

**SOC. 101 HUMAN SOCIETY:
AN INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
Fall 2011**

Instructor: John Macionis

Required Course Materials

Readings for this course are drawn from the textbook and MySocLab.

Macionis, John J. Sociology, fourteenth edition + MySocLab

Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2012

Technology Learning: Some Help in Your Studies

This course offers you the ability to make use of an interactive website that provides video clips, primary source readings, and discovery exercises. The address of this website is:

<http://www.mysoclab.com>

From there, click on the cover of our book (*Sociology, fourteenth edition*) and then select a chapter and the activity you are looking for. Assignments in MySocLab are found in the syllabus and will be announced and explained in class.

The Topic Outline: Your Road Map for This Course

The outline below is a guide for class meetings showing the order in which we will move through the material.

Part I. On Seeing the World Sociologically (Weeks 1 & 2)

What is the discipline of sociology?

Why study sociology?

What are stereotypes and how do they differ from generalizations?

What is the place of science and politics in sociology?

1. The Sociological Perspective

Text: Chapter 1

MySocLab Homework Assignments (Chapter 1):

Reading - C. Wright Mills, "The Promise"

Social Explorer – "Suicide Rates across the United States: Applying Durkheim's Theory"

Video Activity – "Sociologists at Work"

Optional: Sociology in Focus Blog - You are invited to participate in the student blog for this chapter on low-wage work.

2. Theory and Method in Sociology

Text: Chapter 2

MySocLab Homework Assignments (Chapter 2):

Reading – William E. Thompson, “Hanging Tongues: An Encounter with the Assembly Line”

Social Explorer – “Minority Population across the United States”

Video Activity – “Objectivity: Fact or Fiction?”

Optional: Sociology in Focus Blog - You are invited to participate in the student blog for this chapter about misleading material in the mass media.

Part II. Culture and Society: Macro-Analysis (Weeks 3, 4, & 5)

What sets humans apart from other social creatures?

What is civilization? Do humans have instincts?

How and why do cultures differ around the world?

How is U.S. culture changing?

Are some cultures better than others?

1. Culture: Humanity in Evolutionary Perspective

Text: Chapter 3

MySocLab Homework Assignments (Chapter 3):

Reading – Charis Kubrin, “Ganstas, Thugs, and Hustlas: The Code of the Streets in Rap Music”

Social Explorer – “Foreign-Born People across the United States”

Video Activity – “Individual Rights versus the common good”

Optional: Sociology in Focus Blog - You are invited to participate in the student blog for this chapter about the experience of culture shock.

2. Society: Social Organization in Historical Perspective

What are the key dimensions of social organization?

What did sociology's key founders have to say about modern society?

How have societies changed over the course of human history?

Are societies getting better?

Text: Chapter 4

MySocLab Homework Assignments (Chapter 4):

Reading – Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party”

Social Explorer – “What Differences Does Industrialization Make?”

Video Activity – “Diminishing Opportunity”

Optional: Sociology in Focus Blog - You are invited to participate in the student blog for this chapter on applying the ideas of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim to our own lives.

****First examination about here (20% of course grade)****

Part III. Social Interaction: Macro-Analysis (Weeks 6 & 7)

How do we develop our humanity?

How is interaction the basic unit of society?

1. Socialization: The Process of Becoming Human

Text: Chapter 5

MySocLab Homework Assignments (Chapter 5):

Reading – Kingsley Davis, “Final Note on an Extreme Case of Social Isolation”

Social Explorer – “Racially Mixed People across the United States”

Video Activity – “Gender Socialization”

Optional: Sociology in Focus Blog - You are invited to participate in the student blog for this chapter on when students fully become adults.

2. Social Interaction in Everyday Life

What does sociology have to say about “reality”?

How do people constrict reality in everyday life?

How do people present themselves in various situations?

Text: Chapter 6

MySocLab Homework Assignments (Chapter 6):

Reading – Erving Goffman, “The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life”

Social Explorer – “Women’s Everyday Lives and the Importance of Education”

Video Activity – “The Role of Humor”

Optional: Sociology in Focus Blog - You are invited to participate in the student blog for this chapter on how gender shapes our use of language.

Part IV. Social Inequality (Weeks 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12)

What is “social class”?

Why is social inequality found everywhere?

Is social inequality necessarily wrong? Is equality necessarily right?

1. Social Stratification

Text: Chapter 10

MySocLab Homework Assignments (Chapter 10):

Reading – Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore, “Some Principles of Stratification”

Social Explorer – “Dimensions of Inequality across the United States”

Video Activity – “Opportunity and Social Class”

Optional: Sociology in Focus Blog - You are invited to participate in the student blog for this chapter on the possible link between social standing and personal intelligence.

2. Social Class in the United States

How unequal are people in the United States?

Why are some people rich and others poor?

What social policies affect inequality of income and wealth?

Is the United States becoming more meritocratic?

Text: Chapter 11

MySocLab Homework Assignments (Chapter 11):

Reading – Gregory Mantsios, “Media Magic”

Social Explorer – “Poverty and Wealth across the United States”

Video Activity – “Consequences of Poverty”

Optional: Sociology in Focus Blog - You are invited to participate in the student blog for this chapter on the experience of upward or downward social mobility.

3. Global Stratification

Why are some countries so much richer than others?

Text: Chapter 12

MySocLab Homework Assignments (Chapter 12):

Reading – Richard Perrucci and Earl Wysong, “The Economy and the Privileged Class”

Social Explorer – “Where Immigrants Have Settled across the United States”

Video Activity – “Globalization”

Optional: Sociology in Focus Blog - You are invited to participate in the student blog for this chapter on the experience of visiting or living in *las colonias* or another low-income community in the United States.

4. Gender Stratification

Text: Chapter 13

MySocLab Homework Assignments (Chapter 13):

Reading - Barbara Ehrenreich, “Maid to Order: The Politics of Other Women’s Work”

Social Explorer - “Women in Management, Business, and Finance across the United States”

Video Activity - “Similarities and Differences between Men and Women”

Optional: Sociology in Focus Blog - You are invited to participate in the student blog for this chapter on the experience of gender stratification on campus or elsewhere.

5. Racial and Ethnic Stratification

Text: Chapter 14

MySocLab Homework Assignments (Chapter 14):

Reading - W. E. B. Du Bois, “The Souls of Black Folk”

Social Explorer - "Race and Ethnicity across the United States"

Video Activity - "Multiracial Identity, clip 2"

Optional: Sociology in Focus Blog - You are invited to participate in the student blog for this chapter on the policy of affirmative action.

Part V. Social Change and Modernity: A Synthesis (Weeks 13 & 14)

How are traditional and modern societies different?

What is postmodernity?

Text: Chapter 24

MySocLab Homework Assignments (Chapter 24):

Reading -Robert Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital"

Social Explorer - "Residential Stability across the United States"

Video Activity - "A Society of Consumers"

Optional: Sociology in Focus Blog - You are invited to participate in the student blog for this chapter about your predictions for the future of our society.

****Second examination about here (20% of course grade)****