

SOC 106: Introduction to Sociology

Instructor: Gulmira Churokova
Course code: SOC 106
Class schedule: M, W, F: 12:00-12:50
Credits: 6

Office phone number: 66-10-92
Email: churokova_g@mail.auca.kg
Office hours: Fridays, 15:00-17:00

Course description:

This course aims to introduce you to sociology - the discipline that enables us to analyze everything around us: social groups, social institutions, social processes and changes, which we usually take for granted. The course will acquaint you with the basic terminology, corner stone social theories and methods of social research which will further become tools for you in exploring, learning and understanding social issues, such as groups and organizations, deviant behavior, social inequality, globalization and many others.

Course readings:

Two textbooks indicated below will need to be checked out from the University Library, whereas the additional readings should also be used when assigned. When necessary, I will be disseminating photocopies of the assigned readings:

Macionis, John J. (2001) Sociology, 8th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ; Prentice Hall (M)
McIntyre, Lisa J. (1999) The Practical Skeptic: Readings in Sociology, Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Company (PS)

Additional readings:

Henslin, James M. (2001) (Ed) Down to Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings, 11th ed. New York: The Free Press

Class Schedule:

Note: The schedule is subject to minor modifications. If this is the case you will be informed during the classes or via email in advance. Please note, that you are responsible for keeping track of such changes.

Weeks	Class Themes and Assignments
Week 1 Mon, Sep 1	Sociological Imagination (no class)
Wed, Sep 3	Introduction to the course, getting acquainted
Fri, Sep 5	Discussing syllabus in detail
Week 2 Mon, Sep 8	Sociological Imagination Discussing syllabus in detail
Wed, Sep 10	The Sociological perspective (M)
Fri, Sep 12	Mills C. Wright, The Promise (PS) Peter L. Berger, "Invitation to Sociology" (D)
Week 3 Mon, Sep 15	Culture Culture (M)
Wed, Sep 17	Miner Horace. Body Ritual among Nacirema (PS)

Fri, Sep 19	Edward T.Hall, Hidden Culture. (PS)
Week 4 Mon, Sep 22	Socialization Socialization (M)
Wed, Sep 24	Deborah Tannen, “But What Do You Mean? Women and Men in Conversations” (D)
Fri, Sep 26	Kingsley Davis, “Extreme Isolation” (D)
Week 5 Mon, Sep 29	Social Interaction in Everyday Life Social Interaction in Everyday Life (M)
Wed, Oct 1	Goffman E. The presentation of Self in Everyday life (PS)
Fri, Oct 3	No class
Week 6 Mon, Oct 6	Groups and Organizations No class
Wed, Oct 8	Groups and Organizations (M)
Fri, Oct 10	Philip Meyer, “If Hitler Asked You to Electrocute a Stranger, Would You? Probably” (D)
Week 7 Mon, Oct 13	Groups and Organizations Film: The Experiment (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Xljvdjugxs)
Wed, Oct 15	Film: The Experiment (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Xljvdjugxs)
Fri, Oct 17	MIDTERM! (The date to be announced later)
Week 8 Mon, Oct 20	Deviance and Conformity No class
Wed, Oct 22	Deviance (M) 1st Reflection paper due!
Fri, Oct 24	Durkheim E. The Normality of Crime (PS). David L. Rosenhan. On Being Sane in Insane Places. (PS)
Week 9 Mon, Oct 27	Sexuality Sexuality (M)
Wed, Oct 29	Patricia Yancey Martin, Robert A. Hummer. “Fraternities and Rape on Campus” (D)
Fri, Oct 31	Thorne B., Luria Z.. “Sexuality and Gender in Children’s Daily Worlds”
Week 10 Mon, Nov 3	Social Stratification Social Stratification (M)
Wed, Nov 5	Herbert J.Gans The Uses of Poverty: the Poor Pay All. (PS)
Fri, Nov 7	An article to be given
Week 11 Mon, Nov 10	Global Stratification Global Stratification (M)
Wed, Nov 12	Gender Stratification (M)

Fri, Nov 14	Sidney Katz, “The Importance of Being Beautiful” (D)
Week 12 Mon, Nov 17	Race and Ethnicity Race and Ethnicity (M)
Wed, Nov 19	Leung, The Model Minority Myth: Asian Americans Confront Growing Backlash (PS)
Fri, Nov 21	Video: “The Question of Color”; 2nd Reflection Paper due!
Week 13 Mon, Nov 24	The Economy and Work The Economy and Work (M)
Wed, Nov 26	Barbara Ehrenreich, Annete Fuentes, “Life on the Global Assembly Line” (D)
Fri, Nov 28	An article to be given
Week 14	Family
Mon, Dec 1	Family (M)
Wed, Dec 3	Arlie Hochschild, Anne Machung, “Men Who Share “The Second Shift”” (D)
Fri, Dec 5	An article to be given
Week 15	Religion
Mon, Dec 8	Religion (M)
Wed, Dec 10	Marvin Harris, “India’s Sacred Cow” (D).
Fri, Dec 12	Discussion: internalized knowledge and concepts
Week 16	FINAL EXAM The exam date to be announced later

Evaluation:

Your final grade will comprise of the following:

Class participation – 15%

2 Reflection papers – 30%

Presentation – 15%

Mid-term – 20%

Final Exam 20% - Total 100%

Grading Scale:

100-91: A

65-61: C

90-86: A-

60-56: C-

85-81: B+

55-51: D+

80-76: B

50-46: D

75-71: B-

<45: F

70-66: C+

“X” – Grade “X” is an administrative drop – can only be initiated by instructor and cannot be requested by a student. This grade can be given only when a student is seriously sick and missed series of classes in a row (sickness should be justified by necessary documentation). It may also lead to an X if a student gets X in the rest of the classes where he or she is registered for the given semester.

“I” – Grade “I” may be given to a student if he or she justifies a) a serious sickness; b) serious family circumstances.

Class assignments:

In the class schedule you have assigned readings for both lecture and seminar classes. Please note that during the seminars we will be discussing materials assigned for both lecture and seminar classes. Moreover, the mid-term and final exam will cover all the materials. Thus, you are expected to attend each class and to contribute to the discussions based on your knowledge of the readings.

A. Class participation – Your attendance and participation will represent 10% of your final grade. More than 4 absences will lead to automatic drop from the class. Those who are late for 15 minutes can feel free to join the class, but will not be counted as present.

C. Reflection papers - each student is expected to submit 2 reflection papers during the course. These reaction papers should focus on one of the readings that you may choose out of the additional readings in McIntyre or Henslin. The purpose of these papers is to give you a chance to strengthen your writing and analytical skills.

The following are the requirements for reflection papers:

1. A brief summary of the reading in your own words
2. Main argument of the author
3. Do you agree or disagree with the argument? Why? Provide examples.
4. Question raised by you in terms of a given topic
5. Conclusion

I would highly encourage submitting drafts prior submitting the final version. Or you may consider your reflection papers to be peer reviewed by your group mates. Please, note that it is your responsibility to be aware of the deadlines and you should turn in the hard copy of your paper in the beginning of the class when it is due. Late submissions will lead to a lower grade (1 day late submission, 1 letter grade minus). Each reflection paper will be evaluated on the scale of 10%.

D. Presentation - each of you is expected to make a presentation based on the required reading to a particular topic that you may choose out of all listed readings in the syllabus. A presentation should be around 15-20 minutes, and should include, but not be limited to the following aspects: summary of the reading, main points of the author and link of the reading to a situation within a given social group, district, region or country. A presenter should also raise questions based on the reading, which should be discussed within the class. If only all of the above mentioned requirements are met, you will be given the highest point that is 10% in this case.

E. Mid-term and Final Exam – these assignments are to check your understanding of the given materials and themes provided in the textbooks and also during the lectures, seminars and group discussions. Both midterm and final exam will include a test with multiple-choice answer questions and short essays on the given themes. You are fully responsible for knowing the midterm and final exam place, date and time regardless of your previous absences. Midterm and final exams will weigh 20% each.

Academic Honesty

The AUCA Code of Academic Honesty is written in the university handbook, and you are all at least formally aware of the meaning of *cheating* and *plagiarism*. If you have any questions, concerns, or are unsure about what to do in a particular case, please come to me for advice. I will be happy to help you work through any difficulties or uncertainties, particularly those

regarding proper citation of sources. DO NOT assume that if you break the Code of Academic Honesty unknowingly, you will not be penalized. It is your responsibility to understand the Code, and to abide by it. Any deviation from the Code will result in a failure on the exam or assignment in question. Two violations will result in a failure for the course.

Note

Instructor reserves the right to make necessary changes in the syllabus within the duration of the course.