“[E]conomic production, and the structure of society of every historical epoch necessarily arising therefrom, constitute the foundation for the political and intellectual history of that epoch….”

—Friedrich Engels (1883), from the preface of the German translation of the Manifesto of the Communist Party (my italics)

What do social scientists mean by the “structure of society?” How do social structures impact us, and in what ways do they constitute the foundations for history, as Engels asserts? Sociology shows us how our beliefs, behaviors, successes and failures are shaped by the world “out there”—by such things as schools, occupations, families, religion, and gender and racial categories. In this course we look at the world through sociological eyes using both classical and contemporary readings, become familiar with common sociological concepts, and make every effort to apply these insights to our own lives.

readings

Textbook (available in the bookstore):

POLIS Private Reserve (PR):
These readings can be found on the course website—click on “POLIS Private Reserve List.” Password: “social”

Course website (POLIS):
http://www.u.arizona.edu/ic/polis/summer103/Course-Homesite.cgi?SOC_101-1
Assignments & Grading

Daily Questions (20 percent)—Each day I will hand out questions on the next day’s readings that you will answer and hand back to me the following day. The questions are designed to be very simple, primarily to direct your attention to key points in the readings. You will lose one percentage point for each missed assignment.

Essays (15 percent each)—You will write two essays (approx. 3 pages each, double-spaced) to be handed in at the end of the second and fourth weeks respectively. In each essay you will apply one or more of the sociological concepts that we’ve discussed in the preceding two weeks to an experience, event, or story from your own life. Be sure to include a concise discussion of the sociological concept(s) that you choose, including relevant definitions and references to the readings, and explain how it has had an impact on your life.

Essay Response (15 percent each)—Immediately after the essays are handed in, we will distribute them randomly to the class. Each of you will receive a classmate’s paper and then over the weekend you will write a response (1 page) to him or her. In your response you should consider: does this person seem to understand the concept? Did he or she apply it in a meaningful way? Did his/her understanding of the concept differ from your own, and if so, how?

You may choose ONE of the following options (20 percent):

1) Final Paper—Building on your two essays, connect the sociological concepts and life experiences you have already written about into one coherent, cohesive essay (6-8 pages) centered around one of the following unifying questions: a) How does Sociology change my perspective? b) What is the “sociological imagination?” Be sure to incorporate the responses you received from your classmates on the essays.

2) Final exam (essay questions) to be administered on the last day of class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily questions</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay #1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response #1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay #2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response #2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final paper or exam</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>below 60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The top score in the class sets the 100% mark.

Grading criteria will be made as explicit, concrete and available to students as possible. Grade appeals will be honored only in the rarest of circumstances (e.g., if students can show that an evaluator overlooked or misunderstood something important) – this is also made very clear at the outset of the course. Late assignments will only be accepted if special arrangements have been made directly with me.
**calendar**

[week 1] ..........................................................the science of society

06.09.03  1. Introduction to the Course—In-Class Survey

06.10.03  2. Thinking Sociologically: The Social Origins of Protest  

06.11.03  3. The Sociological Imagination  
           C. Wright Mills. 1959. “From *The Sociological Imagination.*”  
                       (Massey, ch. 2; pp. 13-18).  
           Emile Durkheim. 1895. “What Makes Sociology Different?”  
                       (Massey, ch. 3; pp. 19-26).

06.12.03  4. Social Facts: Two Empirical Examples  

06.13.03  5. Class Discussion—The Week in Review

[week 2] ..........................................................the power of social structures

06.16.03  6. Economic Structures and Social Classes  

06.17.03  7. Global Economic Structures  
           *Read any TWO of the following:*  
                       (Massey, ch. 29; pp. 297-303).  
8. Social Positions, Roles, and Norms—Film (“The Massacre”)

9. Social Structures—Formal and Informal

10. Class Discussion—The Week in Review
[ESSAY #1 DUE]

[week 3] ........................................................the meaning of culture

11. Totems of the Clan: Culture as Symbols and Identity
[ESSAY RESPONSE #1 DUE]

12. Sacred and Profane: Culture as Categories
And read ONE of the following:

13. Consuming Culture: Culture as Practice
Read ONE of the following:
06.26.03  14. Uncovering the “Taken-for-Granted”

Read any **TWO** of the following:

Clyde Kluckholm. 1968. “Queer Customs.” (Massey, ch. 8; pp. 73-80).

06.27.03  15. Class Discussion—The Week in Review

[weeks 4 & 5] ..............................the structure of social institutions

06.30.03  16. Institutions and the Structuring of Beliefs and Values

07.01.03  17. Cultural Transmission in Institutions

07.02.03  18. Educational Institutions and the Structuring of Opportunity

07.03.03  19. Political Institutions and Distribution of Power
[ESSAY #2 DUE]
Read **ONE** of the following:

07.04.03  20. No Class—Independence Day Holiday
07.07.03  21. Case Study—the Job Hunt  
[ESSAY RESPONSE #2 DUE]  

07.08.03  22. Case Study—the Civil Rights Movement  

07.09.03  23. Class Discussion—Review and Survey Results

07.10.03  24. Final Exam or Final Paper due