

Soc 110 : Introduction to Sociology

Bellevue Community College

Winter 2008

Gillian Murphy

TTh : 3:00-5:10 pm C164

Textbook : Sociology : Your Compass for a New World (3rd edition) by Robert J. Brym and John Lie.

Coursepack (required): available for purchase in bookstore*

Course Website: TBA

***Readings for the first couple of weeks will be available for download on the course website**

Course Objectives

Sociology is the scientific study of the social causes of human behavior. The goal of this course is to increase your ability to critically examine the social environment. By challenging common beliefs and exploring alternative explanations of social phenomena, I also hope to enable you to participate more fully in the social world. Working together, we will explore ways that social forces both constrain and enable individual behavior.

Learning Outcomes

Learning objectives for each unit will be posted on the course website. These will be helpful in reviewing for quizzes and exams.

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Distinguish between sociological and individualistic perspectives.
2. Explain how social forces shape and are shaped by people.
3. Develop a critical approach to analyzing ways that various social forces have affected their own lives and the lives of others.

Films: We will watch and discuss several films during the quarter. Some of the films contain controversial material and may be offensive to some viewers. You may choose to not take this course if you find the material objectionable.

Disability accommodations: If you need course accommodations based on a documented disability, have any emergency medical information, or need special arrangements in the event of a building evacuation, please inform me of your needs. For other assistance, contact the Disability Resource Center: 425-564-2498 (voice) 425-564-4110 (TTY).

Course Policies and Student Responsibilities

Contacting the Instructor

I will generally be available to meet with students in my office after class. Outside of those times, the best way to contact me is via email. I will usually respond to your emails within 24 hours. I will provide you with plenty of support in this course, but I cannot do so 24/7. Thanks for understanding.

Instructor Responsibilities

I will provide you with a course schedule. I reserve the option to make small adjustments as necessitated by the natural course progress or by inclement weather, etc. I will give you as much advance notice of such changes as practicable. I will grade your assignments in a timely manner. I will reply to your questions in a timely manner. I will provide you with or direct you to the information that you have requested or we will find it together. I will support you to the best of my abilities in your efforts to successfully complete this course.

Student Responsibilities

1. Attendance, Participation and Preparation

This course requires your participation! You bring something to this course that no one else can bring. Your experiences in the social world will inform your comments, and we will all learn something from you. Your final grade will reflect your participation in the class. I will take attendance every day. It is your responsibility to sign in.

In order for your participation to be productive, you will have to be prepared. This means that you have completed the reading assignment and that you have *thought* about it. You should start by allowing yourself enough time to complete the readings.

The sociological perspective may run contrary to your own experience of the world; you may struggle to understand and apply the concepts introduced in the course. Some of the thinking I will ask you to do will be difficult. It is also possible that the work I ask you to do does not seem very challenging. Whatever your experience of the course, I request that you take your work in the class seriously and that you pay attention to ways this course can deepen your understanding of the world around you. I firmly believe that everyone can get something out of this course.

It is imperative that you treat others with respect in all aspects of this course. In my mind, when you are giving your attention to your cell phone, you are not respecting the class. Please turn off your phone and put it away during class (or leave - your choice). Of course if you need your phone to be on in case of a family emergency, please set it to vibrate and minimize interruption should you need to take a call.

2. Following the Schedule

It is **the student's responsibility** to know when assignments are due. Due dates are listed in the course schedule, on individual assignments or announced in class.

3. Communication

If you don't understand something, then **please ask me to clarify**. Your willingness and ability to communicate with me and with your classmates will influence your success in this course.

Participation

Discussions are a chance for you to process and explore the material. The goal of discussion is to use sociological concepts to explore contemporary issues. Your comments and responses will be influenced by your opinions, to be sure, but let's try to engage in a discussion that is centered on the material.

Ideally, your comments will be all of the following:

- Relevant to the topic (imagine that!)
- Thoughtful and substantial (a challenge!)
- Respectful (naturally!)

Quizzes and Exams

There will be approximately one quiz and one written assignment each week. I will drop your lowest quiz score (a zero if you miss one). Quizzes will be fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice and short answer format and are generally given at the beginning of class. The final exam may add an essay. Quizzes will be based on the week's readings and lectures and will usually focus on recall, while the exam will ask you to synthesize the many topics we cover. If you do the assigned reading and come to class, you will be prepared to take the weekly quiz. If you do the reading, come to class, participate in discussions, complete the assignments and think about the material, then you will be prepared for the exam.

Written Work

Some articles in the course schedule are marked (Summary). You will be required to turn in either a **brief** summary of the article or respond to a particular question about the reading. I will work out the details of your access to these questions later. Most likely they will be posted on the course website. Summaries should be **no more than a paragraph** and relate (**in your own words**) the article's main idea to the reader. **All written work must be typed and is due at the start of class.**

Late Work

Barring an unforeseen event that is both out of your control (such as a serious accident) and documented by an appropriate third party, late work will not be accepted & quizzes will not be rescheduled. Please contact me if you have a question about your absence. This policy is not intended to punish a student who needs assistance.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating: Acquiring answers that are not one's own.

Plagiarism: To take and use as one's own the writings or ideas of another person.

Maximum consequences: You will receive a 0.0 for the course.

If you are having trouble in the course, I will help you or direct you to someone who can.

The best thing you can do for yourself (and that no one can do for you) is give yourself enough time to do your work.

Grading Summary

The course is designed to reward consistent participation. I can tell you from experience that missing quizzes or assignments will affect your grade more quickly than you think. Your final grade is computed as follows:

Participation	10 %
Quizzes	30 %
Written Assignments	30 %
Final Exam	30 %

COURSE SCHEDULE

Pages refer to the textbook, other articles can be found in the coursepack or are linked from the course website where indicated. All work is **DUE** on the date indicated. Readings marked with a star* are less important (In case of limited time).

Social Theory

- 1/3 Intro to the Course
- 1/8 p 1-19; Mills: The Promise (Summary);

Culture

- 1/10 p 63-76; Queer Customs; **Quiz; Paper Due : Autobiography**
- 1/15 p 74-91; Body Ritual of the Nacirema
- 1/17 Barber: Jihad vs McWorld (Online) (Summary); **Quiz**

Socialization

- 1/22 p 95-113; Kilbourne : Socialization and the Power of Advertising (Summary)
- 1/24 p 113-121; An Elephant Crackup? (Summary); **Quiz**

Social Interaction

- 1/29 p 125-128; College Athletes and Role Conflict (Summary)
- 1/31 p 128-134, 140-145; The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life; Body Language*; **Quiz**

Social Networks and Groups

- 2/5 p 151-156; Bowling Alone
- 2/7 p 156-166; Five Faces of Oppression (Summary); **Quiz**

Deviance

- 2/12 p 183-200; Functions of Crime (Summary)
- 2/14 TBA; **Quiz**

Race and Ethnicity

- 2/19 p 277-298; Seeking Ancestry in DNA Ties Uncovered by Tests (Summary)
- 2/21 p 298-309; White Privilege; **Quiz**

Gender and Sexuality

- 2/26 p 313-326; The Male Privilege Checklist
- 2/28 p 326-329; How Homophobia Hurts Everyone; Heterosexual Privilege*; Allies*; **Quiz**

Family

- 3/4 p 436-451; Swedish Family Policies (Online) (Summary)
Selection from Motherhood Manifesto; **Paper Due : Coming Out**
- 3/6 p454-465; (NYT) Post-Teenage Wasteland?; **Quiz**

Stratification

- 3/11 p 213-222; Why Inequality (Summary); Wal-Mart; Income Trends; Union Advantage; Poverty Guidelines
- 3/13 p232-245; Some Principles of Stratification (Summary); **Quiz**
- 3/18 p 222-227; Quality of Life Indicators; United Nations Declaration of Human Rights; **Quiz**
- 3/20 **Final Exam (2 Hours)**