



Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

2018 Summer Program

SOC 11 Introduction to Sociology

Course Outline

Term: June 4 – June 29, 2018

Class Hours: 6:00-8:00PM (Monday through Friday)

Course Code: SOC 11

Instructor: Professor Ross Hamilton, Full Professor, Tenured, Prize Teaching Fellow Yale

Home Institution: Barnard College, Columbia University, New York

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 12-1

Email: rh174@columbia.edu

Credit: 4

Class Hours: This course will have 52 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, professor 8 office hours, 8-hour TA discussion sessions, 4-hour review sessions.

Course Description :

When we study sociology we study ourselves. Many of the topics we discuss and the readings in this course will speak to some aspect of your experience. Sociology can help to provide the language to understand what we go through in our lives and how we are connected to other people. “Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies, and how people interact within these contexts” (American Sociological Association).

This course is designed to provide a general introduction to the discipline of sociology. The course is divided into eighteen sections. First, we will try to understand what sociology is and what it is that sociology studies. Second, we will examine different types of inequality in society, including race,



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class, gender, sexuality, and disability and learn how they affect people's lives. Third, we will explore the workings of a variety of social institutions, including the economy, politics, religion, the family, and education.

Course Objectives:

To provide students with a general introduction to and understanding of sociology -- views, issues, and arguments. It should also help students to appreciate what sociology is and the way in which it is relevant to practical issues.

To understand the general thoughts of major sociologists.

To help students develop critical think, critical reading, and writing skills. It is important to understand the difference between good and bad arguments, and to have the ability to critically and carefully analyze the arguments of others. This course should help students to write more sharply organized, focused and effective argumentative essays.

Required Texts:

George Ritzer, Introduction to Sociology (Los Angeles: SAGE, 2013)

Selections from Max Weber, Economy and Society (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978)

Some supplementary readings or articles will be distributed periodically to complement the assigned readings from the manual, either in advance, or in class. Apart from the chapters of the manual, you will also find in this syllabus mentions of readings from specific authors: a brief selection to be assigned from each of them will be made available and will be read for the assigned week. In addition, short selections of works by Durkheim, Foucault, Bourdieu, Barthes, Freud, Simmel, Marx, Bauman and Comte will be analyzed in class.

This syllabus is subject to change by the professor. Verbal or written notice will be given in the event that changes are made.

General Information:

Class meetings will be grounded in discussion of the assigned texts. Readings must be completed before the class meeting in which they will be discussed. This enables students to get the most out of the lectures and to participate effectively in discussion.

Discussion: You will not be expected to have fully developed points of view about the course materials. However, you are expected to participate. No one will be penalized for being wrong or imprecise, for expressing uncertainty or frustration, or for changing their mind. But it should be clear that you are trying, that you have done the readings and are working toward a mastery of the material.

Availability: I expect that all of you, either alone or in groups, will contact me. I am almost always



available to discuss the course material.

Cell Phones: Cell phones must be turned off and put away during class meetings.

Evaluation Criteria:

The value of our meetings will hinge on your advance preparation and on your willingness to engage the issues actively in class. When you are doing the readings, keep in mind that you will be expected to participate in the debates outlined in the readings, reject some positions, embrace others, and defend the choices you make.

Grades will be based on the following:

- Paper: 30%
- Midterm: 20%
- Final exam: 30%
- Attendance and participation: 20%

Exams: The midterm and the final will both be in-class exams. You will be asked to write an essay on one of the broad themes discussed in the course.

Attendance and Participation: This grade will be measured based on attendance and preparedness (i.e. whether students are prepared to discuss the reading).

Grading Policy

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4.0
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3.0
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2.0
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1.0
≤59	F (Failure)	0

Your work will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

A— designates work of extraordinarily high quality; reflects unusually thorough and comprehensive understanding of issues at hand; presents a clearly identifiable thesis and argument that demonstrates cogent and creative development and support of ideas.



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B— designates work of high quality; reflects clearly organized and comprehensive understanding of issues and hand; presents substantive thesis and argument with evident development and support of ideas.

C— designates work which minimally meets requirements set forward in assignment; reflects some organization and development of ideas, but develops argument in superficial or simplistic manner; may only address part of the assignment or be otherwise incomplete.

D— designates work of poor quality which does not meet minimum requirements set forward in assignment; demonstrates poor organization of ideas and/or inattention to development of ideas, grammar, and spelling; treatment of material is superficial and/or simplistic; may indicate that student has not done reading assignments thoroughly.

F— designates work that does not meet ANY of the standards set above or which is not handed in.

Syllabus

Session One

Introductory Session

Sociology among the social sciences

Ritzer, Chapter 1 and 2

Classical and Contemporary Sociology

Ritzer, Chapter 3

Selections from Weber

Selections from Robert K. Merton, *On Theoretical Sociology* (New York: MacMillan Publishing Co., 1967)

Selections from Herbert Spencer, *First Principles* (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1898)

Culture

Ritzer, Chapter 4

Selections from Riccardo Lucchini and Charles Ridoré, *Culture & Société* (Fribourg: Éditions Universitaires, 1979)

Socialization and Interaction

Ritzer, Chapter 5

Selections from Robert K. Merton, *Social Theory and Social Structure* (New York: The Free Press, 1968)

First Paper Assigned



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Session Two

Organizations, Societies and the Global

Ritzer, Chapter 6

Social Stratification

Ritzer, Chapter 8

Selections from Weber

Deviance and Crime

Ritzer, Chapter 7

Selections from Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (New York: Random House, 1995)

Mid-Term Exam

Session Three

Race and Ethnicity

Ritzer Chapter 9

Video: Speech “I Have a Dream” by Martin Luther King

Sex and Gender

Ritzer Chapter 10

Selections from George Ritzer and Douglas J. Goodman, *Modern Sociological Theory* (Boston: McGrawHill, 2004)

Selections from Javier Corrales and Mario Pecheny, *The Politics of Sexuality in Latin America* (Pittsburgh: The University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010)

The Family

Ritzer Chapter 11

Selections from Scott A. Boorman, *The Genetics of Altruism* (New York: Academic Press, 1980)

Religion and Education

Ritzer Chapter 16

Selections from Raymond Aron, *Les Étapes de la Pensée Sociologique* (Paris: Gallimard, 1967)

Second Paper Assigned

Session Four



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The Body, Medicine, Health and Health Care

Ritzer Chapter 13

Selections from Graham Scambler, *Sociology as Applied to Medicine* (Edinburgh: Saunders, 2003)

Population, Urbanization and the Environment

Ritzer Chapter 14

Selections from Philip W. Sutton, *The Environment: A Sociological Introduction* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2007)

Selections from Lewis A. Coser Ed., *The Idea of Social Structure* (New York: Harcourt Brace, 1975)

Social Change, Social Movements, and Collective Behavior

Ritzer Chapter 15

Selections from Daniele Caramani, *Comparative Politics 2nd. Ed.* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)

Selections from Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes* (Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1978)

Politics and the Economy

Ritzer Chapter 12

Selections from Weber

Selections from Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes* (Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1978)

Final Exam