

WINTER SEMESTER 2018

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE

SOC 250: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Nicholas Athey

OFFICE: Hoover 114

OFFICE HOURS: M & W, 3:00-4:00 pm (or by appointment)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Sociology is concerned with the study of societies, including the people and institutions that comprise them. It entails an understanding of both macro- and micro-level social processes that shape the way we interact and construct reality. This course will provide a general overview of the subject of sociology, including popular social theorists and theories, and delve into the historical and contemporary development of the discipline using classical and topical examples from many of the most well-known social scholars. Students are introduced to the major social institutions, such as the family, economy, political and educational system, and challenged to think about how their lives are affected by personal and external forces that “push” and “pull” them in various directions throughout the life-course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course introduces students to the discipline of sociology and teaches them to think about the social world through the lens of a sociologist. Upon completing the course, students will be able to:

- Critically exam and apply social theories to everyday life,
- Evaluate current social controversies using a *sociological imagination*,
- Distinguish between macro- and micro-level social perspectives and processes,
- Describe the major social institutions and their role(s) across the life-course,
- Define important sociological terminology, and
- Critically analyze and critique sociological research.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Newman, D.N. (2017). *Sociology: Exploring the architecture of everyday life* (5th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publishing. (Brief Edition)

Note: Supplementary readings will be assigned throughout the course which will be available through the University of La Verne’s electronic library.

PREREQUISITE:

None.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated on the basis of a midterm and final examination, construction of a concept map and course journal, participation in weekly online discussions, and a written assignment based on the textbook and at least one peer-reviewed journal article. The University of La Verne operates on a letter-grade system, with the following range of possible outcomes: A+ (98-100%), A (94-97%), A- (90-93%), B+ (87-89%), B (83-86%), B- (80-82%), C+ (77-79%), C (73-76%), C- (70-72%), D+ (67-69%), D (63-66%), D- (60-62%), and F (0-59%). Grades will be allocated as follows:

Participation in weekly discussions	10%
Concept map	5%
Mid-Term Examination:	25%
Term Paper (5-6 page essay)	20%
Course Journal	15%
Final Examination	25%

NOTE: Any student requesting an “incomplete” (INC) must first communicate with the instructor and complete the “Incomplete Contract” form through their MyLaverne system (see for more details: <https://sites.laverne.edu/registrar/student-information/mylaverne-information/student-information-system/how-to-request-an-incomplete-inc-grade>).

Final grades for the course will be assigned as follows:

A+	98-100%
A	94-97%
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
F	0-59%

A NOTE REGARDING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty is taken very seriously at the University of La Verne. Plagiarism and cheating on examinations are considered to be major offenses. Plagiarism consists of buying term papers or essays, submitting an essay or term paper that you did not write yourself, paraphrasing the works of others without acknowledging (citing) your source or sources, using direct word-for-word quotations without putting them in quotation marks

and acknowledging (citing) your source or sources, submitting an essay or term paper that you have written for another course (i.e., a double submission), etc. Cheating on examinations consists of copying from the work of other students, allowing other students to copy from your work, surreptitiously using aids—e.g., class notes, cheat sheets, cell phones, i-phones, i-pods—during examinations, etc. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty can expect one or more possible penalties. The penalties for academic dishonesty generally include a written account being submitted to The Registrar, where it is retained on the student’s file, and a failing grade for the examination or assignment on which cheating took place (i.e., 0%). Other possibilities (on an escalating scale) include a failing grade for the course in which the cheating occurred, expulsion from the course, and, in egregious cases (or in cases where there is a repeated pattern of academic dishonesty), suspension or expulsion from the university.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with one or more physical, medical, psychological, attention-deficit, and/or learning disabilities may qualify for certain reasonable accommodations and services to help them maximize their learning potential. Some examples of the services available to qualifying students include priority registration, assistance in scheduling classes in accessible locations, testing in a distraction reduced testing environment, reader and/or transcriber, Sign Language interpreters and/or captionists, and many others. If you would like more information about The Disabled Student Services Department (DSS) and the services they provide, visit the webpage here: <https://sites.laverne.edu/disabled-student-services/>.

TERM PAPER AND CONCEPT MAP:

Students are required to complete a term paper totaling 1,250-1,500 words, or approximately 5-6 pages (not including cover page and references cited page) by the end of Week 9 (March 11th @ 10:30 p.m.). Papers should follow APA format and make reference to all required readings (i.e., textbook and at least two additional peer-reviewed sources). Further instructions about the term paper are available in the “term paper handout.”

Students will also construct a concept map outlining their approach to the term paper, which will be submitted for a grade and peer review in Week 4 (February 4th @ 10:30 pm.). A template will be available for review; however, students should ensure each of the following components are addressed in their concept map:

- **Topic:** Which topic has been selected;
- **Organization:** Provide headings and subheadings detailing the major points or themes that will be addressed throughout the paper;
- **Supporting details and examples:** Provide details and examples that will be used to support claims/arguments made under each (sub)heading;
- **Conclusion/Take-home message:** One sentence clearly summarizing the aim or objective of the paper;

- **Reflection:** A brief (written) reflection addressing anticipated difficulties and strengths of the current approach.

COURSE JOURNAL:

Students will track their progress throughout the online program by keeping a journal. Journal entries will vary from week-to-week, but will require that students (1) reflect on the course material and its relevance to their personal lives; (2) make reference to required readings and lectures; and (3) demonstrate knowledge of weekly lesson plans and objectives. Journal entries should include a combination of personalized written and media entries, such as photos, short video clips, drawings/art, quotations and many other forms of expression that effectively convey how the course information was interpreted and “connected” to the student’s own life. Completed journals will be submitted during the final week of class (Sunday, March 18th at 10:30 p.m.); however, the instructor will review and provide comments on a weekly basis. In total, journals will be worth 15% of the final grade, but a half point (0.5% of the total grade) will be awarded for completing entries during the week they are assigned. Therefore, the final grade breakdown is:

- 0.5% (x 10 weeks = 5%) for completing journal entries during the week they are assigned and
- 10% for submitting a completed journal no later than March 18th @ 10:30 p.m.
- Total = 0.5% x 10 weeks (5%) and 10% for completed journals (total 15%).

(Note: These figures are the *possible* number of points that can be received; completing tasks on time and in full is not a guarantee that full marks will be rewarded)

WEEKLY TOPICS, ONLINE DISCUSSIONS, AND READINGS:

You should look through this syllabus on a regular basis, as it contains a full listing of course topics and required readings for the semester on a week-by-week basis. Weekly discussions for this course will require students to first complete the assigned reading(s) and online lecture(s). Discussion topics will become available at 8:00 a.m. Monday and remain open until Sunday at 10:30 p.m. Students must participate *meaningfully* in the online discussion at least twice during the week it is available; while the discussion forums will remain open for students to use as a study aid, contributions made to the discussion after the week has ended will not receive credit. The first entry must demonstrate a degree of reflection on that week’s prompt or question and reference the assigned reading(s), lecture(s), or both. The second entry must be a response to a classmate’s first entry and either challenge its merit (respectfully) or progress the dialogue in a meaningful way by making reference to relevant course content. Note that outside sources, such as current events in the media and personal anecdotes, can be used, but are not considered adequate substitutes for the course content.

Lectures will selectively emphasize essential issues, themes and content, and will introduce ideas and information that supplement and extend beyond the required readings. The

schedule, lecture topics and assigned readings for the ten weeks of the course are as follows:

WEEK 1: (January 8-14, 2018)

Lecture 1: Introduction to sociology and sociological thought

Readings: Chapter 1 ('Taking a New Look at A Familiar World') & Chapter 2 ('Seeing and Thinking Sociologically')

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #1 & Journal entry #1

WEEK 2: (January 15-21, 2018)

Lecture 2: Accounting for history and culture: The construction of social thought

Readings: Chapter 3 ('Building Reality: The Social Construction of Knowledge') & Chapter 4 ('Building Order: Culture and History')

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #2 & Journal entry #2

WEEK 3: (January 22-28, 2018)

Lecture 3: Social processes and the presentation of one's self

Readings: Chapter 5 ('Building Identity: Socialization') & Chapter 6 ('Supporting Identity: The Presentation of Self')

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #3 & Journal entry #3

WEEK 4: (January 29-February 4, 2018)

Lecture 4: Types of relationships and (changing) family dynamics

Readings: Chapter 7 ('Building Social Relationships: Intimacy and Families') & Lareau (2002): "Invisible inequality: Social class and childrearing in Black families and White families" (available through the University of La Verne online library at: <http://library.laverne.edu/>)

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #4 & Journal entry #4

Assignment due: Term paper 'concept map' is due by 10:30 p.m. Sunday, February 4th.

WEEK 5: (February 5-11, 2018)

Lecture 5: Deviance and social control

Readings: Chapter 8 ('Constructing Difference: Social Deviance') & Erickson (1962): "Notes on the sociology of deviance" (available through the University of La Verne online library at: <http://library.laverne.edu/>)

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #5 & Journal entry #5

Mid term examination: The midterm examination, worth 25% of your final grade, will be available the entire week. Exams must be completed in one sitting at any time during the one week period they are assigned. The exam will include 15 multiple choice, 10 true/false, 5 short answer, and 2 long answer questions and total 50 points, which will then be divided by 2 to give a raw percentage score (out of 25%).

WEEK 6: (February 12-18, 2018)

Lecture 6: Social institutions and globalization

Readings: Chapter 9 ('The Structure of Society: Organizations, Social Institutions, and Globalization')

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #6 & Journal entry #6

WEEK 7: (February 19-25, 2018)

Lecture 7: Social class and inequality

Readings: Chapter 10 ('The Architecture of Stratification: Social Class and Inequality')

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #7 & Journal entry #7

WEEK 8: (February 26-March 4, 2018)

Lecture 8: Social inequality: Race, ethnicity, sex, and gender

Readings: Chapter 11 ('The Architecture of Inequality: Race and Ethnicity') & Chapter 12 ('The Architecture of Inequality: Sex and Gender')

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #8 & Journal entry #8

Draft due: The final date to submit a term paper draft for feedback from the instructor is Sunday, March 4th at 10:30 p.m.

WEEK 9: (March 5-11, 2018)

Lecture 9: Demographics and social change

Readings: Chapter 13 ('Demographic Dynamics: Population Trends') & Chapter 14 ('Architects of Change: Reconstructing Society')

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #9 & Journal entry #9

Term paper due: The final date to submit term papers without receiving a late penalty is Sunday, March 11th at 10:30 p.m.

WEEK 10: (March 12-18, 2018)

Lecture 10: Course conclusion and final exam review

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #10 & Journal entry #10

Final examination: The final examination, worth 25% of your final grade, will be available the entire week. Exams must be completed in one sitting at any time during the one week period they are assigned. The exam will be cumulative and include 15 multiple choice, 10 true/false, 5 short answer, and 2 long answer questions and total 50 points, which will then be divided by 2 to give a raw percentage score (out of 25%)

Completed journal due: The final date to submit course journals without receiving a late penalty is Sunday March 18th at 10:30 p.m.