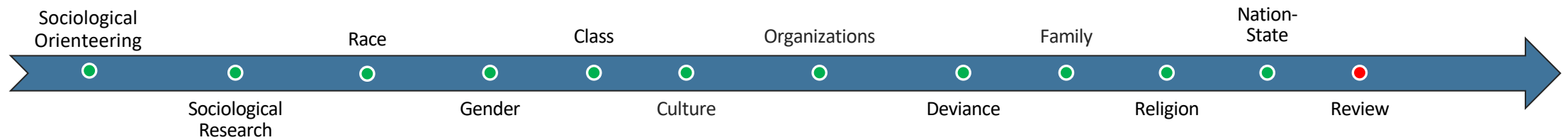


WEEK 12 (REVIEW)

COVID-19 & Social Change

Dr Lou Antolihao
SC1101E Making Sense of Society



GROUP REPORT FEEDBACK



Content (10%)

research: quality and relevant information

reference materials: assessment & application

keen analysis of relevant social issues

insight added into the topic's discussion (individual)



Clarity (5%)

teamwork: complementarity & coherence

use of appropriate engagement styles (slides, videos, photos, questions, etc.)

audience impact, e.g., not entirely reading from notes (individual)

The Final Exam

- ❑ Check NUS EduRec for SCHEDULE and VENUE.
- ❑ TWO PARTS: 10 Critical Definition questions (2 points each, 20 marks), ONE essay question (20 marks).
 - Answer ALL of the Critical Definition questions.
 - Choose ONE out of 2 essay questions.
- ❑ This is a TWO-HOUR, SIT-IN, CLOSED BOOK examination.
- ❑ NO SPECIAL EXAM (Check EduRec for rules)



Sample Questions

A. Critical Definition

□ Analyse the sociological significance of the following concepts.

- globalization
- glocalization
- social forces
- negotiated order
- mechanization
- civic religion
- ethnocentrism
- the “good taste”
- families
- charismatic authority

B. Essay Question

1. The automobile is one of the most important symbols of industrialization. It revolutionized production, influenced urban planning, and shaped the everyday lives of many people. Discuss the social significance of the automobile by highlighting its roles in defining the relationship between identities and institutions.



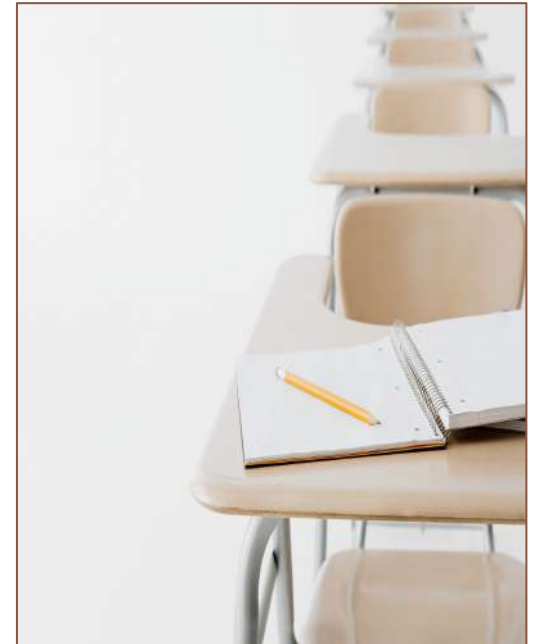
How To Answer The Final Exam?

A. Critical Definition

- use the key concept's definition in the textbook or explain its meaning in your own words.

B. Essay Question

- **I** – highlight a new idea or that you learned (or developed).
 - **N** – compose a coherent answer.
 - **T** – use key concepts and theories from the readings. Do not write a purely opinion essay.
- Follow the last 3 components of the p.o.**i.n.t.** criteria (probing, opinion, **insight, narrative, texts**)
- **integration**





<https://youtu.be/cMZmdIIYMgU>

Race and Ethnicity (Week 3)

❑ Coronavirus News

- Wherever a pandemic goes, xenophobia is never far behind.
- US (against East Asians), Thailand (against white foreigners), Hongkong (restaurants refused to serve Mandarin speakers), Europe (calls to stop immigrants).

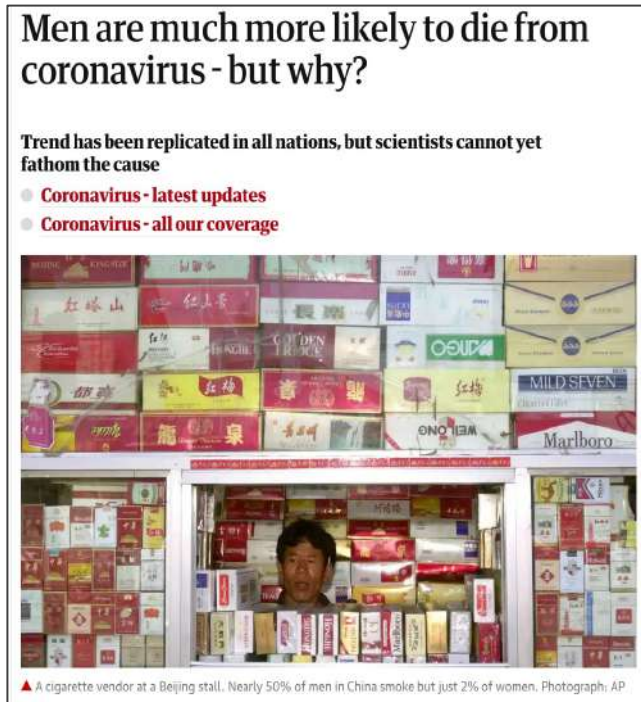
❑ Sociological Views

- **Stereotypes** – an idea about the characteristics of a group.
- **Prejudice** – (a thought process) -a rigid and unfavorable judgement about an out-group that is unlikely to change regardless of the evidence against it.
- **Discrimination** – (an action) – unequal treatment of individuals or groups based on attributes unrelated to merit, ability or past performance. Individual or institutionalized, usually motivated by prejudice.



<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/03/coronavirus-covid19-xenophobia-racism/607816/>

Gender and Sexuality (Week 4)



<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/26/men-are-much-more-likely-to-die-from-coronavirus-but-why>

□ Coronavirus News

- Covid-19 discriminates by sex, with men more likely to test positive and more likely to die from the disease.
- Fatality rate: China (2.8% men, 1.7% women)
- Fatality distribution: Italy (71%), Spain (66.4%)
- Factors: 1) Smoking 2) Behavioural (less likely to wash hands, to seek medical care, or follow health advice), 3) **Biological** (low immunity, hormones).

□ Sociological Views

- Sex vs Gender, **Biological vs Behavioural**
- **Gender Polarization** – the organizing of social life around male-female ideals (masculinity vs femininity).

Class and Social Inequality (Week 5)

❑ Coronavirus News

- Vulnerable groups: 1) elderly, 2) medical workers, 3) **people with low-paid jobs** (supermarket clerks, delivery workers, transport workers, cleaners, etc.).
- Italian supermarket clerk: “We are the only ones to be so exposed, together with doctors and nurses”. “But we are not being protected.”

❑ Sociological Views

- Surgeon vs sandwich maker (textbook)
- Structural “need” for poverty-wage labor (1. fill unskilled and dangerous occupations, 2. provide low-cost labor for industries.
- Inequality shapes interaction and awareness of one’s superior or inferior position relative to others.



<https://sg.yahoo.com/news/death-store-clerk-italy-highlights-121922987.html>

IDENTITIES: Unmasking Society

❑ The pandemic has most seriously exacerbated the inequality between:

- a) race/ethnic categories
- b) gender categories
- c) social class categories
- d) others



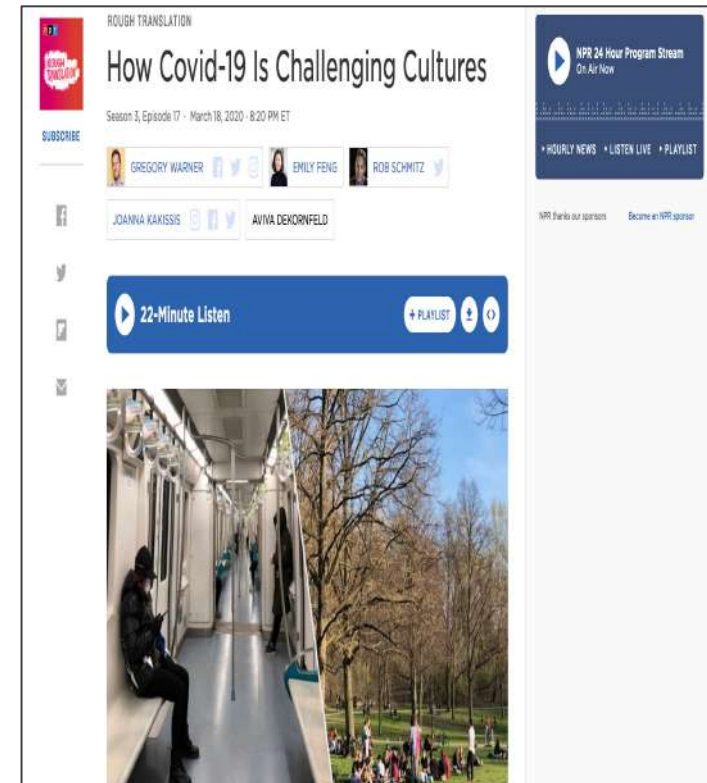
Culture and Socialization (Week 6)

❑ Coronavirus News

- One pandemic, different responses
- Gov't approach: affirm their way of life or rethink how they do everything.
- Which places inspires faith in authorities? Which places completely rattled people's belief in the government?
- China (rattled to faith in gov't.), Germany (people's decision to state decision).

❑ Sociological Views

- Geographical and historical forces shape culture.
- Cultural universals vs cultural particulars
- Ethnocentrism vs cultural relativism



<https://www.npr.org/2020/03/18/817960068/how-covid-19-is-challenging-cultures>

Groups and Organizations (Week 7)

❑ Coronavirus News

- criticisms against WHO for warning of Covid-19 as an international concern that kept states from initiating timely response.
- accused of becoming a tool of Chinese power and propaganda.

❑ Sociological Views

- WHO and bureaucracy (1. division of labor, 2. hierarchy of authority, 3. rules and regulations, 4. meritocracy, 5. efficiency.



Deviance and Social Control (Week 8)



<https://sg.yahoo.com/news/coronavirus-related-crimes-capitalizes-global-203530640.html>

□ Coronavirus News

- As the pandemic spreads, so too do the crimes related to it.
- Thieves steal surgical masks. A clinic sells fake COVID-19 tests. Hate groups encourage sick members to infect law enforcement officers. Imposters pose as public health officials. Con artists peddle fake cures and financial scams.

□ Sociological Views

- Structural Strain - a response to an imbalance between culturally valued goals and the socially acceptable ways of achieving those goals.
- The role of **social audience** in identifying norm-breakers.
- The disciplinary society – normalizes surveillance.

INTERACTIONS: Unmasking Society

❑ What do you think is the reason why people who refuse to wear mask become deviant?

- a) they are ignoring the law
- b) other people label them as deviants
- c) other people complain about them
- d) they were exposed to external influence
- e) they resist this new constraining regulation



Family (Week 9)



<https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2020/03/what-does-social-distance-mean-within-a-family/608044/>

□ Coronavirus News

- Love is the opposite of hygiene.
- Families— have historically been among the most significant hot spots of infectious-disease transmission (including Covid-19).
- People who live alone are especially burdened as they are adversely cut-off from their families and peers.
- social distancing vs physical distancing

□ Sociological Views

- Functions of the family: 1) economic cooperation, 2) care and emotional support.
- Covid-19 and the social construction of the family.

Religion (Week 10)

□ Coronavirus News

- Trump: “I would love to have ‘business as usual resume’ by Easter” (American Resurrection).
- The fervent faith in **the power of commerce** has, over time, become the closest thing Americans have to a civil religion.
- When the language of buying and selling, product and profit, dominates discourse about identities and society, capitalism becomes indistinguishable from religious faith.
- Once we made human sacrifices to appease the gods, we must do the same to appease the markets.

□ Sociological Views

- Civil religion - the institutionalized set of beliefs and values (e. g. prosperity) about the nation.
- Nationalism - most evident during times of crisis.

America's civil religion is capitalism. Trump's coronavirus response proves it.

Facing a plague, he wants us to sacrifice at the altar of commerce.



<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/03/26/fox-news-trump-dan-patrick-coronavirus/>

Nation-State (Week 11)



<https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20200326-covid-19-what-makes-a-good-leader-during-a-crisis>

□ Coronavirus News

- the right leaders will come to the fore during times of crisis
- No sugar-coating: leaders should be open about the evolving nature of the problem and avoid being paternalistic.
- Sense of purpose: the importance of “messaging” – compassion, consistency, and a good sense of what’s going on.

□ Sociological Views

- Power – the probability that an individual can achieve his/her will even against the opposition of others.
- Types of authority: 1) traditional, 2) charismatic, 3) legal-rational.

INSTITUTIONS: Unmasking Society

☐ Which institution contributes the most in alleviating the suffering of many people during the pandemic?

- a) family
- b) religion
- c) nation-state
- d) others (type in the chat box)



Conclusion:

Why Study Sociology (Weeks 1 & 2)



P (position) – helps us assess both opportunities and constraints in our lives.



T (tolerance) – helps us live in a diverse world.



A (alertness) – helps us assess the veracity and intention of information.



H (headway) – helps us to be active participants of society.