



## South China Normal University International Summer Session

### 02C03566: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

**Term: July 15th –August 9th, 2019**

**Instructor: JACOB AVERY, PHD**

**Home Institution: University of California Irvine**

**Credit: 4**

#### Course Description

Let us return once more to the image of the puppet theater...we see the puppets dancing on their miniature stage, moving up and down as the strings pull them around, following the prescribed course of their various little parts. We learn to understand the logic of this theater and we find ourselves in its motions...for a moment we see ourselves as puppets indeed. But then we grasp a decisive difference between the puppet theater and our own drama. Unlike the puppets, we have the possibility of stopping our movements, looking up and perceiving the machinery by which we have been moved. In this act lies the first step towards freedom. And in this same act we find the conclusive justification of sociology.

**-- Peter Berger, *Invitation to Sociology: A Humanistic Perspective***

What is sociology? What makes sociology different from social work, psychology, economics, political science, or journalism? Why does learning to think like a sociologist matter? How will thinking like a sociologist add value to my overall educational experiences? Those are some questions you might be asking yourself.

This introductory course will arm you with knowledge of the fundamentals of sociology, and it will also expose you to the ways professional sociologists think about society. We have limited time to plow through this course, so I cannot promise to provide a sweeping overview of the history and contemporary practice of sociology. But what I do promise is to introduce you to central debates that organize sociological thought. And I hope you do your part by exercising your sense of curiosity (both inside outside the classroom) about the social world around you.

When you finish this course, you will ask more sophisticated questions about how society does (and does not) work than when you began the course. Looking forward to that point, it is hard to imagine a better outcome.



### Course Goals

Along with learning to see the world with a sociological eye, and, hence, ask more sophisticated questions about how society operates, you will also gain important content knowledge about the discipline of Sociology, its history, its intellectual goals, and its scientific methods of investigation. By the end of this course, you should demonstrate a basic command of the following topics and issues:

- You will understand how social order is constructed and re-constructed in daily life
- You will understand the complex, nuanced relationship between society and the individual
- You will understand the basic intellectual debates that organize sociological thought
- You will understand and appreciate the social forces that both *unite* and *divide* us.
- You will understand how things like culture, socialization, age, gender, social class, and ethnicity shape individual behaviors
- You will understand how patterns of social inequality are produced and re-produced
- You will understand the possibilities and limits for creating social change

### Course Readings

Garth Massey, Ed. (2015). *Readings for Sociology, 8th Edition*. W.W. Norton. 544 pages. **ISBN-10:** 0393938840 **ISBN-13:** 978-0393938845

### Exams & Assignments

This is an intensive four-week course. Each week on Fridays, we will take an in-class quiz. The quiz will cover the lecture content and reading assigned during the previous four class sessions. In other words, all quizzes are non-cumulative. Each quiz covers the material presented in lecture and readings within the specified dates. The quizzes will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions that will evaluate and assess your basic comprehension of course concepts.

### Grading

Your final grade in this course will be based on your performance on the quizzes and they will be weighted in the following manner:

Quiz #1	25%
Quiz #2	25%
Quiz #3	25%
Quiz #4	25%



**Grading Scale**

Percentage	Grade
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
<60	F

**Course Schedules**

Class Date	Content	Chapter	Due
Day 1/July15	Introduction, The Study of Society	1	
Day 2/July 16	Personal Experiences and Public Issues	2	
Day 3/July 17	What Makes Sociology Different?	Non-textbook reading	
Day 4/July 18	The Tragedy of the Commons, The Stranger, Public Sociology	3, 4, 7	
Day 5/July 19	Why it's hard to know when a fact is a fact	9	Quiz #1
Day 6/July 22	Culture and Society, Consumerism	10, 11	
Day 7/July 23	Culture and Society, Code of the Streets	12	
Day 8/July 24	Growing Up Social, Organized Sports and Construction of Masculinity	14	
Day 9/July 25	Growing Up Social, Concerted Cultivation and Natural Growth	15	
Day 10/July 26	Social Interaction, On Face Work, Presentation of Self in Everyday Life, The Stranger, The Significance of Numbers in Social Life	4, 16, Non-textbook reading	
Day 11/July 29	Social inequality, Karl Marx' Manifesto, Class Analysis	24, Non-textbook reading	Quiz #2
Day 12/July 30	The Economic Plight of Inner City Residents, The Underclass Debate	24, 30	
Day 13/July 31	The Protestant Work Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism	43	
Day 14/Aug 1	Social Reproduction Theory, Pt 1	Non-textbook Readings	



Day 15/Aug 2	Social Reproduction Theory, Pt 2	Non-textbook Readings	Quiz #3
Day 16/Aug 5	Deviance and Social Control, Pt 1	31, 32	
Day 17/Aug 6	Deviance and Social Control, Pt 2	33, 37	
Day 18/Aug 7	Social Institutions, Pt 1	38, 39	
Day 19/Aug 8	Social Institutions, Pt 2	40, 42	
Day 20/Aug 9	Possibilities for Social Change?	46, 51	Quiz #4