

Academic credit: 3 UMA (45 class hours)

Code: SO

Third Year, Fifth Semester

Professor: Daniel Austin Green (dag@ufm.edu)

Description

Sociology is the study of societies – at the individual level, and also the ways in which individuals interact with one another through groups, including both formal and informal institutions. Originally emerging from the work of social scientists in other areas (especially politics, history, and economics), today sociologists study virtually every aspect of life, including politics, religion, technology, personal and group identity, and popular culture. In this course, we will begin with foundational texts and questions about the very nature of sociology (as an art, science, or both), and go on to survey a wide range of contemporary topics of interest to sociologists.

Objectives

1. General

- **Obtain a broad overview and understanding of the field of sociology, and especially how it intersects with topics in political science and international relations.**
- **Be able to apply key concepts and methodologies of sociology to other concepts, research questions, and disciplines.**

2. Specific

- Understand how sociology can be used to augment understanding of issues covered in other parts of EPRI's curriculum.
- Be able to critique sociological ideas, including potential misapplications to other disciplines.
- To learn about the history and various methodologies that made sociology evolve into a distinct academic discipline, and why sociologists study the types of contemporary issues they do today.
- To be able to synthesize different strands of sociology into an original argument about an issue in contemporary political science, international relations, and current affairs.

Student profile upon completion of the course

- Critical thinker, who can interpret and apply sociological methodologies to problems.

- Write and argue convincingly in support of their views.
- Further develop English academic writing skills.

Methodology

The class will be structured around Socratic discussions on assigned materials and in-class exercises. The class will serve to offer the student the theoretical knowledge necessary to put in perspective and context the reading that is to be discussed.

Active participation is essential. Every class session will include discussion, and it is important that everyone is prepared to participate every day. The course will be arranged into several topical areas, to give as broad as possible an overview of the history and current state of sociology. This means that we will cover a wide range of topics, approaches, and political perspectives throughout.

Grading:

Because of the nature of the course – including discussion, and also as a required English language course, class discussion and writing are the emphasis in grading as well.

Class participation will be weighted at 20%. This means regular preparation and attendance, as well as active participation.

There will be **two shorter written assignments** (~2,000 words, answering specific questions) during the course; these will be **weighted at 20% each.**

The final paper (~4,000 words) **will be weighted at 40% of the course grade.**

Topics

Topic	Activities	Sources/readings
Foundations: Is sociology an art, a science, or something else?	Socratic Discussion	Max Weber, “Science as a Vocation” Robert Nisbet, “Sociology as Art” Georg Simmel, “The Stranger”

Topic	Activities	Sources/readings
		Talcott Parsons, “Chapter I: Introductory” to <i>The Structure of Social Action</i>
Experiments, Observations, and the Passage of Time	Socratic Discussion/Videos	<p><i>The Milgram Experiment</i>: https://youtu.be/wdUu3u9Web4</p> <p><i>Seven Up (39:47)</i>: https://youtu.be/1LOZpiSfESE</p> <p><i>Seven Plus Seven (52:07)</i>: https://youtu.be/h2fGIT7HWus</p> <p><i>Some Kind of Connection: The Up Series (10:11)</i>: https://youtu.be/VVO96wfbf_0</p> <p>Linklater – <i>The Making of Boyhood (10:45)</i>: https://youtu.be/HjmUJQg2eUw</p> <p>Linklater – <i>The Before Trilogy: Portraying a Real Relationship (11:14)</i>: https://youtu.be/qGOVbazviwk</p>
Strangeness: Identity and Isolation	Socratic Discussion	<p>Review “The Stranger” by Simmel</p> <p>Maria Bezaitis, “The surprising need for strangeness” (8:00): https://youtu.be/os69gEFXUW4</p> <p>“‘The Lonely Crowd,’ at 60, Is Still Timely” - <i>The Chronicle of Higher Education</i> (available online through UFM subscription, and posted to MiU; https://www.chronicle.com/article/The-Lonely-Crowd-at-60-Is/124334)</p> <p>Lee Siegel, “Go the Same Way, or Go the Wrong Way”, <i>NY Times</i> (posted on MiU)</p> <p>Yelp and the Wisdom of “The Lonely Crowd” <i>The New Yorker</i> (available online and posted to MiU / https://www.newyorker.com/tech/annals-of-technology/yelp-and-the-wisdom-of-the-lonely-crowd</p>
Methodology	Socratic Discussion	Talcott Parsons, “Chapter XIX: Tentative Methodological Implications”, in <i>The Structure of</i>

Topic	Activities	Sources/readings
		<i>Social Action</i> (1937) (posted to MiU)
Stereotypes	Socratic Discussion/Video Exercises	Selections from “Lineup” series by <i>Cut</i> https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJic7bfGlo3qJcIXUJteaUm3-3tgQSXw
Politics, Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Political Correctness	Socratic Discussion	<p>Yale University Halloween Email Protest https://youtu.be/hiMVx2C5_Wg</p> <p>https://www.thefire.org/email-from-erika-christakis-dressing-yourself-email-to-silliman-college-yale-students-on-halloween-costumes/</p> <p>https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/my-halloween-email-led-to-a-campus-firestorm--and-a-troubling-lesson-about-self-censorship/2016/10/28/70e55732-9b97-11e6-a0ed-ab0774c1eaa5_story.html?utm_term=.668849f67435</p> <p>Charles Murray at Middlebury College: https://youtu.be/a6EASuhefEI</p> <p>Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt, “The Coddling of the American Mind”, <i>The Atlantic</i>: https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/09/the-coddling-of-the-american-mind/399356/</p>
Political Speech: Propaganda and its Responses	Socratic Discussion	<p>Leni Riefenstahl, <i>Olympia: Festival of Nations</i> (1936) https://youtu.be/bNnDBAdF2sI</p> <p>Leni Riefenstahl, <i>Triumph of the Will</i> (1935) https://youtu.be/CtEs1OZ_tYo</p> <p><i>Tokio Jokio</i> (1943) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVYTIIdYoA</p>

Topic	Activities	Sources/readings
		Hayek's <i>The Road to Serfdom in Cartoons</i> : https://fee.org/articles/the-essence-of-the-road-to-serfdom-in-cartoons/
Religion, History, and Power	Socratic Discussion	Discussion of Semana Santa General Resources on Religious Demographics: https://www.pewforum.org/data/ Global Religious Futures: http://www.globalreligiousfutures.org <i>Acton-Creighton Correspondence [1887]</i> https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/act-on-acton-creighton-correspondence#Acton_PowerCorrupts1524_24
What is Sociology?	Socratic Discussion	<i>Review readings from</i> "Foundations: Is sociology an art, a science, or something else?" Rudolph E. Morris, "What Is Sociology of Art?", <i>The American Catholic Sociological Review</i> , Vol. 19, No. 4 (Dec., 1958), pp. 310-321 (posted to MiU) CONNELL, R. In Praise of Sociology. <i>Canadian Review of Sociology</i> , v. 54, n. 3, p. 280-296, 2017 (posted to MiU)

Grading

HOMEWORK, QUIZ, ESSAY, ETC.	
Class Participation	20
Essay Assignment #1 (2,000 words)	20
Essay Assignment #2 (2,000 words)	20
Final Paper (4,000 words)	40
FINAL TEST	

TOTAL	100 points
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Academic integrity

Absolute academic honesty is required of each student for exams and research papers. **All cases of suspected copying or plagiarism will be dealt with according to UFM regulations.**

UPDATED: 2019