SOC 1: Introduction to Sociology

Professor: Robert Braun
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440 Social Sciences Building

Office Hours:
MW 11-12:00AM
Sign up: https://www.wejoinin.com/robert.braun
Zoom: https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/92931177736

Spring 2023
100 Lewis Hall
MW 10-11 AM

Course description

Sociology studies how forces beyond our control and outside the realm of nature shape what we feel, perceive, want and get. Behaviors that may at first seem like deeply personal choices or determined by nature - suicide, academic achievement, college major - are shown by sociologist to be clearly affected by how we are raised and who we interact with. Sociologist apply this distinct approach to three interrelated sets of questions:

- **Identity**: To which groups do we belong and how does this affect our behavior?

- **Inequality**: Which group gets what, when and most importantly why?

- **Integration**: How do groups produce social order and solidarity?

Sociologists believe that answering these questions lies at the hard of understanding both world history and the world we live in today. In this class you will learn how to answer these questions yourself by investigating differences within and across societies, studying how sociologists have made sense of these differences and exploring how all of this matters for you and your surroundings. Students will improve their analytical skills by drawing connections between social science theory, popular non-fiction, historical monographs and journalistic accounts. Upon completing the course, students will not only be acquainted
with the main types of sociological explanation, but they will also be able to evaluate the evidence supporting the various explanations. In turn, this will help students to see society more clearly and, hopefully, with greater empathy for those who are different.

Readings
All required readings are available on the course web site (Files->Readings). To avoid confusion, readings are ordered by week.

Requirements and Grades
The formal requirements and grade calculation are as follows:

- Quizzes 10%
- Midterm 25% of grade.
- Final: 25% of grade.
- Draft paper: 5% of grade.
- Final paper: 20% of grade.
- Section participation: 15% of grade.

Quizzes
We will post 5 quizzes to bCourses over the semester on selected Fridays (see below) between 10:10-10:20am. Your best 4 scores will be counted. Each quiz is worth 2.5% of your final grade for a total of 10%. Each quiz will ask 5 multiple choice questions. My aim is to keep you on track with course material. Quizzes are open-book. If I think someone is taking quizzes for you - for example, if your quiz scores are very different from the rest of your performance - I reserve the right to quiz you orally in my office and alter your grade.

Paper
Students have to write one paper (8 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins). Paper assignment will be handed out on Wednesday 2/8. You will submit a first draft on 3/17. Final due date: the first day of recitation week (5/1).
Plagiarism

We will use software and other techniques to detect plagiarism and fraud. Even the most minor case of plagiarism or fraud can result in a F for the entire course. We will discuss plagiarism in section and lecture. Contact your instructor or GSI if you are still unsure about what plagiarism is after these discussions.

Office Hours

My office hours will be held weekly on Mondays and Wednesdays between 11 and 12 am. Please sign up for office hours in advance via www.wejoinin.com/robert.braun. You can come to my office (440 Social Sciences Building) or meet me via zoom (https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/92931177736).

Contingency

We intend for this class to take place in person. However, in case of emergency (forest fires, pandemics etc.) we will switch over to zoom. A zoom link for this class will be provided during the first week of class. We will use Cours Capture for this class. However, videos will only be available until the next lecture.

PART I: THE BIRTH OF SOCIOLOGY

1/18: What is Sociology?

- Answer online survey question.

1/23: This is Sociology!

- Durkheim, Émile Suicide, pp. 152-170; 208-215; 217-222; 241-254; 276 (Footnote 25).
1/25: The Invention of the Modern World


1/30: The Birth of the Modern Individual

- Simmel, Georg. The metropolis and mental life. Selection.

2/1: Social Integration

- Durkheim, Emile. Religion and Ritual. Selection

2/3: FRIDAY ONLINE QUIZZ

- 5 Multiple choice questions available on bcourses.
- 10:10-10:20!
- All material so far.

2/6: The Birth of Capitalism


2/8: The Birth of Class I

- Hand out paper assignment.
- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, Manifesto of the Communist Party. Selection.

2/13: The Birth of Class II

- Read paper assignment.
- Start watching video for next week.
2/15: The Birth of Race


• Video: Race the Power of an Illusion: available at https://berkeley.canopy.com/race

2/17: FRIDAY ONLINE QUIZZ

• 5 Multiple choice questions available on bcourses.

• 10:10-10:20!

• All material post previous quiz.

2/20: President’s Day

• No readings.

2/22: The Birth of the Nation-State 1

• Ann Hironaka, Never-ending Wars, Chapter 1.

2/27: The Birth of the Nation-State 2

• Rueschemeyer and Stevens, Capitalism and Democracy. Selection.


3/1: Review

• Review material.

3/6: Midterm

• Prepare exam questions.

• Location TBA.

PART II: SOCIAL FORCES
3/8: Conformity


3/13: Roles

- TED TALK Zimbardo, Philip. The psychology of evil. Available at this link.


3/15: Institutions & Bureaucracy

- Weber, Max. The characteristics of bureaucracy.


DRAFT IS DUE ON FRIDAY 3/17 (BEFORE MIDNIGHT)

3/20: Socialization I


3/22: Socialization II


3/24: FRIDAY ONLINE QUIZZ
- 5 Multiple choice questions available on bcourses.
- 10:10-10-20!
- All material post midterm.

3/27 & 3/29: Spring Break
- Start reading for next week.

4/3: Social Identities

4/5: Interaction and Identity 1

4/10: Interaction and Identity 2

4/12: Interdependence and Critical Mass

4/14: FRIDAY ONLINE QUIZ
- 5 Multiple choice questions available on bcourses.
- 10:10-10-20!
- All material post previous quiz.
4/17: Social Networks 1

4/19: Social Networks 2

4/24: Social Change

4/26: Review
- Review material.

4/28: FRIDAY ONLINE QUIZ
- 5 Multiple choice questions available on bcourses.
- 10:10-10:20!
- All material post previous quiz.

FINAL PAPER IS DUE THE FIRST DAY OF RECITATION WEEK (5/1)

5/9 Final
- 3:00-6:00PM!!
- Location TBA.