Sociology 1

Fall 2013 Syllabus

Los Angeles Mission College

Professor: Maggie Mendez, M.A.
Section # 3303
Wednesday 6:50-10 pm
Location: INST 2004

CONTACT INFORMATION:

E-mail: mendezm@lamission.edu Website: https://myetudes.org (see instructions on how to log in)
Phone: (818) 364-7600 ext.4173
Office Hours: 6:10 pm or upon request. Office Location: Instructional Building cubicle 40
Communication: Please be aware that all emails sent from the instructor will be sent to your LA Mission College email account.

REQUIRED TEXT:

W. Thompson and J. Hickey, *SOCIETY IN FOCUS*. 7th edition, ISBN 978-0205-203482

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

1. Assess and describe the three sociological theories and how they impact sociological research
2. Utilize a research design to complete social research and analyze the data to come to a sociological conclusion.
3. Define a social problem they have experienced and discuss solutions to reduce, educate or eliminate such problems in society.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:

Although Sociology 1 is largely structured as a lecture-based course, a variety of additional instructional methods will be used including, but not limited to, in-class exercises, discussion, small group activities, media presentations, tests, written assignments, and on-line assignments. Student participation in class discussions and activities is required (as a way to facilitate informative and lively discussions of social issues).

Course Evaluation & Grading Standards

Grading Scale

EXAM 1	45 pts
EXAM 2	50 pts
Final Exam	55 pts
Class Participation	30 pts
Field Observation	40 pts
On-line Assignments	40 pts
Total points possible	260

A 230—255
B 204—229
C 179—203
D 153—178
Fail 152—below

Please refer to website for assignment guidelines.

Exams: Are given and taken in class. All exams are in multiple-choice format. During the exams, you may not text message or use any media devices.

Written Assignments

All written assignments should be proofread for spelling and grammatical errors. Handwritten papers will not be accepted. Papers should also be stapled. Please note: You will receive an automatic zero for plagiarizing!! I will check on line for plagiarizing.

- Field Observation (3-4 pages): You are to violate a social norm and observe the reactions of others. You should recount your observations of others and include a discussion of the applicable sociological concepts discussed in class. Log in to website https://myetudes.org and see assignment guidelines for help.

- On-line Assignments: All students are required to log-into https://myetudes.org and complete 4 assignments.

  Rubric for grading On-line Assignments:

	Excellent 10 points	Competent 5-7 points	Needs Improvement 0 – 4 points
Describes topic clearly	Description is clear, complete and accurate	Description is somewhat clear, complete and accurate	Description is weak, unclear, incomplete, inaccurate and/or missing entirely
Gives reaction/ opinion to the topic with personal relevance/experience	Thoughtful reaction/opinion, supported with personal experience	Offers opinion, though limited relevance to self.	No reaction, or very poor personal relevance
Grammar	No errors or very few grammatical errors.	A significant number of errors, but not enough to interfere with comprehension	Grammatical errors interrupt reading/ understanding of discussion topic.
Reply to another student's reaction or opinion (if applicable)	Thoughtful, meaningful response	Good response, through limited	No response, or very superficial (e.g. "I agree!")

There will be no extensions or make up for discussion forums, so keep track of the deadlines.

Class Participation

As noted, classroom participation is highly valued as an important tool for learning. Thus, 30 points are available through your classroom participation. Points will be earned for several in-class group activities. You must fully participate to receive credit. I will not give you credit if you are not fully engaged in discussions! Group activities will occur unannounced. These groups will help facilitate discussion on key topics. Groups may consist of 4-8 students. Each group will elect a recorder who will list everyone's name and note significant discussions within the group. They will also share this with the whole class. Points will also be given for full participation. Full participation is attending class for the entire class session. Therefore leaving early, arriving late, and walking in & out of class can result in reduction in class participation points.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory. Students who do not attend the first day of class will be dropped from the course. Excessive absences of two or more can lead to exclusion from class. If you stop attending class (or wish to drop the class), YOU MUST DROP THE CLASS YOURSELF—OFFICIALLY on or before Nov.18th on-line. Failure to do so may result in a grade of an "F".

Extra Credit

- Social Analysis Paper (3-4 pages): Students are to define any sociological concept discussed in lectures and relate it to any life experience or current event. You may receive up to 15 extra credit points. Log in to website http://lamc.mylabsplus.com and see assignment guidelines for help.

- Presentations (7-10 minutes): You can present your Social Analysis Assignment to the class. You can present your topic in any format (powerpoint, outlines, visuals, graphics, etc), but can not read from your paper word for word. Your presentation can be a minimum of 7 minutes or longer. You may receive up to 15 extra credit points.

STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Student Preparation

Students SHOULD read and study the assigned chapters and material before the class meets in order to be ready to participate in class discussions.

I will not allow the reading of newspapers or magazines, social chatter or the passing of personal notes during class. Listening to music, playing video games or otherwise engaging in non-classroom focused behavior, such as sleeping, is also not permitted. Such activities distract me, as well as your peers. Failure to follow these important guidelines will result in reduction of points in participation.

Cell Phones: All cell phones must be turned off. No text messaging during class instruction.

Lap Tops: Only use for the purposes of note taking. Web surfing, playing games, instant messaging, e-mail, and working on homework for other classes tends to be distracting to others and is prohibited during class time.

Class Discussion

Class discussion is extremely important in order to have a well rounded sociological perspective. Otherwise students may be exposed to only one view, that of the instructor. Remember discussions are possible only if everyone participates and reads the material. All opinions and comments are valid and important. Rude and disrespectful comments or attacks directed at other classmates, or the instructor will not be tolerated. Also, students are not required to agree with the authors, other students, or the instructor. We each hold the right to respectfully agree and disagree within this class.

Tardy Policy

Students arriving late should not disrupt the class by attempting to take their usual seat but should quickly and quietly take one of the reserved seats near the door. Students should expect to stay for then entire class period.

Leaving early is leaving any time before class is ends. I will notice ☺ This can lead to a reduction in points for participation.

Make-up Policy and Late Assignments

Students are required to complete all course assignments. Assignments are communicated to students in advance so that adequate time is given for their completion. Therefore, all late assignments will receive an automatic reduction of one letter grade unless there is sufficient evidence for the absence or arrangements were made prior to the absence.

Make-up exams are granted only in the case of true personal emergency and require sufficient documentation for excuse. You must most notify the instructor well in advance.

Important Policies & Course Schedule

Reasonable Accommodations

If you are a student with a disability and require accommodations, please send me a private email. The sooner I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the DSP&S Office in providing them. For students requiring accommodations, the DSP&S Office at Mission College provides special assistance in areas like: registering for courses, specialized tutoring, note-taking, mobility assistance, special instruction, testing assistance, special equipment, special materials, instructor liaisons, community referrals and job placement. If you have not done so already, you may also wish to contact the DSP&S Office in Instructional Building 1018 (phone 818/364-7732 TTD 818/364-7861) and bring a letter stating the accommodations that are needed.

Recording devices in the classroom- Section 78907 of the California Education Code prohibits the use of any electronic audio or video recording devices, without prior consent of the instructor. (including cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, and more)

Cheating (Administrative Board Rules 9803.28)

Unauthorized material used during an examination (including electronic devices), changing answers after work has been graded, taking an exam for another student, forging or altering attendance sheets or other documents in the course, looking at another student's paper/scantron/essay/computer or exam with or without their approval is considered cheating.

Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment/exam and referred to Student Services for further disciplinary action.

Plagiarism (Administrative Board Rules 9803.28)

Plagiarism is defined as the act of using ideas, words, or work of another person or persons as if they were one's own, without giving proper credit to the original sources. This includes definitions found online on Wikipedia, materials from blogs, twitter, or other similar electronic resources. The following examples are intended to be representative, but not all inclusive:

- Failing to give credit by proper citations for others ideas and concepts, data and information, statements and phrases, and/or interpretations and conclusions or failing to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or a part thereof.
- First offense, you will receive a zero for the assignment in question. Any further offenses may result in expulsion from the class, as determined by the disciplinary action from the Office of Student Services.

Week	Topic & Assignments
1-Aug. 28	Course review, syllabus, introductions, & Ch.1
2-Sept. 4	Ch.1 & Ch.2
3-Sept. 11	Ch. 3 On-line Assignment #1 *Due Sept. 15* at 9 pm (Located in Discussions & Private Messages)
4-Sept. 18	Ch. 4 Review Study Guide
5-Sept. 25	Ch. 5/6 EXAM #1 Ch. 1-4
6-Oct. 2	Continue Ch. 5/6 & 7
7-Oct. 9	Continue Ch.7 On-line Assignment #2 *Due Oct.13* at 9 pm (Located in Assignments, Tests, & Surveys)
8-Oct. 16	Ch. 8
9-Oct. 23	Ch.10 Review Study Guide
10-Oct. 30	Ch. 11 EXAM #2 Ch. 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 On-line Assignment #3 *Due Nov.3* at 9 pm (Located in Assignments, Tests, & Surveys)
11-Nov. 6	Continue Ch.11
12-Nov.13	Ch.13 DUE: Field Observation (Located in Resources)
13-Nov. 20	Ch. 14
14-Nov.27	Ch. 16 Sign-up for Extra Credit Presentations On-line Assignment #4 *Due Dec.1* at 9 pm (Located in Assignments, Tests, & Surveys)
15-Dec.4	Ch.18 Review Study Guide & Extra Credit Paper is due and Extra Credit Presentations begin
16-Dec.11 FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM Ch. 11,13,14,16,18 8pm-10pm

Schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Chapter reading assignments should be read by date by which they are listed.

Important Add & Drop Dates

September 06, 2013
LAST DAY TO ADD FULL TERM CLASS.
LAST DAY TO RECEIVE NO "WITHDRAWAL" (IN PERSON)
September 08, 2013
LAST DAY TO DROP WITH NO "WITHDRAWAL" (ON LINE)
November 15, 2013
LAST DAY TO DROP WITH "WITHDRAWAL" (IN PERSON)
November 17, 2013
LAST DAY TO DROP WITH A "WITHDRAWAL (ON LINE)

Student Log-In Procedures

Instructions to login to our class website on ETUDES

Step 1: If new to Etudes, please complete orientation video http://usdegreeonline.wlac.edu/pages/129.asp
Step 2: Log in at https://myetudes.org/portal (save it as your favorite on your browser)
Step 3: Your login name is your student id example: 881234567 (no spaces or dashes)
Step 4: Then your password is your Month and Day of your birthday. For example: if you were born on Jan 14 than your password is "0114".
Step 5: Click on the TOP Tab for this class, listed as "LAMC SOC 001 3303 MMEND F13"
Step 6: Its best to change your password later, by clicking on "my account"
For additional assistance, please visit http://www.lamission.edu/online/ or Call Help Desk 818-415-2015