

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

SOCIOLOGY B1

Spring 2020

CRN: 32637

Instructor: Richard R. Maraccini, MA Behavioral Science

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Day: Monday

Time: 6:00-9:10 pm

(661) 654-3219

"Neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both."

- C.W. Mills

Course Description

The scientific study of human social behavior: This assumes that external forces shape individual behavior. The focus of this perspective is to identify, explain, and interpret these forces. As such, essential concepts, research methods, social institutions, and applications essential to the sociological perspective are examined.

Sociology B1 satisfies the behavioral science and multicultural components for the general education requirement at Bakersfield College. It is also a requirement for those planning on obtaining an AA in sociology. Whether you major in sociology or never take another sociology course, my hope is that this course will change the way you look at your social world.

Text

Henslin, J.M. *Essentials of Sociology-Revel Access*, 13th e. Pearson. ISBN 9780134739892.

Student Learning Objectives

1. Compare and contrast the basic elements of the three major theoretical perspectives in sociology.
2. Demonstrate an understanding and ability to apply the basic sociological concepts to culture, socialization, social structure, deviance, stratification, race/ethnicity, social institutions, demography, collective behavior, and social change.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic elements of the scientific method including the various methodologies used to collect, analyze, interpret the data/observations employed in sociological research.

Course Tips

- Attend every class.
- Ask questions in class, after class, and during breaks.
- Participate in class discussions.
- Read, re-read, and contemplate.
- Form study and discussion groups.
- Look for practical applications to course material.
- Talk about what you learn with others.

Reading Assignments and Lectures

Lectures will be based on the material found in assigned chapters from the text. The lectures will include in-class demonstrations and projects. Supplemental material will be brought in as the instructor deems necessary. The instructor may choose to present material in a manner different from that found in the text. This is so that you the student may have additional exposure to the different schools of thought found within contemporary sociology. It is to your advantage to read the material before each class lecture. This will not only help you to keep on top of the subject matter, but will also enable you to ask questions concerning material found in the text during class lectures and discussions. I permit taping of my lectures. The reading list is found on page 6 of the syllabus.

Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy

Cell phones must be on silent mode during class lectures. Please do not answer your cell phones or text message during class time. Please let me know if you have a job, child care, or other situations that require you to be reachable. Electronic devices of any kind are not permitted during exams.

Assignments

Exams

The examination schedule is also found on page 6 of the syllabus. Each exam is arranged according to topic and the assigned corresponding chapters found in the text. The exams will be comprised of multiple choice, matching, fill-in, true/false, and short answer questions. The three exams will be administered at the beginning of class on the following dates: Mar. 2nd, Mar. 30th, and May 11th. Each exam will be worth a total of 100 points. My expectation is that you have arranged your schedule so that you can attend both the lectures and take the exams on the assigned date. I will only allow rescheduling of exams if given prior advance notice. **Prior notice does not mean the day of the test.**

Papers

Assignment 1: Identify the "corners in life" (i.e. social locations) you occupy in terms of jobs, income, education, gender, age, and race-ethnicity. How each of these elements influences your self-concept and behavior? Select any two to change (for example, gender and race/ethnicity). Describe the differences which might exist in your self-concept and behavior if you occupied this changed social location. The assignment must be typed, double spaced, and have a cover page. A length of 1 to 1½ pages is suggested (excluding the cover page). The first assignment is due on Feb. 24th and will be worth a total of 22 points. I will allow papers to be turned in no later than one week after the due date. Late papers face a 10% deduction. I will not accept any papers by email.

Assignment 2: Identify the major agents of socialization in U.S. society today and briefly describe the role of each in the socialization process. Refer to the subsection of the chapter entitled "Agents of Socialization." Make sure you include

family, school, the workplace, religion, and peer groups. Also make sure you provide examples of how each has affected your socialization to date based on your social location. The assignment must be typed, double spaced, and have a cover page. A suggested length of 1 ½ to 2 pages is suggested. The second assignment is due on Mar. 16th and will be worth a total of 25 points. I will allow papers to be turned in no later than one week after the due date. Late papers face a 10% deduction. I will not accept any papers by email.

Observation Paper: Part of your grade will require you to conduct a sociological observation. You will be required to visit a public location, take notes, and then write paper addressing the following:

1. Describe the physical setting. What are some of the key objects, as well as its mood and pace? Further describe a couple of the social and cultural norms of the location. Make sure you address how people dressed, interacted, occupied space, and spoke to one another. [15 pts]
2. What appeared to be the social statuses and roles of the individuals in the location? Explain why you think this is. Also, what did you learn by observing the location sociologically? [15 pts]
3. Twenty points will be allotted to your incorporation of ideas from the assigned chapters and class discussions. Use material from both to support your observations. Demonstrate your understanding of the material. Cite chapter and page when using material taken from the text. If you are incorporating material from class discussions cite the date of the lecture, and make sure you refer to the specific portion of the lecture you are referring to.
4. Ten points will likewise be allotted to paper organization, appropriate citation, spelling, and grammar. The paper should have a clear introduction that includes what you will discuss in the rest of the paper, a body that addresses questions 1 and 2, and a conclusion tying the entire paper together.

The observation is due on Apr. 13th. It will be worth a total of 60 points. It must be typed and double-spaced, and contain a title page. The paper has three-page maximum length (excluding the cover page). All citations and referencing must follow the appropriate ASA style. Observation notes must be turned in as they will count as part of the total grade. I will allow papers to be turned no later than one week after the due date. Late papers face a 10% deduction. I will not accept any emailed papers.

Reflexive Assignment: The reflexive assignment will be a short paper approximately two pages in length. It will require you to consider, apply, and discuss what you have learned in class discussions, the readings, and the lectures. The reflexive assignment will be due on Apr 27th. It will be worth combined total of 40 points. The assignment must be typed and double spaced. The assignment cannot be submitted by email. May 11th, the night of the last exam, is the last day I will accept late papers. Late papers face a 10% deduction.

Grading

Course grades will be determined employing the following scale:

405-450	A
360-404	B
315-359	C
270-314	D
269 or below	F

Please note: The above grading scale is subject to any changes that the instructor deems necessary. The three exams combined will comprise approximately two-thirds of the total grade, while the famous sociologist, observation, and reflexive assignment will comprise one-third. **Students will write no less than 10 written pages in accord with BC's Behavioral Science Department policy.**

Attendance

This class meets every Monday at the Delano Science and Technology Center room #118 from 6:00-9:10 p.m. The lecture will start promptly at 6:00 p.m., so you need to make sure you arrive on time. Tardies disrupt the learning process for everyone. Each student is expected to arrange her or his schedule so that they can attend each class session. I welcome questions during the lecture or in-class discussions: however, I do not allow conversations between students during the lecture even if it is about the lecture material. If you are hospitalized or ill for any prolonged period of time, please contact me as-soon-as-possible. Attendance will usually be taken at the beginning and near the end of each class.

Research repeatedly shows that regular attendance is the best predictor of class grades.

There are two scheduled holidays for this course: Feb. 17th (Washington's Birthday), and April 6th (Spring Break).

Withdrawals

The instructor expects the student to officially drop this course. Students are responsible for officially withdrawing from any classes they no longer plan to attend. **Non-attendance does not release students from this responsibility.** Any student who stops attending and failed to officially withdraw will receive a letter grade based on the total number of points she/he accumulated at the time they stopped attending.

Other Important Dates: January 31st is the last day you can drop and still receive a refund. The last day to officially drop a course without receiving a "W" is Feb. 2nd. The last day you can withdraw from a semester length class with a "W" is Mar. 27th.

Academic honesty

"plagiarize (plā'jə rīz'; -jē ə-) to take (ideas, writings, etc.) from (another) and pass them off as one's own." (Neufeldt, V. (Ed.). (1988). *Webster's new world dictionary*. New York: Webster's New World.)

Plagiarism occurs when you use the exact written or spoken words, a summary of written or spoken words, and/or the ideas that someone else has produced without giving the original author credit. When you use another author's material you must give that person credit by indicating the source of the material in your text. Buying a paper or having someone write your paper is also considered plagiarism. A plagiarized paper will receive no (0%) credit.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the

Disabled Student Programs & Services located at the Student Services Building, first floor, Counseling Center (661-395-2000) as soon as possible to better ensure such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Habits of Mind

How will you succeed at BC this semester? What determines success is not circumstance, but habit. **Habits of Mind, It's POSSIBLE at BC** has many free tools intended to help you accomplish your goals in school. Only you can overcome the challenges you face this semester and in life. Start out successfully with these steps:

- Visit the Habits of Mind website: www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/habits-of-mind .
- Download the app for Habits of Mind at Bakersfield College for power in your palm.
- Ask for help, do the work, and refuse to quit.

Success takes energy, planning, and strategies for both the expected challenges in school as well as the unexpected twists life can take. Ask your professor for more information. Now is the time to develop new habits.

Office

Messages can be left for me at my office at (661) 654-3219. I can also be reached by either of my two emails (see first page). My office fax is (661) 654-6971.

Welcome to Sociology B1!

Reading List/Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Date:	Topic:	Assignment Due
Jan 27	Introduction to Sociology	Reading: Ch. 1 "Sociology: Perspective, Theory, and Method".
Feb 3	Science of Society	Finish chapter 1.
Feb 10	Culture	Reading: Ch. 2 "Culture".
Feb 17	President's Birthday	No class
Feb 24	Social Structure and Interaction	Reading: Ch. 4 "Social Structure and Social Interaction". Due: Assignment #1 (Social Location)
Mar 2	Exam #1: Chapters 1, 2, and 4	
Mar 9	Socialization	Reading: Ch. 3 "Socialization".
Mar 16	Groups	Reading: Ch. 5 "Groups and Formal Organizations". Due: Assignment #2 (Socialization)
Mar 23	Family and Marriage	Reading: Ch. 12 "Marriage and Family"
Mar 30	Exam #2: Chapters 3, 5, 12	
Apr 6	Spring Break	No class
Apr 13	Stratification and Inequality	Reading: Ch. 8 "Social Class in the United States" Due: Project #2 (Observation Paper)
Apr 20	Stratification (Class)	Finish Chapter 8
Apr 27	Inequality (Race)	Reading: Ch. 9 "Race and Ethnicity" Due: Reflexive assignment
May 4	Inequality (Gender)	Reading: Ch. 10 "Gender and Age"
May 11	Exam #3 (6-7:50 pm): Chs. 8, 9, and 10. Enjoy the Summer Break!	