

UNDERSTANDING SOCIETY AND CULTURE

UNI 117 -001

Istanbul Sehir University
Fall 2016

Time: Tuesday 14:00-15:00 / Thursday 13:00-15:00
Place: Bati Kampus Conference Hall
Instructor: Zübeyir Nişancı
Office: Bati 1032
Email: zubeyirnisanci@sehir.edu.tr
Office Hours: Wed. 13:00 – 15:00, or by Appointment.



COURSE CALENDAR:

September 27: Classes Start

October 3-6: Add -Drop

November 25: Course Withdrawal Deadline

March 16: MID-TERM

December 29: Last day of Classes

TBA: FINAL EXAM

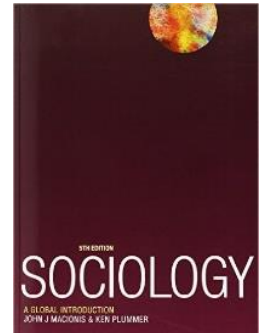
The purpose of this course is to provide a general introduction to the sociological study of the society by critically reviewing the perspectives of some of the prominent classical and contemporary sociological thinkers and the theories they developed for exploring the dynamics of social life. Included among the subjects to be covered are socialization, culture, popular culture, social control, globalization, social inequality, deviance and crime.

Documentaries, online video clips and films will be presented in the course as part of an effort to analyze these topics in the light of real-life examples. The course is also supported by discussion sessions in addition to the regular class hours. Students are encouraged to take part in the sociologically informed discussions in order to facilitate the development of their own sociological perspectives.

This course is also designed to provide an overview of sociology's connections with other social scientific disciplines such as anthropology, psychology, history and political science.

Required Texts:

- *Sociology: A Global Introduction* by Macionis and Plummer (5th edition). [MP in the Syllabus] (Available at the Bookstore)
- Readings Posted on **LMS**



Course Requirements and Grading

Class Attendance (Regular Class Hours): 10 Points

Students are required to attend all of the class sessions. They can only miss a total of 5 sessions without a documented excuse. The students' class attendance grade will decrease by one point (1 Point) for each class they miss after the fifth absence. If you cannot document an excuse you will **not** be able to ask for being excused for your absence. These 5 sessions are for grace and they will also cover any important issue you may face but cannot document. Therefore, do not request excuse from the instructor or from the assistants of the course if you cannot document it.

Participation in Discussion Sessions: 5 Points

Students are also required to attend the weekly discussion sessions of this course. You can only miss a total of 3 discussion sessions without a documented excuse and any absence beyond it will decrease your Discussion Session participation grade by half a point (0.5 Points). These 3 sessions are for grace and they will also cover any important issue you may face but cannot document. Therefore, any kind of undocumented excuses will be covered by these 3 grace sessions. If you cannot document an excuse you will **not** be able to ask for being excused for your absence.

Quizzes: (10 Points)

There will be 3 short quizzes which will cover the reading(s) assigned for the class session in which the quiz will be given. There will be no prior notice for the quizzes. Quizzes can be in any class session and in any sequence that is possible. Be prepared for each and every session. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class sessions and students who are not present at that time will not be given quizzes later. Each quiz is worth 3.5 points. Therefore, you can collect a total of 11.5 points from the quizzes. Collecting 10 points will earn you full grade for the quizzes and anything above it will be bonus grades for you. Make up quizzes will not be given unless the student provides an officially documental excuse which is approved by the university.

Mid-term and Final Exam: (35 + 40 Points)

There will be an in-class Mid-term and a Final exam. The Mid-term exam will cover the readings and class discussions we will do before the Mid-Term exam and it will be worth 35 Points. The Final Exam will cover all of the assigned readings and class discussions from the beginning of the semester to the end. The Final Exam will be worth 40 points. Late exams will NOT be given unless an official excuse or a medical report is provided to me. See the syllabus for Mid-Term and Final Exam dates.

Academic Honesty

Any kind of cheating in exams and plagiarism such as presenting someone else's work, thoughts and data as your own is a serious offense and it will be penalized by a grade of F. The student who is involved in cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean's Office. If you have questions about the rules and regulations regarding proper citation and plagiarism, you can always talk to me.

Grading

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade	Scale	Category	Status
98-100	A+	4.10	Exceptional	Pass: Exceptional Success
93-98	A	4.00	Excellent	Pass: Exceptional Success
90-92	A-	3.70	Very good	Pass: Success
86-89	B+	3.30	Good-Very Good	Pass: Success
83-85	B	3.00	Good	Pass: Success
80-82	B-	2.70	Good-Fair	Pass: Success
77-79	C+	2.30	Fair-Good	Pass: Success
73-76	C	2.00	Fair	Pass: Success
70-72	C-	1.70	Poor-Fair	Conditional Pass
64-69	D+	1.30	Poor	Conditional Pass
60-63	D	1.00	Very Poor	Conditional Pass
50-59	D-	0.50	Fail	Repeat: Fail
0-49	F	0.00	Fail	Repeat: Fail
0	IA	0.00	Fail	Repeat: Fail Due to Poor Attendance

Classroom Conduct:

All of the students have the right to a good quality learning environment. Thusly, any kind of disruptive behavior including talking to your classmates while the class is in session is not permitted. It is also the students' responsibility to arrive on time and not leave before the end of the class. If you need to leave earlier, let me know before the class starts.

Electronic devices:

The use of electronic devices (all of them) is strictly prohibited. If you have a legitimate reason for using electronic devices, you need to confirm with the instructor of the course for permission. Students **cannot** electronically record class sessions (neither fully nor partially) without the permission from the instructor. Not abiding by this rule is punishable by administrative and/or legal action.

Disability Accommodation

Students who have any kind of disability which they think they might need accommodations should contact the university administration first. Based on the confirmation I will receive from the university, I will cooperate with the students to provide the accommodations they need.

Course Website:

Istanbul Sehir University provides an online platform [LMS] for each course. All of the teaching materials with the exception of the textbook of this class are available at the online portal.

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: Course Introduction / What is Sociology?

September 27: Course Introduction/Syllabus/Course Website

September 29: Introduction to Sociological Thinking

Read: *The Sociological Imagination* [MP, Chapter 2: pp. 3 -14]

WEEK 2: Foundational Perspectives of Studying the Social I (Durkheim and the Functionalist Theory)

October 4: Sociology of Emile Durkheim

Read: *Emile Durkheim* (in *Sociology Now* by Kimmel and Aronson, pp. 16-18). [LMS]

October 6: The Functionalist Theory and its Applications

Read: *The Functionalist Perspective*, [MP, Chapter 2: pp. 38-39]

Read: *The Modernization Theory*, (in *Global Inequalities* by Bradshaw and Wallace, pp. 39-44. [LMS]

WEEK 3: Foundational Perspectives of Studying the Social II (Karl Marx and the Conflict Theory)

October 11: Karl Marx's Analysis of the Capitalist Society

Read: *Karl Marx* (in *Sociology Now* by Kimmel and Aronson, pp. 15-16). [LMS]

Read: "*Manifesto of the Communist Party*," Marx and Engels, pp. 9-21. [LMS]

October 13: The Conflict Theory

Read: *The Conflict Perspective*, [MP, Chapter 2: pp. 39-40]

Read: *The Dependency Theory*, (in *Global Inequalities* by Bradshaw and Wallace, pp. 44-52. [LMS]

WEEK 4: Foundational Perspectives of Studying the Social III (Max Weber / Meaning in Social Action)

October 18: Weber

Read: *Max Weber* (in *Sociology Now* by Kimmel and Aronson, pp. 18-19). [LMS]

Read: *Weber Revisited: McDonaldization of the Society*, [MP, Chapter 6: pp. 190-191.]

October 20: The Symbolic Interaction Theory

Read: *The Social Action Perspective*, [MP, Chapter 2: pp. 39-40]

Read: *Constructing Situations*, [MP, Chapter 7: pp. 221-222]

Read: *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, Erving Goffman [LMS]

WEEK 5: Development of the Self and Socialization

October 25: The Psychological Self

Read: *Sigmund Freud: The Importance of the Unconscious* [MP, Chapter 7: pp. 211-213]

October 27: The Social Self

Read: *George Herbert Mead and the Social Self*, [MP, Chapter 7: pp. 213-216]

WEEK 6: Culture and its Components

November 1: Defining culture and its components

Read: *What is Culture?* [MP, Chapter 7: pp. 213-216]

November 3: Subcultures and Countercultures

Read: *Cultures and Countercultures* (in *Sociology Now* by Kimmel and Aronson, pp. 43-44). [LMS]

WEEK 7: Popular Culture

November 8: Defining Popular Culture

Read: *What is Popular Culture?* (in *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction* by John Storey pp. 1-16) [LMS]

November 10: Culture Industries

Read: *Frankfurt School* (in *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction* by John Storey. pp. 66-74) [LMS]

WEEK 8: Review and Midterm

November 15: Review

November 17: MIDTERM



WEEK 9: Deviance and Crime

November 22: Defining and Crime and Deviance

Read: *Some Opening Definitions* [MP, Chapter 17: pp. 582]

November 24: Sociological Explanations of Crime and Deviance

Read: *Explaining Crime and Deviance*, [MP, Chapter 17: pp. 602-618]

WEEK 10: Social Control

November 29: *Changes in Social Control* [MP, Chapter 17: pp. 592-602]

November 30: Michel Foucault on Social Control

Read: Excerpts from *Docile Bodies* by Michel Foucault [LMS]

WEEK 11: Sociology of Globalization

December 6: What is Globalization?

Read: TBA

December 8: Thinking Sociologically, Thinking Globally

Read: *Thinking Globally: A Global Perspective in Sociology*, [MP, Chapter 2: pp. 48-54]

WEEK 12: Social Stratification and Social Inequality in the Context of Globalization I

December 13: Social Stratification and Social Inequality

Read: *Introduction: What is Social Stratification and Inequality?* [MP, Chapter 8: pp. 252-254]

December 15: Poverty and Inequality in the Age of Globalization

Read: *Global Poverty / Global Inequality* [MP, Chapter 2: pp. 48-54]

WEEK 13: Social Stratification and Social Inequality in the Context of Globalization II

December 20: Race, Ethnicity and Global Inequality

Read: *Globalization and Racialization* by Manning Marable, [LMS]

December 22: Globalization and Gender Inequalities

Read: *Global Gender Issues* [MP, Chapter 9: pp. 303-305]

Read: Saskia Sassen, "Global Cities and Survival Circuits" in "Globalization" Edited by Eitzen and Zinn pp. 187-208. [LMS]

WEEK 14: Final Reviews / Classes End

December 27: Review

December 29: Review and Discussions

FINAL EXAM: TBA

