

SPRING 2017
SOCIOLOGY 201
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**
(3 UNITS)

Professor: Debora A. Paterniti

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General Education: This course satisfies D1 (Individual & Society)

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course introduces thinking about the world using “the sociological imagination.” Lectures and course readings will emphasize the connection between individuals and their social world and institutions. As such, we will examine how the social world shapes human action, and how human action creates the world in which we live. We will consider this paradox through the lens of sociological theories and research methods and in the context of social interaction, key social institutions, society and policy. We will explore the areas of identity and culture, work and the economy, and civic engagement and community to highlight the value of the sociological perspective on understanding human circumstance and social life. In these contexts, we will investigate order, conflict, delinquency, stratification, power, and change. You will have the opportunity to apply your understandings in weekly written assignments that include reading precis, reflective journal assignments, and course exercises.

Course Objectives:

- to interpret the social world through the critical lens of “the sociological imagination”;
- to understand the application of diverse theories and research methods to sociological investigation;
- to explore the paradox of social life in the context of “taken-for-granted” understandings, social interactions, key institutions, and popular culture;
- to investigate how individuals and social groups construct social reality;
- to discuss conformity and conflict and their related contexts;
- to examine the consequences of social stratification; and
- to consider micro-, meso-, and macro- perspectives and levels of social engagement.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to complete all required reading and to come to class prepared to participate in lecture and large-group discussion periods. Active course participation and attendance will constitute a portion (5%) of the final course grade. There will be three examinations (45%), and a comprehensive final exam (20%). The exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions (essay questions will be selected from a list of study questions), and ten 1-2 page papers, including precis of course readings and reflective journal assignments (2 pages each) (30%) will also be required. Assignments will be due on their designated dates, and must be posted to MOODLE on time to receive full credit.

Required Readings:

Selected classic and contemporary social science publications posted to MOODLE will constitute required reading materials.

Additional Expenses:

- Students will have some expenses associated with downloading and printing the required readings and course materials.

**Please note: This information is subject to change.