

Principles of Sociology (SOC 100)
Section 1: MWF 9:00 - 9:50 a.m., PB 13-2
Section 2: MWF 11:00 – 11:50 a.m., UCB 115
Fall 2003, University of Hawaii at Hilo

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Office Hours: MWF 10:00 to 10:50 a.m. and MW 1:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a general introduction to the field of Sociology. Sociology is a science concerned with the study of how people interact and relate to one another. This course is designed to introduce students to the sociological perspective, which helps us understand the social world. Thus, we will sample a number of major topics in Sociology and relate them to ourselves and our thinking about the social world. An important component of being an educated person is developing a background in the liberal arts. This requires students to think critically about explanations and facts that are offered by others.

PREREQUISITES AND EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS: This course has no prerequisites; it is a first-time college course in Sociology and is appropriate for students with no prior college experience.

Expectations of Students: Students are expected to become lifelong learners. College is an opportunity to develop the skills and values required of world citizens. Knowledge workers will be the most successful in the 21st century of a global-technological environment. This requires that students (1) develop an inquisitive, probing mind and (2) invest time and effort to become informed about current events.

Students must read and consult this syllabus throughout the semester. I expect students to attend class and be prepared for class by completing the assigned readings. I encourage students to ask questions before, during, and after class. While students are expected to attend class, I do not require or expect students to document “excused absences.” Please do not bring “excuses” about why you are not able to attend class. You are an adult, if you decide to miss class for whatever reason, you must face the consequences of your decision.

It is imperative that students complete and submit assigned work on time. In the real world, deadlines are not extended for casual reasons. Students who believe they have a valid excuse to miss a deadline must consult with the instructor as soon as possible **PRIOR** to the deadline.

Classroom Mechanics: The course will be taught in both lecture and discussion formats. I will attempt to bring new material to the subject to demonstrate the application of the sociological perspective to the topic at hand. Students are expected to have read the assigned material before coming to class and be prepared to discuss the material. I will occasionally use small groups format for students to develop their sociological skills.

Students are encouraged to visit with me in my office. While we may carry on brief conversations immediately prior to and after class, these times are not conducive to meaningful communication. During these class breaks, students and I usually have to hurry off to or from another location on campus. Instead, stop by or call me at the office.

On very rare occasions, I am forced to miss a class myself. If I know in sufficient time, I will arrange for a colleague to cover my class (or I will announce a class cancellation in class). If I am ill or otherwise unable to attend at the last minute, a staffer will post a written notice on the door outside our classroom.

GRADING PROCEDURES: Final grades will be based on the following components:

Item	Points
Team Project	20
Individual Paper	20
Exams (3 @ 20 points)	60
Total	100

Letter Grades are earned based on the following scale:

Points Earned	Quality of Work	Letter Grade Earned
91.0 - 100.0	"Exceptional"	A
81.0 - 90.9	"Superior"	B
71.0 - 80.9	"Average"	C
61.0 - 70.9	"Passing"	D
60.9 or less	"Failure"	F

Team Project: Students will contribute their efforts to a team presentation on a social problem in Hawaii. The social problem should be related to one of the following topics: deviance, family, religion, medicine, or sexuality. Each team will produce a 30-minute class presentation that applies the sociological perspective to the social problem.

Teams should assume the rest of the class has read the assigned material. Each team should bring new knowledge to the topic. Many of my lectures throughout the semester will serve as models of how teams may accomplish this goal. Each team is required to produce a handout to distribute to the rest of the class. Each team is expected to meet with me at least twice during the semester.

During the first week of the semester, each student will rank and submit their topic preferences. These may include any social problem from the following list (or other topics): teenage pregnancy, Crystal Meth ("ice"), family violence, SARS, substandard housing in Puna, urban congestion/traffic, population growth, HIV/AIDS, political corruption/bribery, native Hawaiian rights, racial conflict, "brain drain," gay marriage, "alternative" churches, holistic medicine, and herbal remedies. I will then assign students to a team.

Each teams' presentation will be based on the following criteria: the application of the sociological perspective, use of new information, imaginative and creative presentation, and clarity and audibility of the presentation.

Individual Paper: Students are invited to submit a paper on social life in Hawaii during the mid-twentieth century. The concept is to gather information and apply the sociological perspective to some aspect of the social world in Hawaii prior to 1970. The topic of the paper can be any aspect of social life we cover during the semester, including education, family, religion, medicine, informal groups, urban or rural life. Students must use at least one written and one oral resource. That is, students must locate some reading material that describes the topic during that period. Also, students must interview at least one person who lived in Hawaii prior to 1970. This individual(s) should possess some knowledge of the subject matter. It is my hope that many students will use this opportunity to explore their heritage and interview an elder relative.

The paper will primarily be graded on the application of the sociological perspective to the topic. Secondary grading criteria include organization, clarity, appropriate use of sources, grammar and sentence structure. The paper will be due December 1, Monday at the beginning of class.

Exams: Each exam will consist of two parts, each taken on different days. On the first day, students will take Part One, which comprises 50 objective questions, which are primarily based on the readings, including multiple choice, true-false, and matching questions. During the next class period, students will take Part Two, which includes essay questions aimed at testing students ability to apply the sociological perspective. Students will be able to choose from a small set of essay questions.

TEXT: The following textbook is available in sufficient quantity at the UHH bookstore. Please note two copies are on reserve in the library. Also, please purchase at least three "blue books" for the essay exam questions.

Macionis, John J. 2004. Society: The Basics. Seventh edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

DATES	TOPICS (reading assignment)
August 25 & 27	Welcome and General Introduction
August 29	The Sociology Perspective (Chapter 1)
September 3 & 5	Theory and Methodology
September 8 & 10	Culture (Chapter 2)
September 12 & 15	Socialization (Chapter 3)
September 17 & 19	Social Interaction (Chapter 4)
September 22	Informal Groups (Chapter 5)
September 24 & 26	Formal Organizations, Bureaucracy
September 29	Exam One – Part One
October 1	Exam One – Part Two
October 3 & 6	Social Stratification, Social Mobility (Chapter 8)
October 8 & 10	Global Stratification (Chapter 9)
October 13	Gender Stratification (Chapter 10)
October 15	Gender, Work, and Politics
October 17	Defining Race and Ethnicity: The Creation of a “Local” Identity (Chapter 11)
October 20	Civil Rights and Social Movements
October 22	The Information Age and the Role of Corporations (Chapter 12)
October 24	Who Rules?
October 27	Mass Belief Systems
October 29	Exam Two – Part One
October 31	Exam Two – Part Two
November 3	K-12 Schools (pp. 368 – 382)
November 5	The Role of Universities

November 7	Population (Chapter 15)
November 10	Urbanization and Rural Sociology
November 12 – December 10	Team Presentations: Deviance (pp. 142 -159) Sexuality (pp. 160 – 168 and 176 – 181) Family (pp. 334 - 351) Religion (pp. 351 - 367) Medicine (pp. 382 - 401)
December 17 (W)	Exam Three (Both Parts) Section 1 (7:30 – 9:30 a.m.) Section 2 (9:40 – 11:40 a.m.)

NOTICE: Any student with a documented disability who would like to request accommodations should contact the University Disability Services Offices (933-0816, voice; 933-3334, TTY) as early in the semester as possible.

Advising is a very important resource designed to help students complete the requirements of the University and their individual majors. Students should consult with their advisor at least once per semester to decide on courses, check progress towards graduation, and discuss career options and other educational opportunities provided by UHH. Advising is a shared responsibility, but students have final responsibility for meeting degree requirements.

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus is subject to change. Verbal announcements during class are sufficient notification of such alterations.