at the social construction of reality, and conformity. A test on culture and socialization will be posted Friday, October 7 and due on Tuesday, October 11.

October 10 - 14 – Chapter 4 – Note: This chapter will be covered on one week – Social Structure and Social Interaction – We will be looking at the history of societies, social status, the core elements of social cognition, schemas, confirmation bias and the fundamental attribution error. In class assignment, Decisions on the Titanic.

October 17 – 21 – Chapter 5 part 1 Social Groups and Formal Organizations. Primary and Secondary groups, in groups and out groups, bureaucracies, group decision-making. Written essay: The McDonaldization of Society.

October 24 – 28 – Chapter 5 part 2 Formal Organizations part 2. Work and cooperation, group dynamics, peer pressure, leadership and groupthink and an in-depth study of leadership qualities. A look at the Milgram and Asch experiments. A test on Chapter 4 and 5 will be posted on October 28 and will be due on November 1.

October 31 – November 4 – Chapter 6 part 1 Deviance and Social Control. Defining deviance, the symbolic interactionist perspective (labeling and control theory), the functionalist perspective (strain theory, social class and crime). We will also cover the societal and genetic causes of deviance. A discussion question on panoptic surveillance will be the assignment for this week.

November 7 – 11 – Chapter 6 part 2 Deviance and Social Control Continued. The conflict perspective of deviance, the death penalty and recidivism, and a study of mental illness and deviance. A written essay on the insanity defense and penalties for crime is the assignment for this week.

November 14 - 18 – Chapter 7 Global Stratification. Slavery, caste systems, class systems; determination of social class theories In class activity: using the Play Spent game to determine the economic basis for stratification.

November 22 – November 26 – Gobble-Gobble – Thanksgiving Week – No Classes!!

November 28 –December 2 – Chapter 7 part 2 Global Stratification continued. Social Stratification in different cultures, colonialism, the culture of poverty, maintaining global stratification. Test on Deviance, Chapter 6 and Stratification, Chapter 7 will be posted on December 2 and is due on December 6.

December 5 - 9 – Chapter 8- Note: We will complete this chapter in one week - Social Class in the United States. Defining Social Class – property, power, and prestige, a second look at poverty and the lack of social mobility.

December 13 Review for Midterm

December 14 Midterm is posted and is due December 16. Midterm is two essays on the material presented in the first half of the year.

December 19.

– January 2 – Christmas Break

January 3 - 6 – Chapter 9 part 1. Race: Myth and Reality, ethnic groups, minority groups, prejudice and discrimination, theories of prejudice. As your assignment you will explore your first experiences with race and how it has impacted your thoughts and behaviors.

January 9 - 13 – Chapter 9 part 2 Race and Ethnicity continued. Genocide, segregation, assimilation, multiculturalism, a study of different races and the immigration debate. Writing assignment: Unpacking the Knapsack

January 16 – 20- Chapter 10 part 1 Gender and Aging. Gender inequality in the United States, gender inequality in health-care and education, and gender inequality in the work-place, gender differences in attraction, attitudes and behaviors. A discussion on gender socialization and on workplace inequality will be the basis for this week's assignment.

January 23 - 27. Chapter 10 part 2 Gender and Age continued. Aging in a global perspective, the graying of America, shift in the meaning of growing old, theories of aging. A test for chapters 9, Race and Ethnicity; and chapter 10, Gender and Age, will be posted on Friday, January 27 and will be due on January 31.

January 30 – February 3 – Chapter 11 part 1 Politics and the Economy. Power, authority and violence, different kinds of authority, types of government, U.S. political system, rulers and the power elite. You will complete a group assignment on how voting is impacted by race, class, and gender issues – interview format.

February 6 – 10 - Chapter 11 part 2 Politics and the Economy continued. War and terrorism, world economic systems, a new world order. Complete and submit the group assignment from

last week. This week we will have an in-class discussion question on the causes of war and aggression towards other nations.

February 13 - 17 – Chapter 12 part 1 Marriage and Family. Definitions of marriage, family, the family life cycle, and family transitions. Discussion Question on how media portrays the family. We will also be looking at how this portrayal has changed in the past 30 years.

February 20 - 24 – Chapter 12 part 2 Marriage and Family. Diversity in U.S. families, one-parent families, blended families, the sandwich generation and elder care in the family, the future of marriage and family. A test will be posted for chapter 11, Politics and the Economy; and Chapter 12, Marriage and Family on February 24 and will be due on February 28.

February 27 – March 3 – Chapter 13 part 1 Education and Religion. Education and industrialization, the explanation of education, homeschooling, discrimination by IQ, problems in U.S. education, the need for education reform. Assignment for this week is a discussion question and research into homeschooling around the world – the global perspective on homeschooling.

March 6 - 10 --- Spring Break

March 13 - 17 – Chapter 13 part 1 Education and Religion. Sociological perspective on religion, types of religious groups, religion in the U.S. and around the world. Discussion on the megachurch and the function it provides for members and society.

March 20 - 24 – Chapter 14 Note: This Chapter will be completed in one week. Population and Urbanization. Urbanization, the development of cities, models of urban growth, city life. Population growth, Malthusians, starvation, population pyramids, and forecasting population growth, urbanization. Writing assignment on gentrification: What is gentrification? What are some functions and dysfunctions of gentrification? How does it impact different groups?

March 27 – March 31 – Chapter 1 part 1 Social Change and the Environment. Social change and social life, social movements, theories and process of social change, fads, types and function of crowds, crowd behavior – herd mentality and deindividuation. In class assignment: Investigate a fad, from now or the past, and describe what the fad is, how it became popular and how it has declined.

April 3 – April 7– Chapter 15 part 2 Social Change and the Environment part 2. Technology and social change, the significance of technology, cyberspace and social inequality, environmental problems and industrialization, environmental sociology. Students can use the time to complete their infographic assignment on one of the sociology book options.

April 10 – 13 review for final exam – Completion of a final project or final exam. Students will complete either a final project paper on a book or a comprehensive final exam with a discussion question.

April 15 Final Exam Posted. Exam and/or final research paper are due on April 22.