

General Sociology

(For non-sociologists)

FALL 2019

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Class Hours: Monday & Wednesday: 09:25 – 10:40

Office Hours: Monday: 10:50-12:50

E-course Enrolment Key: SOC104.1

On some level, many of us "do" sociology without ever even knowing it. This course will introduce you to the sociological perspective in examining our lives and social experiences, as well as many issues facing society today. In this respect, students should think of this course as a "sampler" on the sociological menu and to further illustrate this, at the end of each major section. Furthermore, through this course, students should come to realize how many aspects of their lives are influenced by the social world in which they live and, as a result, a student should obtain a better understanding of her/himself as social individuals and her/his place in society. Finally, learning to think and reason both critically and analytically are perhaps the most valuable skills students can acquire. Therefore, this course is also designed to begin teaching students how to make sense out of the masses of "facts" they will encounter in both life and the study of society.

TEXTS:

1. Johnson, Allan G. Human arrangements: an introduction to sociology (available at AUCA library)
2. Macionis, John. Sociology (available at AUCA library)
3. Openstax, Introduction to Sociology 2e¹ (available online)

SPECIFIC GOALS OF THE COURSE:

- To understand society's organization, purpose and characteristics.
- To be able to understand and evaluate the social issues facing the world today.
- To be able to apply sociological concepts, terms and theories to the processes of everyday life.
- To understand our place in society and how society influences all of our decisions and actions.
- To encourage and help students examine their own social experiences from a scientifically inquisitive perspective.
- To help students broaden their view of society beyond their own immediate experience and understand how and why their own experiences may be similar or different to the experiences of others.
- To give students direct experience with "doing" sociology by study a characteristic of society in detail.

¹ <https://d3bxy9euw4e147.cloudfront.net/oscms-prodcms/media/documents/IntroductionToSociology2e-OP.pdf>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

• Class participation (attendance and participation)	15%
• Midterm exam	25%
• Presentation	15%
• Midterm paper	20%
• Final exam	25%

As you can see, there are many grading opportunities in this course. Therefore, one bad grade due to an "off" day will not necessarily influence your final grade! Furthermore, the grading is designed so that there is "a little for everyone" -- there is a niche in the course for those who are comfortable with writing, test taking and / or talking. So, there are plenty opportunities to get a good grade in this class if you are willing to do the work!

Grading Scale

A = 91- and above; A - = 86 - 90; B + = 81- 85; B = 76 - 80; B- = 71-75; C+ = 66 - 70; C = 61- 65; C - = 56 - 60; D= 51- 55; F= 50 or below

EXAMS (midterm and final):

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, and essay.

READINGS:

Readings are designed to prepare or prime the students for the upcoming lectures. In other words, it is students' responsibility to do the readings *on their own* so that they are familiar with the topic being discussed during a given class. This will also give them some time to think about points that will contribute to discussion. However, unfortunately in the past, I've found that students get very lax with the readings. Therefore, if I sense that a class is not doing the readings, I reserve the right to give pop quizzes based on the information in the readings (and which will focus on the main points of the readings).

PRESENTATION

Each of you is expected to make a presentation based on the required reading to a particular topic that students may choose out of all listed readings in the syllabus or will be offered by the instructor. A presentation should be around 15 - 20 minutes, and should include, but not be limited to the following aspects: summary of the reading, main points of the author and link of the reading to a situation within a given social group, district, region or country. A presenter should also raise questions based on the reading, which should be discussed within the class. If only all of the above mentioned requirements are met, you will be given the highest point that is 15% in this case. All presentations will be on Wednesday, max. 2 students will be assigned.

Midterm PAPER

You will be asked to complete a paper (1000 words). This reflection paper should focus on one photo that you will photograph, which will be reflecting one of the topics covered in the class. You must select cite at least one article related to your topic. The purpose of these papers is to give you a chance to strengthen your writing and analytical skills and reflect on the social structure.

The following are the requirements for reflection papers:

1. Your paper needs to have a proper title, which will include your name, course name, date and the title of your paper

2. A brief description of the photo: why you have taken the particular photo, what does it illustrate
3. Main argument: which social structure is portrayed in the photo, how is it linked to the literature you selected and chapters covered in the class
4. Question raised by you in terms of a given topic
5. Conclusion
6. References

Deadline for Reflection paper is on the 8th of November.

Policy on late assignments. The granting of extensions is entirely at the discretion of the professor and usually is restricted to documented personal illness or bereavement in the immediate family. Late term papers will be penalized at 3% per day.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

The University has a classroom behavior policy, which can be found at the AUCA Catalog. Students are required to adhere to the behavior standards listed in this policy document and to refrain from disrupting class. Both students and faculty are expected to abide by the University's honor code. Cheating and plagiarism are taken very seriously and are grounds for failure in this course. To plagiarize is to use another's words as your own, without proper attribution given to the original author.

If you need individual consultation, you have to mail me tumenbaeva_s@auca.kg to set an appointment.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note! This syllabus is subject to change at discretion of the instructor to accommodate instructional and/or student needs. You are responsible for any changes announced during lectures/seminars despite your absences.

Weeks	Class Themes and Assignments
Week 1 02.09 – 04.09	Introduction to the course
Week 2 09.09 – 11.09	Experiencing society. Sociology as a Form of Consciousness and as Humanistic Discipline. Experience, which is always with us, since our birth. How sociologist differs from the average man. The potential of sociology to understand the human experience. Sociological imagination. Social reality and the notion of the structure. History of social thoughts and social disruption. <u>Reading:</u> Openstax, Ch. 1, An Introduction to Sociology, p. 5 -29. Johnson, Ch.1 Human arrangements: an Introduction to Sociology. Student presentations: Asyltai
Week 3 16.09 – 18.09	Sociological Theory Why do we need to learn social theory? Why there are many social theories in sociology? What kind of differences and similarities do they have? What do they say about society? <u>Reading:</u> Johnson, Ch. 5: "Thinking Sociologically: Theory and Theoretical Perspectives. Student presentations: Mukhamed
Week 4 23.09 – 25.09	Sociological Research Why do we do a research? Can we research everything? Why ethics is

	<p>important in doing a research? <i>Video: "Bride Kidnapping in the Kyrgyz Republic"</i> Reading: Openstax, Ch. 2, p. 29 -51. Johnson, Ch. 6: "Research Methods: Answering Sociological Questions". Student presentations:</p>
Week 5 30.09 – 02.10	Culture Why do we consider it important to greet people when we see them? What would have happened if there was no language? Why do we tend to judge some people by their appearance and/or behavior? Reading: Openstax, Ch. 3, p. 51-75. Johnson, Ch 2: "Culture". Student presentations: Chingiz
Week 6 07.10 –09.10	Socialization Social and not social components in life. The question of social-cultural ethnocentrism in positioning experiences. Socialization: lessons from measurable another to another. Internalization, consciousness and opening itself. Different societies, different identity. Deprivation of the child and not socialized children. Cases of re-socialization. Reading: Johnson, Ch 7: "Socialization". Openstax, Ch. 5, p. 93-115 Student presentations:
Week 7 13.10 – 15.10	Social Interaction Statuses and roles. Adaptation to roles. Status and role-based conflict. Social construction of reality. Self-presentations and Drama. Impression management and games in everyday life. Interaction: time and space. Thomas Theorem. Gender interaction in the everyday routine. <i>Video: "The Experiment"</i> Reading: Johnson, Ch 8: "Social Interaction". Openstax, Ch. 4, p. 75-93 Student presentations: Mariam
Week 8 20.10 – 22.10	Social Stratification and Inequality Why do some people become poor or others rich? What are the different ways societies are divided into? Types and forms of social mobility. Social deprivation. The functions of social stratification. Stratification and conflict. Stratification and technology. Theoretical analysis of global stratification. Wealth and poverty in the world: the factors and agency. Video: Childhood Poverty. Reading: Johnson, Ch 12: "Who Gets What and Why"? Openstax, Ch. 9, p. 183-205 Student presentations: Moritz
Week 9 27.10 – 29.10	Global Stratification A word about terminology. The model for describing global stratification. The severity of poverty and the extent of poverty. Correlations of global poverty. Theoretical analysis. The reading will be offer in class. Reading: Openstax, Ch. 10, p. 205-225

	Student presentations: Cholpon
Week 10: Fall Break (4.11 – 8.11)	
Week 11	Midterm exam
Week 12 11.11 – 13.11	Gender Stratification What makes gender a dimension of social stratification? Male-Female differences. Patriarchy and sexism. Gender and socialization. Violence against women. <i>Video: “The Transgender”</i> Reading: Johnson, Ch 14: “Gender Inequality”. Openstax, Ch. 12, p. 251-273 Student presentations: Anastasia
Week 13 18.11 – 20.11	Marriage and Family The family as the world and place expectations. Basic human activities. Functional analysis of family. Alternative forms of family and marriage. Love and sexuality. Transformation of intimacy. The emergence of a sexual revolution of love. Market, Love and property. Trends of modern marriage market in Kyrgyzstan. Readings: Schaefer and Lamm, Ch 13: “Social Institutions: The Family,” pp 377-409. Openstax, Ch. 14, p. 307-334 Student presentations: Meerim
Week 14 25.11 – 27.11	Social control. Deviance. Normality of Crime Deviance and moral differences. What does “normal” behavior mean? Who defines and what determines normality\deviance? The reasons of deviance. Social necessity of crime and the limits of the crime. Stigmatization. Readings: Johnson, Ch. 11: “Deviance and Conformity” Openstax, Ch. 7, p. 135-155 Student presentations: Galina
Week 15 2.12 – 4.12	Race and Ethnicity Stereotypes. Racism. Theories of Prejudice. Discrimination. Readings: Johnson, Ch.13: “Race and Ethnicity”. Openstax, Ch. 11, p. 225-251 Student presentations: Yerassyl
Final exam (TBA)	