

Introduction to Sociology

Global Program on Economics and Finance (Fall 2022)

Course Title	Introduction to Sociology		
Credit	3	Credit Hours	48 credit hours
Course Objectives	1) Have a grasp of the history of sociology as a discipline 2) Learn how to apply seemingly abstract theoretical concepts to the real world 3) Acquire knowledge about how to conduct a sociological research		
Course Description	This course introduces major concepts, theories, methods, and the sub-fields of sociology as a discipline. We will learn how to use “sociological imagination” to think beyond our personal lives and to connect the experiences of individuals with large social structures. We will also explore the crucial importance of institutions in mediating the relations between the individuals and the larger society.		
Course Requirements:			
Prerequisites: None			
Teaching Methods: Lecture & Seminar			
Course Schedule			
Week 1: Introduction to the course			
Topic: What is Sociology? What do we study and how do we study it?			
Reading:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ritzer, <i>Introduction to Sociology</i>, Chapter One ➤ Mills, C. Wright. 1959. <i>The Sociological Imagination</i>. New York, Oxford University Press.[pages 1-5] 			
Week 2: Classical and contemporary sociological theories			
Topic: early sociological theories; founding figures; contemporary theories; postmodern thoughts			
Reading:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ritzer, <i>Introduction to Sociology</i>, Chapter Two ➤ Emile Durkheim, “Social Order and Control Via Close Ties; The Example of Suicide” [in McIntyre,2013] 			
Week 3: Research methods			
Topic: How to conduct quantitative research and qualitative research? What are the differences?			
Reading:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ritzer, <i>Introduction to Sociology</i>, Chapter Three 			

- Saldana, Johnny. 2011. *Fundamentals of Qualitative Research*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [pages 3-4, 10-11, 32-33, 46-47, 89-91]

***Quiz 1**

Week 4: The social construction of the individual

Topic: symbolic interactionism; socialization; deviance

- Reading: Ritzer, *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 5&7

Week 5: Social stratification and inequality

Topic: origins of inequality and how inequality is reproduced in society

Reading:

- Ritzer, *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 8
- Standing, Guy. 2011. *The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class*. Bloomsbury Press. [pages 7-10, 19 (bottom) - 21]

- ❖ Student presentations

Week 6: Gender and sexuality

Topic: gender stereotypes, gender inequality, sexual identities

Reading:

- Ritzer, *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 11
- Kimmel, Michael. 2009. *Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men*. Harper Perennial.[pages 8-13, 16-18]

- ❖ Student presentations

*** Quiz 2**

Week 7: Race and Ethnicity

Topic: historical thinking about race; scientific vs cultural explanations; institutional racism

Reading:

- Ritzer, *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 10
- Omi, Michael & Howard Winant. 1994. *Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s to the 1990s*. London: Routledge, 2nd Edition.[pages 53-61, 69-72]

- ❖ Student presentations

Week 8: Social Institution I: Family

Topic: romantic love and the institution of marriage; theorizing the family; the decline and resilience of family

Reading:

- Ritzer, *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 12
- Kathleen E. Hull, Ann Meier, and Timothy Ortyl, “The Changing Landscape of Love and Marriage” [in McIntyre,2013]

❖ Student presentations

Week 9: Social Institution II: Education

Topic: the social function of education; inequality in education; alternatives to traditional public schools

Reading:

- Ritzer, *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 13
- Pierre Bourdieu, “The Forms of Capital”, *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education* [pp. 241-258].

❖ Student presentations

*** Quiz 3**

Week 10: Social Institution III: The economy

Topic: capitalism and the welfare state; work and consumption; the postindustrial society

Reading:

- Ritzer, *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 15
- Mark Granovetter, “Economic Embeddedness”, *Contemporary Sociological Theory* [pp. 165-174].

❖ Student presentations

Week 11: Globalization and de-globalization

Topic: global inequalities; the world systems theory; de-globalization in the age of COVID-19

Reading:

- Ritzer, *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 9
- Samuel P. Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations” [in McIntyre, 2013]
- David Harvey, "Globalization in Question" in *Rethinking Marxism* 8 (4), pp.1-17.

❖ Student presentations

Week 12: Final exam

The design of class discussion or exercise, practice, experience and so on:

Discussion: Students are encouraged to participate actively in class discussion. They are expected to demonstrate the ability to engage with course materials by raising questions or respond to questions posed by the instructor, teaching assistant or fellow students.

Presentations: Students are required to do an in-class presentation during the semester. Depending on the class size, presentations will be carried out individually or as groups. Students will give a 15 minutes presentation on a specific sociologically informed topic. They will be given a pool of topics to choose from.

Grading & Evaluation:

Attendance: 10%

3 in-class quizzes: 30%

Presentation: 20%

Final exam:40%

Teaching Materials & References:

Textbook:

Ritzer, George & Wendy Wiedenhof Murphy, 2020, *Introduction to Sociology* (5th Edition). Los Angeles: Sage.

Reading Materials:

McIntyre, Lisa J., 2013. *The Practical Skeptic: Readings in Sociology* (6th edition). New York: McGraw Hill.

*Other readings will be provided in electronic format by the instructor .