Year 1 Module 2
Fundamentals of Sociology
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PhD (University of California at Berkeley)

1. Course description

Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies and how people interact within these contexts. Since all human behavior is social, the subject matter of sociology ranges from the family to the hostile mob; from organized crime to religious traditions; from the divisions of race, gender, and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture.

Topics of the course include conceptualizations of society, the self in society, the social construction of technology, the organization of work and economic life, complexity and social systems, and methods for investigating the social world.

To explore these topics in greater depth, students will engage in skill-building activities tied to these topics. These include a critical engagement with personality tests, an observation of social space, systems mapping, and dynamic work design.

2. Course goals

This course designed to provide an overview of fundamental concepts and methods for understanding human behavior from a sociological perspective.

3. Learning outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of different types of societies and the sources and mechanisms of structural change described by major currents of sociological thought

- comprehend the interpersonal basis and processes underlying the formation and operation of individuals in society

- distinguish between macro level and micro level sociological perspectives and specify the theoretical components of each perspective

- define the processes of social scientific research, distinguish different methodologies used in the social sciences, and identify various modes of data collection

- demonstrate an understanding of bureaucratic organization and rational and irrational explanations of organizational forms

- comprehend how technology shapes and is shaped by social structures and processes

- define the changing nature and conceptualization of social structure and individual agency in contemporary society

- use problem-solving, personality tests, systems thinking, and dynamic work design to address micro- and macro-level challenges

About the professor:

Keith Guzik received a doctoral degree in Sociology from the University of Illinois, a master's degree in Latin American Studies from the University of Connecticut, and a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Massachusetts. His areas of concentration include criminology, law & society, science & technology studies, sociological theory, and qualitative methods. His research examines technology's role in legal institutions and processes and its impact on people's legal experiences. His recent work has covered the use of information and surveillance technologies to combat insecurity, especially in the context of Mexico's War on Crime, the adoption of body-worn cameras by policing agencies in the United States, the relationship between procedural justice and court legitimacy in Poland, and the influence of ethnographic methods on politics and policy. At SKOLKOVO, he teaches a course on sociology and co-teaching a course on the use of sociology in trend analysis and strategic planning. He is Chief of Department at the University of Colorado, Denver.

4. Course content

DAY	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS
DAY 1	Introductions, Course Overview, Problem Solving,	READINGS: Durkheim, Emile. 1893. *The Division of Labor in* [EXCERPT]

	Society as Structure	Marx, Karl. 1847. "Economic & Philosophical of 1844". [EXCERPT] Weber, Max. 1914. "The Distribution of Power in the Political Community: Class, Status, Party." PROBLEM SOLVING PROJECT: Solution & Presentation 1
DAY 2	Self & Society	READINGS: Mead, George Herbert. 1934. "The Self." [EXCERPT] Goffman, Erving. 1959. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life.* [EXCERPT] READINGS QUIZ APPLIED PRACTICE: Personality Tests (In-class)
DAY 3	Sociological Methods	READINGS: Chambliss, Daniel & Russell Schutt. 2018. *Making* *The Social World.* [EXCERPT] READINGS QUIZ APPLIED PRACTICE: Observation Exercise (due Day 4)
DAY 4	Technology & Society	READINGS: Law, John. 1986. "On the Methods of Long Distance READINGS QUIZ APPLIED PRACTICE: Systems Mapping (due Day 5)
DAY 5	Organizations in Society	READINGS: Chandler, Alfred. 1984. "The Emergence of Capitalism." [EXCERPT] DiMaggio, Paul and Walter Powell. 1983. "The Iron Revisited." [EXCERPT] READINGS QUIZ APPLIED PRACTICE: Dynamic Work Design PROBLEM SOLVING PROJECT: Solution 2 (due Day 6)
DAY 6	Post-Structuralism	READINGS: Foucault, Michel. 1975. *Discipline and Punish.*] READINGS QUIZ APPLIED PRACTICE: Class Evaluation

5. Types of coursework

During the course students work individually and in groups.

- Group work: group work as a teaching strategy requires students to engage in learning activities within the same group over a period while working on a substantial task with a shared outcome (such as a report or a project). Employers value a person's ability to work cooperatively. Indeed, studies show that they value it more highly than the ability to work independently. This is because, in most contemporary workplaces, people work in teams, which are often cross-disciplinary and quite diverse. During the course group work is used: in small discussion groups in lectures and tutorials.

- Individual work: individual work helps students to develop the capacity to learn without always leaning on others. This can hopefully lead to some sense of learner autonomy, which is a critical goal of the program. As students rely on their own resources it strengthens them in learning to learn on their own.

6. Assignments and evaluation

During the course students will be evaluated using a 10-point system. The final grade consists of the following components:

components	description	Percentage of final grade
PROBLEM SOLVING PROJECT	Sociology is most meaningful when it can be applied to our work in the real world. To make this course more applicable for you, we will situate it in the broader realm of social problems, puzzles, or challenges you are studying. We will engage in two rounds of problem solving around a problematic you choose. The first will occur prior to your engagement with the course material, and the second after. By doing this, we will examine the potential	25 %

	contributions of sociology to your broader program of study.	
APPLIED SOCIOLOGICAL PRACTICE	Sociology examines a number of diverse realms in society, ranging from the family and leisure to the global and conflict. To help understand and act upon these realms, the discipline has developed different conceptual and investigatory tools. To deepen our engagement with sociology and explore its applicability to the world outside the classroom, we will use this class as an opportunity to familiarize ourselves with these tools and their use.	25 %
READING QUIZZES	The material in this course might first seem abstract since you have likely not studied sociology previously. To increase your confidence and comfort with the material, you will complete daily quizzes (or brief, informal tests) based on the readings for the course. Quizzes will be multiple choice and graded on the number of correct answers.	25 %
CLASS PARTICIPATION	Participation in a seminar course is critical for creating a positive learning environment as well as comprehending the material. It is especially vital for success in one's education, as we tend to learn more as we engage more. To this end, students will be expected to take an active part in class meetings. This requires that we come to class having read course materials and ready to ask questions of one another about them and that we come to class ready to meaningfully engage with one another.	25 %

Grading scale

10 points	Excellent	6 points	Good	2 points	Unsatisfactory
9 points	Excellent	5 points	Good	1 point	Unsatisfactory
8 points	Excellent	4 points	Satisfactory		
7 points	Good	3 points	Satisfactory		

This is a compulsory course: it requires participation and attendance. For each skipped class 0,5 points will be withdrawn from the final grade.

On the course 10-points system is used for grading. Grades from 10 to 3 are equivalent to "pass". Grades 2 and 1 are equivalent to "fail".

Examination

If the student received "unsatisfactory" grade = fail after the course, the student is obliged to take a written exam. The examination will consist of a 90-minute written test that includes the identification of ten quotations from required course readings and a written essay. The use of any electronic devices or any written materials is prohibited. The student must:

 1) Attribute the given quotations; identify the sections of the texts (such as a chapter) where the quotations are taken from as well as their authors, titles, and year of publication.
2) Based on the given quotations, write an essay in English (1000 words) analyzing semantic relationships between the texts where these quotations are taken from.

Quote examples:

1. "The "I" is the response of the organism to the attitudes of the others;,, the "me" is the organized set of attitudes of others which one himself assumes. The attitudes of the others constitute the organized "me," and then one reacts toward that as an "I." I now wish to examine these concepts in greater detail".

2. "In suggesting that team-mates tend to be related to one another by bonds of reciprocal dependence and reciprocal familiarity, we must not confuse the type of group so formed with other types, such a s informal group or clique".

3. "It is customary to carefully distinguish justice from charity; that is, simple respect for the rights of another from every act which goes beyond this purely negative virtue. We see in the two sorts of activity two independent layers of morality: justice, in itself, would only consist of fundamental postulates; charity would be the perfection of justice".

"Pass" is given when 2 elements are present:
1) all quotations are attributed correctly;
2) the essay is written in English (no less than 1000 words) in accordance with the following requirements: a) in the essay, there is a sequential logic structure (introduction, body, and conclusion); b) the essay demonstrates good knowledge and understanding of all texts analyzed; c) the essay contains at least 9 exact quotations, different from the attributed quotations in assignment.

"Fail" is given when 2 elements are present:
1) one or more quotations are attributed incorrectly
2) The essay is written in English (no less than 1000 words) in accordance with the following requirements: a) in the essay, there is no sequential logic structure (introduction, body, and conclusion); b) the essay demonstrates the absence of knowledge and understanding of all texts analyzed; c) the essay contains at least less than 10 exact quotations, different from the attributed quotations in assignment.

Publication of grades

Grades will be published on Canvas at the end of the course. Students can request feedback of their work during the course individually.

7. Course literature

All readings for the course will be available as digital files. There will be 25-30 pages of reading to complete daily.

1. Mead, George Herbert. 1934. "The Self."
2. Goffman, Erving. 1959. The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life.
3. Durkheim, Emile. 1893. The Division of Labor in Society.
4. Marx, Karl. 1847. Wage-Labour and Capital. [EXCERPT]
5. Weber, Max. 1914. "The Distribution of Power in the Political Community: Class, Status, Party."
6. Chambliss, Daniel & Russell Schutt. 2018. Making Sense of The Social World.
7. Law, John. 1986. "On the Methods of Long Distance Control"

8. Chandler, Alfred. 1984. "The Emergence of Managerial Capitalism."
9. DiMaggio, Paul and Walter Powell. 1983. "The Iron Cage Revisited."
10. Foucault, Michel. 1975. Discipline and Punish.