
Camosun College
School of Arts & Science
Social Sciences Department

Sociology 100
Social Structure & Organization

Fall, 2002

The Approved Course Description is available on the web @

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Intended Learning Outcomes

To introduce a sociological perspective, and to give the students an opportunity to become familiar with the basic concepts of sociology. The course will focus on the “classic” tradition in sociological thinking. There will be an emphasis upon examining this thought in terms of its influence upon the current major paradigms of sociology and its relevance to our lives and society. The course is not intended as a survey of sociological theory, but rather utilizes theory as a means to introduce the students to a sociological perspective. The intended learning outcomes of the course are twofold:

- (a) the students will be able to view and analyze social phenomena with greater insight, which will enable them to better understand themselves, their society, and the times in which they live; and
- (b) the course will also prepare the students for further study in the social sciences through their grasp of the historical roots and the contemporary directions of the discipline of sociology.

Required Materials

The course will utilize the Internet and lectures to examine the topics covered in the course outline. Appropriate sociology website addresses will be provided to the students along with links to the works of major social theorists and subject areas of the discipline.

The students who do not have Internet access at home are urged to obtain a College account in the very first week of classes so they do not fall behind in their studies.

Method of Instruction

The course will be based on a series of lectures, followed by seminar-type discussions in which the students are urged to participate.

Basis of Student Assessment

Evaluation will be based on three in-class examinations, each accounting for one-third of the final grade. Each examination will consist of one essay question, selected by the student from a choice of two questions chosen at the time of the exam, and will cover material from the readings, lectures, and discussions. All examinations will be graded anonymously and on the basis of their sociological quality and English proficiency.

In evaluating the examination papers the emphasis will be on understanding and analysis, rather than recitation of facts. Avoid memorizing sentences, in particular when it is not clear to you what the sentences mean. Papers indicating memorization will receive a grade of Zero. As for analysis, your learning strategy should be to understand the relationships among facts, not the facts alone. Another important aspect of your paper is illustration. After discussion and analysis, give examples from current or historical developments in society. This will show that you understand the concepts and theories and are able to apply them to society as tools for analysis. More specifically, the exam paper must:

1. show a full understanding of the thesis and the main arguments of the topic;
2. cover all the major components of the topic;
3. be organized and cohesive;
4. be written in clear English and communicate ideas effectively;
5. focus on the topic and avoid unrelated material from other topics or elsewhere;
6. avoid “fillers”, padding, repetitions, and vague generalities which can be used for any exam topic; and
7. illustrate the theory by giving appropriate examples, thus “applying” the theory to society.

Examination Procedures

The dates of the first and second examinations will be chosen in consultation with students in order to minimize the chances of their having to write several examinations in the same week. The third examination will be held during the exam week. All examinations must be written in the section of the course in which the student is officially registered.

A grade of Zero will be granted for absence during examination, unless the student produces a medical certificate confirming serious illness and writes the substitute exam within one week of recovery.

The examination papers for the first and second examinations must be claimed by the student in person during the class session in which the papers are returned or the following session.

Grading System

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 95 - 100%	B = 75 - 79%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 90 - 94%	B- = 70 - 74%	F = 0.0 - 49%
A- = 85 - 89%	C+ = 65 - 69%	I = See Calendar for Details
B+ = 80 - 85%	C = 60 - 64%	AUD = Audit

W = Official withdrawal has taken place.

Tutorial Assistance

Since the pool of questions from which examination topics will be chosen are known in advance, students are strongly urged to prepare draft essays based on these questions and bring them over for review and tutorial assistance well before the exam date. This will ensure that the issues are understood and the papers are on the right track.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following acts:

- (i) giving, receiving, or obtaining unauthorized information during any type of examination or test;
- (ii) obtaining or providing unauthorized questions or answers relating to any examination or test prior to the time of the examination or test;
- (iii) asking or arranging for another person to take any examination or test in one's place;
- (iv) plagiarizing, that is, appropriating the work of another or parts or passages of another's writing, or the ideas or language of the same, and passing them off as a product of one's own mind or manual skill.

Academic misconduct will result in a grade of "F" for the entire course. The students should note that in accordance with the college policy quoted above, mere access to unauthorized information (for example, texts or lecture notes) constitutes academic misconduct. It is not necessary for the instructor to prove that the information has been used by the student.

Tape-Recording in the Classroom

In order to ensure free and open discussion of controversial ideas by the students, tape-recording of the proceedings is not permitted in class. Exceptions, however, will be made for students who are visually impaired or are unable to write due to physical disability.

Procedure Changes

In order to deal with the day to day management of the course, new procedures or revisions to procedures may be implemented from time to time throughout the semester. Such procedures and revisions will be announced in class for two consecutive sessions before they are implemented. It is the responsibility of each student to keep informed of such developments.

All matters that are not covered by this course outline are governed by official college policies and procedures.

Course Content and Study Guide

Lectures will focus on explaining and answering the following topics and questions. These topics and questions, in turn, will constitute the source from which the examination questions will be chosen through a random selection process at the time of the exam.

I. THE DOMAIN OF SOCIOLOGY

01. Explain Emile Durkheim's general approach to the study of society, his conception of social fact, and the nature and consequences of society-individual relations.
02. Examine Durkheim's concepts of collective conscience, mechanical solidarity, organic solidarity, norms, anomie, and division of labour.

II. CULTURE, SOCIALIZATION, AND THE SELF

03. Examine the concept of socialization, the basic ingredients of socialization, and the sociological perspective on the socialization process.
04. Explain Charles Cooley's idea of looking-glass self, and George Herbert Mead's perspective on the genesis of the self and the concepts of the "I" and the "Me."
05. Discuss the meaning of culture, the relationship between culture and the individual, cultural conflict, subcultures, and the question of cultural hegemony.
06. Examine Erving Goffman's explanation of the presentation of the self in everyday life and Berger and Luckmann's idea of the social construction of reality.

III. BUREAUCRACY, RATIONALIZATION, AND CLASS STRUCTURE

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07. Examine Weber's idea of rationalization and its relationship to disenchantment, and discuss his views on bureaucracy and its characteristics.
 08. Explain the concepts of class structure and process and the traditional theories of Max Weber and Talcott Parsons and their critiques.
 09. Explain the critical (Marxian) theories of class structure and process, contemporary class structures, and the immiseration thesis.
 10. Examine Marx's concept of alienation and its many dimensions and illustrate by drawing examples from the contemporary society.

IV. THE CAPITALIST ECONOMY, THE STATE, AND GLOBALIZATION

11. Examine the features of the capitalist economy, the recent theories of the state, and the historical relation between capitalist state and economy.
12. Examine Immanuel Wallerstein's world system theory with particular reference to the capitalist world system.
13. Explain Noam Chomsky's perspective on economic globalization.
14. Discuss Anthony Giddens' view of the runaway world of globalization and Albert's explanation of the resistance movement.

V. RELIGION AND LEGITIMACY

15. Examine the classic theoretical perspectives on religion and its role in legitimating the social order and assuring social control: Marx—religion and ideology; Durkheim—religion and social solidarity; Weber—Protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism.
16. Examine the role of religion in social reform and revolution with particular reference to the theology of liberation.
17. Examine the role of religion as a cultural system.

VI. HIGHER EDUCATION

18. Examine the issues of the commodification of higher education and the disembodied learning.

VII. SOCIOLOGICAL METHODS OF RESEARCH

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19. Examine the nature of social science knowledge in relation to natural sciences, and explain the development of research design, experimental design, and surveys.
 20. Discuss the nature of participant observation and unobtrusive measures, and examine the techniques of sampling and their implications.
 21. Examine the validity issues in measuring psychological constructs.

Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

Students are encouraged to utilize support services available at the Writing Centre to prepare for their essay exams.

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

There is an Academic Conduct Policy. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-8