

Syllabus

Introduction to Sociology, SOC 204 Instructor: Arfa Aflatooni, PhD

Winter 2021

Online.

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My LBCC Web page: http://cf.linnbenton.edu/artcom/social_science/aflatoa/web.cfm?pgID=86

Course Description and Objectives

This course introduces you to the discipline of sociology. Sociology is the systematic and scientific study of patterns and processes of social life, focusing on all of its major dimensions - economic, political, religious to mention a few. Sociology studies both individual actors as well as formal and informal organizations that shape our modern social landscape. The main objective of this class is for you to develop a “sociological imagination” or understanding of how our individual lives are connected to larger historical events and trends. I have designed the course to give you practice in developing and sharpening your scholarly abilities.

Course Outcomes

Explain the meaning of a “sociological perspective” and some of its core concepts—especially culture, structure, and power.

Apply a sociological perspective to better understand your own personal experiences and their connection to larger social forces.

Analyze social phenomena to better understand them by using sociology core concepts and theories.

Required Textbook on Connect Site

Experience Sociology (4rd Edition), by David Croteau and William Hoynes, Published by McGraw-Hill. You will get access to the e-version of this book when you sign up for this class. We use this book for both Soc 204 and 205 at LBCC. The first nine chapters are covered in Soc 204 and the remaining chapters in Soc 205. A Moodle course shell is created for this course that gives you access to McGraw-Hill Connect site. Please see the attached instructions.

Tests

There will be three in-class examinations. Your exams are not cumulative (including your final). The three exams count for 50% (roughly 17% for each) of your final grade. There will be 25 multiple choice and five essay questions on each examination (each multiple-choice question will be worth two points and each essay answer will be worth ten points), and your tests will cover materials presented in my lectures and the textbook. You will find Powerpoint slides on your Moodle course shell. These slides do not replace lecture notes. They contain only a brief outline of lecture and will not include all information covered in class. For example, to preserve active participation, I do not include material generated in your in-class group activities. In addition, I often do class demonstrations that are not included in the slides.

Connect Activities and Assignments

You will do about 40% of your homework on McGraw-Hill Connect site (use Chrome or Firefox as your browser when you access Connect). With the purchase of your book, you will have access to the Connect site through Moodle course shell for Introduction to Sociology (Soc 204). I have selected and assigned thirteen activities/assignments on the Connect site that you will have to complete. You can open the assignments on September 30 and start working on them, but please note (on the Connect site) that each assignment has a due date.

Attendance and Participation

You are required to attend the class and participate in class discussions and activities. You will receive a 10% for attendance and participation.

Breakdown of Your Final Grade

Exams = 50 %, Connect Activities/Assignments = 50%,

Extra Credit: Participation in Class Discussions on Moodle

Grading Scale

A= 90-100 %

B= 80-89 %

C= 70-79 %

D= 60-69%

F=below 59 %

Classroom Environment and Policies

- (1) Come to class prepared to discuss, having finished all reading assignments.
- (2) Keep notes of your reactions to works as you read. Be prepared to share these reactions when called upon.
- (3) Pick a passage from the reading assignment you find particularly significant and be prepared to share it with the class.
- (4) Come armed with questions. We learn by thinking critically, questioning, and getting involved.
- (5) You have a responsibility to yourself, to me, and to your colleagues to be active learners. This class is not just about individual participation. It is a shared experience of inquiry. You are learning how to learn and how to be an active thinker.
- (6) Be cordial towards and respectful of your fellow students and their opinions. Do not talk or giggle when class is in session. Do not bring food and beverages to class and be on time. Please turn off your cellular phones while you are in class. Please turn off all electronics before class unless they are being used for educational purposes (taking down notes, etc.).
- (7) Missed exams and assignments will be counted as zeros. If you are going to miss a test, you have to have a good reason and arrangements will have to be made with me prior to the test. Acceptable reasons for missing an exam would include health problems, a death in the family, etc.
- (8) In a class of this nature, interaction and participation are very important. If you do not follow through with your end of the bargain (i.e., attending class, participating in discussions, keeping up with the reading) it is unlikely our experience together will be completely successful.
- (9) Class policy on plagiarism: Students who use someone else's work as their own or copy information or ideas from outside sources without proper citations will receive an "F" for their work. Do Your Own Work!

(10) Have a pen, pencil, and notepad along with your textbook in class at all times. These are the tools of your trade as a student. Do not expect me to provide you with them!

(11) One more point of emphasis: the syllabus for the course should be understood as a contract between us and I reserve the right to dismiss students from the class who do not uphold the provisions of it.

Course Outline

Week 1

Sociology in a Changing World

Reading: Chapter 1

Week 2

Understanding the Research Process

Reading: Chapter 2

Week 3

Culture

Reading: Chapter 3

Test # 1: on Moodle Jan 22-29

Week 4

Social Structure

Reading: Chapter 4

Week 5

Power

Reading: Chapter 5

Week 6

Socialization

Reading: Chapter 6

Test # 2: On Moodle February 19-26

Week 7

Interaction, Groups, and Organizations

Reading: Chapter 7

Week 8

Deviance and Social Control

Reading Chapter 8

Week 9

Class and Global Inequality

Reading: Chapter 9

Final Test: on Moodle March 7-14