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**Sociology 1010: Introduction to Sociology
Weber State University, Fall 2015**

**Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
10:30 – 11:20 am (Section 22466)
11:30 am – 12:20 pm (Section 22470)
Social Sciences 109**

Course overview and objectives

Sociology studies the ways that people connect with each other. Learning about these connections – and the different perspectives, beliefs, practices, and lifestyles that come out of their various forms – helps us to understand and expand our personal horizons. Yet, sociologists also challenge or even contradict our personal perceptions and beliefs – even those that we hold as absolute truth. Like all sciences, the *social science* of Sociology can challenge “common sense” – the reality that we individually and collectively know.

In this course, we will especially focus on the question “*How do you know what you know?*” We will also consider the logic and method of sociological research, the main features of the modern world and the inequalities within it, how inequalities disadvantage large segments of the population, how our world is a “social construction,” with multiple and shifting experiences of reality based on our collective understandings, as well as the choices we make and how those choices can and do change the world.

By the end of this course, you should be able to consider what sociologists know, how they know it, and what it means to “think sociologically” – applying a broader analysis to the social world. You will also gain greater experience with critical thinking and writing skills, as well as analyzing sociological concepts through everyday life experiences.

Required readings

Macionis, John J. and Benokraitis, Nijole V. (2010) *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology, Eighth Edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson. ISBN: 9780205733163

Watts, Duncan J. (2011) *Everything Is Obvious* *Once You Know the Answer*. New York, NY: Crown Business. ISBN: 9780385531689

Additional readings and other materials posted online on the Canvas website.

Course requirements and grade percentages

Exams	72%
Exploriments	28%

Exams – To evaluate your knowledge of the materials and ability to analyze and apply them to examples, I am asking you to complete **three exams**. The exams will include **multiple choice, true or false, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions**, based on the readings and lecture material, with a study guide distributed the week before. I encourage you to work together, forming study groups in order to prepare. You will take **Exam One on Wednesday, October 14th** from 10:30 am to 1 pm, **Exam Two on Wednesday, November 11th** from 10:30 am to 1 pm, and **Exam Three during finals week** (see times in the schedule below). Each exam is held in the **WSU testing center. (24% each x 3 Exams = 72%)**

Exploriments – To help you connect what you are learning to concrete examples and your own personal experience, as well as keep you on track with the readings, I am asking everyone to do seven out of twelve “Exploriments” outside of class, as well as share their experience and analysis of it on the online discussion board. See instructions on **page 6** of the syllabus. **(4% each x 7 posts = 28%)**

Participation – I will also be observing your participation by taking roll at the beginning of class periods and monitoring your preparation and involvement while there. A good record of participation – few absences and active contributions – will result in a “bump” in grade if you are close to a higher grade (for example, an 89/100 will receive a grade of A-). A poor participation record = no bump.

Disclaimers

- The course covers a wide range of the social world, including aspects that may make you uncomfortable such as bad language, nudity and talk about sexuality, and challenges to everything you think you know.
- In order to do well in this course and others, I highly recommend both the five part series of videos “How to Get the Most Out of Studying” (on the course website), and the Weber State course “Foundations of College Success” (UNIV 1055).
- My preferred method of contact is in person, then by email. Any other form (Canvas message, voicemail, etc.) may result in a delayed response.
- I do not tolerate cheating. Plagiarism – the use of others’ words and/or ideas without clearly acknowledging their source – is also a form of cheating. I will take appropriate disciplinary action against offenders.
- If you need to miss an assignment, be in touch with me as soon as possible. I am much more sympathetic to those who contact me *before* missing the assignment.
- If you are a student with a disability and require classroom accommodations, please meet with me to discuss arrangements (If you have not yet contacted Services for Students with Disabilities, please do so – Student Services Center, Room 181 or call (801) 626-6413).
- This syllabus, including all readings and assignments, is subject to change given the flow of the course and unforeseen circumstances. I may deliver such updates by email, so please regularly check your Weber email address or be sure that it forwards to your regular address.

Reading and lecture schedule

Part I: How do you know what you know?

WEEK ONE: The Yin and Yang of Sociology

(August 31 – September 4)

- “Sex in America: How Many Partners Do We Have?” by Robert T. Michael, John H Gagnon, Edward O. Laumann, and Gina Kolata (*Seeing Ourselves*, pp. 183-189)

Extra credit – Reading and lecture notes. Instructions are on the discussion board. Due Friday, September 4th at 11 pm (2 points).

WEEK TWO: Socialization

(September 9 – 11)

No class – Monday, September 7th.

- “Chapter 1: The Myth of Common Sense” (*Everything is Obvious*, pp. 3-29)
*Definition of common sense, cultural and historical variations in common sense, commonsense physics.**
- “Symbol: The Basic Element of Culture” by Leslie A. White (8, pp. 33-37)
- [“How Y’all, Youse and You Guys Talk”](#) (ONLINE quiz).

Part II: The modern world

WEEK THREE: Modernization

(September 14 – 18)

- “Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft” by Ferdinand Tonnies (12, pp. 52-54)
- “India’s Sacred Cow” by Marvin Harris (10, pp. 40-43)
- “Chapter 3: The Wisdom (and Madness) of Crowds” *Everything is Obvious* (pp. 54-81)
Circular reasoning, the macro-micro problem, methodological individualism, representative agents, Granovetter’s riot model, cumulative advantage.

WEEK FOUR: Social class

(September 21 – 25)

- “Manifesto of the Communist Party” by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels (11, pp. 44-51)
- [“The Myth of the Culture of Poverty”](#) by Paul Gorski (ONLINE)
- [“On a plate: A short story about privilege”](#) by Toby Morris (ONLINE)
- “Savage Inequalities: Children in U.S. Schools” by Jonathon Kozol (59, pp. 364-369)
- [“What is your social class? Take our quiz to find out!”](#) by Fabien Tepper (ONLINE)

WEEK FIVE: Work and organizations

(September 28 – October 2)

- “McJobs: McDonaldization and the Workplace” by George Ritzer (26, pp. 125-129)
- “Nickel-and-Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America” by Barbara Ehrenreich (36, pp. 209-221)

* *Everything is Obvious* is filled with sociological ideas, but unlike a normal textbook, these terms are interwoven into the text, often appearing after they are explained. Thus, to help you along, I have included a list of the key concepts for each chapter we will read.

WEEK SIX: Social solidarity
(October 5 – 9)

- “Getting a Job in Harlem: Experiences of African American, Puerto Rican, and Dominican Youth” by Katherine S. Newman (48, pp. 296-304)
- “Global Mass Media” by Todd Gitlin (72, pp. 430-435)

EXAM ONE study guide distributed.

WEEK SEVEN: EXAM ONE and Race
(October 12 – 16)

EXAM ONE Review on Monday, October 12th.

EXAM ONE in the WSU testing center on Wednesday, October 14th from 10:30 am to 1 pm.

- “How Did Jews Become White Folks?” by Karen B. Brodtkin (44, pp. 266-275)

Part III: Structures of inequality

WEEK EIGHT: Race continued
(October 19 – 21)

- [“This one video shows how racism is real in America”](#) by Ana Swanson (ONLINE – article and corresponding video “Racism Is Real” on Canvas)
- [“Leaks in the Chicana and Chicano Educational Pipeline”](#) by Tara J. Yosso and Daniel G. Solórzano (ONLINE)
- [“Implicit Racial Bias: where do we learn whom we should perceive negatively?”](#) by Todd Beer (ONLINE)

No class – Friday, October 23rd.

WEEK NINE: Gender
(October 26 – 30)

- “‘Night to His Day’: The Social Construction of Gender” by Judith Lorber (39, pp. 236-241)
- “Prostitution: A Worldwide Business of Sexual Exploitation” by Melissa Farley (31, pp. 167-179)
- “Female Genital Mutilation” by Efna Dorkenoo and Scilla Elworthy (63, pp. 384-391)

WEEK TEN: Family
(November 2 – 6)

- “Mate Selection and Marriage around the World” by Bron B. Ingoldsby (54, pp. 333-338)
- [“What's the Definition of ‘Traditional Marriage’?”](#) by Matt Baume (ONLINE – video and transcript on Canvas)
- “The Mommy Myth” by Susan J. Douglas and Meredith W. Michaels (53, pp. 327-332)

EXAM TWO study guide distributed.

WEEK ELEVEN: EXAM TWO and Choices*(November 9 – 13)***EXAM TWO review on Monday, November 9th.****EXAM TWO in the WSU testing center on Wednesday, November 11th from 10:30 am to 1 pm.**

- “Chapter 2: Thinking About Thinking” (*Everything is Obvious*, pp. 30-53)
Rational choice theory and “homo economicus,” unconscious psychological bias (priming, anchoring, confirmation bias and motivated reasoning), the frame problem.

Part IV: Agency and social change**WEEK TWELVE: Choices continued, and Interaction***(November 16 – 20)*

- [“Killing Babies, Saving the World”](#) Radiolab podcast (ONLINE)
- “The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life” by Erving Goffman (20, pp. 96-101)
- “The Code of the Streets” by Elijah Anderson (30, pp. 157-166)

WEEK THIRTEEN: Interaction continued*(November 23, 25)***No class – Friday, November 27th.****WEEK FOURTEEN: Deviance***(November 30 – December 4)*

- “The Functions of Crime” by Emile Durkheim (28, pp. 141-143)
- “On Being Sane in Insane Places” by David L. Rosenhan (29, pp. 144-156)

WEEK FIFTEEN: Social change*(December 7 – 11)*

- [“New hope for Argentina in the recovered factory movement”](#) by Oliver Balch (ONLINE)
- [“A Decade after the Take: Inside Argentina's Worker Owned Factories”](#) by Nora Leccese (ONLINE)
Film: The Take

EXAM THREE study guide distributed. Review on Friday, December 11th.**EXAM THREE in the WSU testing center:**

- **Section 22466 (10:30 am course) – Wednesday, December 16th from 10:30 am to 12:20 pm.**
- **Section 22470 (11:30 am course) – Monday, December 14th from 11:30 am to 1:20 pm.**

Exploriments

The following tasks correspond to that week's topic. You are required to do **seven** of them and post your reactions on the course discussion board (**found on the course website**).

Postings are due by **11 pm on Monday** of that week. Thus, the post for Week Two is due on Monday, September 7th by 11 pm. **NO EXCEPTIONS – LATE POSTS WILL NOT COUNT.**

Exploriments **must be at least 400 words** (this paragraph contains 63 words). They also **must contain two parts**, each in separate, numbered paragraphs, in which you: **1)** describe what you experienced and thought, and **2)** directly relate your experience to the topic and materials for that week, **including two direct quotes** from **each** of the week's readings, citing the author and page numbers.

Exploriments should be done **alone, with a meditative, open mindset** (*Adapted from Bernard McGrane – "The Un-TV and the 10 MPH Car"*).

WEEK AND TOPIC	TASK
TWO – Socialization	Take the interactive quiz "How Y'all, Youse and You Guys Talk" (found at http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2013/12/20/sunday-review/dialect-quiz-map.html?smid=pl-share). See what you can see.
THREE – Modernization	Observe your toilet bowl for ten minutes. See what you can see.
FOUR – Social class	Take the social class quiz , read the explanations of each question, and look over the result. See what you can see.
FIVE – Work and organizations	Make your bed and then unmake it five times in a row, working as quickly as you can.
SIX – Social solidarity	Watch TV attentively for ten minutes – with it turned off. See what you can see.
EIGHT – Race	Privilege line-up (completed in class). What did you observe about others? What did you observe about yourself? How did you feel?
NINE – Gender	Wear a piece of clothing that someone of your gender does not normally wear (For men – a skirt, a purse, etc. For women – shirt and tie, etc.) for twenty minutes. See what you can see.
TEN – Family	Perform a Google image search (http://images.google.com) for the word "family." See what you can see.
TWELVE – Choices	Listen to the assigned Radiolab podcast . Would you kill your baby? Is your decision a rational choice?
THIRTEEN – Interaction	For one 24 hour period, greet absolutely everyone you meet with a broad smile, a wave, or by saying hello.
FOURTEEN – Deviance	For one 24 hour period, every time you answer your telephone, do not say "Hello" or any greeting. When you finish your conversation, do not say "Goodbye" or any closing.
FIFTEEN – Social change	Discuss how recovered factories in Argentina challenge our common sense ideas about how organizations and businesses should, or even can, run, as well as about human nature of leaders and followers.

⚠️Disclaimers⚠️

- 1) Again, LATE POSTS WILL NOT COUNT.** Given the fickle nature of the internet, the last minute is not a good time to complete this assignment! Unless they are widespread, **technical difficulties are NOT a valid excuse** for a late post.
- 2) I will delete posts made in the wrong place, and you will NOT receive credit for them.** Also, **your work must be visible** to myself and other classmates (no attached files).
- 3) While many of the Exploriments are designed to take yourself and those around you outside of your normal comfort zones, DO NOT engage in any activities that may cause yourself or others any harm.** Use "common sense" when doing this assignment.