Course: Introduction to Sociology (Sociology 1)

Time: MWF 8:45-9:50  
Thursday 9:00-9:50 (X-hour)

Instructor: John Campbell  
123 Silsby Hall  
Office phone: 646-2542

Office Hours: Monday 1:00-3:00 (or by appointment)

Email: I will try to answer email queries as soon as I can. However, given the rather large amount of email I receive, I can make no guarantees how fast that will be. For the same reason, my responses may be rather short. Please do not take offense.

Course Description: What is society? How have societies developed historically? How do they distribute wealth, income and other resources? How do they organize political authority and economic power? How do they coordinate work? How do they socialize people to “fit in” with those around them? How do they produce culture? This course provides answers to these and other questions in ways that provide an introduction to the field of sociology. It focuses on a broad range of theory and research showing how sociologists think about and study these questions. In many cases, the topics covered in the course reflect the research interests and course offerings of faculty in the sociology department at Dartmouth. As a result, the course also provides an introduction to some of the curriculum offered in the department.

Required Texts: Listed below are the required books for the course. They are available at Wheelock Books, the Dartmouth Bookstore, and are on reserve at Baker-Berry Library. There are also a few additional required articles. These are listed in the syllabus below and posted on the course’s Blackboard site on the Web.


General Course Requirements: All students are expected to attend lectures, do the reading and take the exams.
Attendance Policy: Class attendance will not be taken. Beware, however, that about half of the questions on each exam will be based on lecture material.

Examinations: There will be three multiple choice exams including the final exam. The exam dates are listed below in the syllabus.

Make-up Policy: As a general rule there will be NO make-up exams. In extraordinary circumstances a make-up may be possible if (1) you know in advance that you will be unable for extraordinary reasons to take the exam, and you make arrangements with the instructor at least one week before the scheduled exam date, or (2) you are seriously ill and have written confirmation from either a dean or physician that this prevented you from taking the exam. The instructor reserves the right to refuse permission for a make-up exam if he feels it is not warranted. Notably, having other exams scheduled during the same week is not an acceptable reason for requesting a make-up exam. (Note that instructors are not permitted to grant make-ups for a final exam unless the student also receives approval from their class dean. But the final decision is still made by the instructor.)

Grading: Your grade will be based on the total number of points earned on the exams. At the end of the term everyone’s point totals will be calculated, the distribution of these score totals will be calculated and initial cutting points for letter grades will be assigned. The overall class grade point average (GPA) will then be calculated. If the class GPA is too low (less than about 3.0), then cutting points will be adjusted as necessary to bring the class GPA up to an acceptable level. If the initial class GPA is higher than about 3.0, the cutting points will not be adjusted. Once the final cutting points have been determined, then each person will be assigned a final letter grade. If an individual’s total point score falls just below a cutting point, they may be bumped up to the next letter grade if they have shown significant improvement over the three exams.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Points/Questions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>70 points/35 questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>70 points/35 questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #3</td>
<td>70 points/35 questions</td>
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(Note: The third exam may be cumulative.)

Honor Principle: Examinations will be conducted in accord with the principles of academic honor detailed in the Dartmouth Organization, Regulations and Courses.

Students with Disabilities: Students with learning, physical, or psychiatric disabilities enrolled in this course that may need disability-related classroom or other accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment to see the instructor before the end of the second week of the term. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Student Disability Services office may be consulted to discuss appropriate implementation of any accommodation requested. Students who want to discuss this should provide the instructor with a copy of a disability registration form, which lists the accommodations recommended for them by the Student Disability Services within the Academic Skills Center. This will also verify that you are registered for disabilities services. If you do not have such a form, please see the Director of Student Disability Services to get one.

Reading Assignments: The reading assignments for the course are listed below. It is expected that you will have done the reading by the time class meets on the date for which the assignment is listed in the syllabus. There is a lot of reading so you should keep up with it as we go along. Otherwise you will be faced with an extraordinary amount of reading the night before the exam.
Course Outline:

Part I. What is Sociology?

Sep 16  Introduction to the Course

Part II. The Development of Modern Society and the Foundations of Sociology

Sep 18  Marx’s Conflict Sociology

Sep 20  Durkheim’s Functionalist Sociology
   Bert Adams and R.A. Sydie. “Society as Sui Generis: Durkheim.” (On Blackboard)

Sep 23  Weber’s Historical Comparative-Historical Sociology

Part III. The Heart of the Matter: Inequality

Sep 25  Economic Inequality
   David Brady. Rich Democracies, Poor People. (Begin reading but skip the Appendix.)
   NOTE: This book is a bit technical. Don’t get caught up in the statistics, although the graphs are interesting. Only skim chapter 2. Pay attention to the big ideas. Don’t get swamped in the details.

Sep 27  Economic Inequality: Theories of Inequality and Stratification
   David Brady. Rich Democracies, Poor People. (Continue reading but skip the Appendix.)

Sep 30  Racial Inequality
   David Brady. Rich Democracies, Poor People. (Finish reading but skip the Appendix.)

Oct 2   Racial Inequality
   William Julius Wilson. More Than Just Race. (Begin reading)

Oct 4   Gender Inequality
   William Julius Wilson. More Than Just Race. (Continue reading.)

Oct 7   Gender Inequality
   William Julius Wilson. More Than Just Race. (Continue reading.)

Oct 9   Exam Review
   William Julius Wilson. More Than Just Race. (Finish reading.)

Oct 11  EXAM #1
Part IV. Analyzing Social Institutions

Oct 14  The Economy
Richard Lester & Michael Piore.  *Innovation*. (Begin reading).

Oct 16  The Economy
Richard Lester & Michael Piore.  *Innovation*. (Finish reading).

Oct 18  The State
Theda Skocpol & Vanessa Williamson.  *The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism*. (Begin reading.)

Oct 21  The State
Theda Skocpol & Vanessa Williamson.  *The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism*. (Continue reading.)

Oct 23  The State: Film—“Obama’s Deal”
Theda Skocpol & Vanessa Williamson.  *The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism*. (Finish reading.)

Oct 24  **X-HOUR**: The Schools
Shamus Khan.  *Privilege*. (Begin reading.)

Oct 25  The Schools
Shamus Khan.  *Privilege*. (Continue reading.)

Oct 28  **NO CLASS**

Oct 30  Exam Review
Shamus Khan.  *Privilege*. (Finish reading.)

Nov 1  **EXAM #2**

Part V. Analyzing Organizations

Nov 4  Bureaucracy
Charles Perrow.  “Why Bureaucracy?” (On Blackboard)

Nov 6  Organizational Fields & Isomorphism
Paul DiMaggio and Walter Powell.  “The Iron Cage Revisited” (On Blackboard)

Nov 8  The Labor Process

Part VI. Analyzing Interpersonal Interaction
Nov 11   Symbolic Interaction
       Gary Alan Fine.  *Kitchens*.  (Begin reading.)

Nov 13   Presentation of Self
       Gary Alan Fine.  *Kitchens*.  (Continue reading.)

Nov 15   Production of Culture
       Gary Alan Fine.  *Kitchens*.  (Continue reading.)

Nov 18   Exam Review
       Gary Alan Fine.  *Kitchens*.  (Finish reading.)

Nov 24   **EXAM #3**
       Sunday, 8:00 am