

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS
University of Virginia, Academic Sponsor

Voyage: Spring 2015
Discipline: Sociology
SOC 1010: Introductory Sociology
Division: Lower
Faculty Name: Kesho Y. Scott
Credit Hours: 3; Contact Hours: 38

Pre-requisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology is the study of human society. *The root idea being that we are born biological creatures and become human beings.* The goal of this course is to introduce you to the sociological viewpoint and teach you how to think conceptually and critically about society. Since all societies are not alike and yet create common institutions, we will examine which concepts, theories and methods help us understand how societies evolve, function, and change. By learning and doing sociological investigation, connecting our personal lives with larger social structures and exploring a wide range of social problems that impact our lives, the course readings, discussing writing assignments will give you a glimpse into what Sociologists do and the impact of the discipline. Finally, we will explore the three major axes of inequality: race, class, and gender and how they affect *each country we visit.*

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To become familiar with the questions sociologists ask, the research methods sociologists use to answer their questions and the theories sociologists use to interpret their findings.
2. To refine our ability to situate individual and group behaviors within larger social structures and institutions.
3. To recognize and critically evaluate the forces of social stratification that facilitate and constrain human behavior.
4. To develop your ability to apply a sociological perspective to your own life, hopes, dreams, values and plans.
5. To improve your skills of writing, discussing, listening, and presenting your ideas in an enthusiastic and compelling manner.
6. To explore, examine, and evaluate cultural differences within a respectful, non-Eurocentric, non-Ethnocentric, and non-paternalistic manner.
7. Finally, to gain some cultural competency in preparation for global citizenship.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Susan J. Ferguson, Ed.
TITLE: *Mapping the Social Landscape (MSL)*, 7th Edition
PUBLISHER: McGraw Hill, 2012
ISBN #: 0078026792 / 978007826799
DATE/EDITION: November 21, 2012

AUTHOR: Liza McIntyre
TITLE: *Practical Skeptic: Core Concepts in Sociology (PS)*, 6th Edition
PUBLISHER: McGraw Hill, 2013
ISBN #: 0073404152 / 0-0-07-340415-2
ISBN#: 0073404403 / 0-07-340440-3
DATE/EDITION: January 15, 2010

REQUIRED FOCUS ONs: are pre-port preparations by the Instructor by way of lectures, handouts, internet investigations or assignments, and surprises!

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Ensenada- January 7:

- A1- January 9:** **The Sociological Perspective**
Practical Skeptic (PS): Introduction
Mapping the Social Landscape (MSL): Preface,
Readings 1, 2, and 3
- A2-January 11:** **History of the Sociological Discipline**
(PS): Chapters 1, 2, and 4
- A3- January 13:** **Theory's Role in Examining Society**
(PS): Chapter 3
(MSL): Readings 4, 5, and 6
FOCUS ON HAWAII: History, demography, and weather
<http://www.tsunami.org/faq.html>
- Hilo: January 14
- A4-January 16:** **Social Research**
(PS): Chapters 5 and 6
(MSL): Readings 7, 8, and 9
WRITING ASSIGNMENT: Interview, survey, and literature
reviews from "doing" social research on the ship.

A5-January 19:

Culture

(PS): Chapter 7

(MSL): Readings 10, 11, and 12

FOCUS ON JAPAN: History and US Relations

Study Day: January 21

A6- January 22:

Socialization

(PS): Chapter 10

(MSL): Readings 13, 14, 15, and 16

FOCUS ON JAPAN: Parenting

A7-January 24:

Social Groups

(PS): Chapter 8 pg. 122-127

(MSL): Reading 17

FOCUS ON JAPAN: Popular culture

Yokohama: January 26-27

In-Transit: January 28

Kobe: January 29-31

A8- February 1:

Social Structure

(PS): Chapter 8 pg. 128-136

(MSL): Readings 18 and 19

FOCUS ON CHINA: Social Media, Consumerism, and
Chinaphobia

Shanghai: February 3-4

In-Transit: February 5-6

Hong Kong: 7-8

A9- February 9:

Deviance

(PS): Chapter 11

On-ship Exercises and Writing Assignment: Breaking Social Norms

FOCUS ON VIETNAM: History, War, and Social Change

Ho Chi Minh: February 11-16

A10- February 17: **Crime and Social Control**
(MSL): Readings 20, 21, and 22
FOCUS ON SINGAPORE: Trafficking, Drugs, and Tourism

Singapore: February 19-20

Study Day: February 21

A11-February 22: **Social Inequality**
(PS): Chapters 12 and 13
FOCUS ON BURMA: 135 Ethnic groups and poverty

Rangoon: February 24-March 1

A12-March 2: **Stratification and Social Class**
(MSL): Readings 23, 24, 25, and 26
FOCUS ON INDIA: The 3rd Gender and the Politics of Rape

A13- March 4: **Gender and Sexuality**
(MSL): Readings 27, 28, 29, and 30
FOCUS ON INDIA: Lecture: “Homophobia a Weapon of Sexism”

Cochin: March 6-11

Study Day: March 12

A14-March 13: **Mid-Exam- Objective**
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A15-March 15: **Race and Ethnicity**
(MSL): **Readings** 31, 32, 33, and 34
FOCUS ON MAURITIUS: Racism and a Multi-cultural society

Study Day: March 17

Port Louis: March 18

A16- March 19: **Social Institutions**
(PS): Chapter 9
FOCUS ON SOUTH AFRICA: Truth and Reconciliation Campaign

A17-March 21: **Power and Politics**
(MSL): Readings 35, 36, and 37
FOCUS ON SOUTH AFRICA: Nelson Mandela: Cultural Icon

A18- March 23: **Mass Media**
(MSL): Readings 38, 39, and 40
FOCUS ON SOUTH AFRICA: Sports and the Vela Incident

Cape Town: March 25-30

Study Day: March 31

A19-April 1: **The Economy and Work**
(MSL): Readings 41, 42, and 43
FOCUS ON GHANA: Unions and the Chinese Workers in Ghana

A20-April 3: **Religion**
(MSL): Readings 44, 45, and 46
FOCUS ON GHANA: Traditional Marriage and Anti-Gay Waves

A21- April 5: **Health and Medicine**
(MSL): 47, 48, and 49
FOCUS ON GHANA: African Medicine and AIDS Theatre

Tema (Accra): April 7-9

Takoradi: April 10-11

A22-April 12:

Education

(MSL): Readings 50, 51, and 52

FOCUS ON MOROCCO: Multi-lingualism and cultural identity

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A23: April 14:

The Family

(MSL): Reading 53, 54, and 55

FOCUS ON MOROCCO: The Model Minorities: Berbers

A24: April 16

Social Change

(MSL): Readings 56, 57, and 58

FOCUS ON SOCIAL CHANGE IN PREVIOUS COUNTRIES:

Identify current transnational movements and movement leaders.

Study Day: April 18

April 19: Global Lens Exams and Study Day

Casablanca: April 20-24

A25: A Day Finals

Take-Home Final Exam

April 29: Arrive in Southampton

FIELD WORK AND FIELD WORK ASSIGNMENTS

Field lab attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Please do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field lab

As part of the course requirements, there are two components to the Field Work Requirement for this course: 1) the mandatory Field Lab in South Africa as described below, and 2) the ongoing PAS sheet for this country which is group assignment due the next day of class.

- The first part of the experiential component of the course will be met in groups and with PORT ASSIGNMENT SHEETS (PAS). Before each departure, students will work within their assigned group and turn in their PAS the next day of class.
- Each PSA will be unique and specific to the port, in-class readings and discussions.
- Each PSA will have six questions and must responses must be “processed in the group” and typed!
- Assigned groups will be called upon in class to make a presentation of their reflections. And, every group will make a report before the semester is over.
- Finally, the PSAs will be evaluated by two criteria: First, response to the questions and the observations, conversations, in-port investigations requested, and in-depth critical and substantiated analysis using course concepts and ideas in the PSA write ups.

- **GROUPS CAN NOT BE CHANGED WITHOUT INSTRUCTORS PERMISSION!**

- **NO LATE PAPERS AND NO EXTENSIONS!**

Field Lab in South Africa.

This will examine “Lessons in Stratification” by visiting the Cape Town Port Mall (we are docked at) and a Black Township. We will begin at the Mall with a set of instructions for conversations with mall participants and then depart by bus (or the other way around if SAS arranges it) to the Township. We will spend several hours at each site.

The purpose of the Field Lab is to examine and gain an up-close understanding of the interplay between consumption or what George Ritzer calls the “Cathedrals of Consumption” and the observed the ways markets work at the grassroots level, “consumption for survival” according Kesho Scott’s work on “habits of survival.”

Our Lab will explore the interactions of shopping activities of affluence and those in less affluent communities in search of how inequalities are latent and manifest and how privilege works interpersonally. This lab will also provide an opportunity for you to compare and contrast what you have observed and learned about communities of resistance in other ports with what you observe in your own life experience.

Field Assignments for the Lab in South Africa

- Each student will be in a Lab group to complete the Port Assignment Sheet (PAS) which is guided by Instructors theoretical questions from the readings, instructions for observations, and personal reactions to what you witness.
- Each student will take notes throughout the day and participate in discussions.
- Each Student will use these notes to write an extensive four page field lab “brief” attaching four photos from each site that epitomize the ways both sites of consumption operate and analyze why these picture “tell four thousand words” about the reality of poverty and the reality of privilege?
- The questions to use in your analysis are: What is obvious about wealth that makes the site successful? What is also obvious about institutionalized poverty that makes the site helpful seeing stratification in action? And, what is non-obvious about the economic, cultural, social, political, environmental, and spiritual costs of both sites on the social problems of South Africa?
- The Brief and brochures will be done individually. The PAS will be done in a group.

FIELD LAB (At least 20 percent of the contact hours for each course, to be led by the instructor.)

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC

COURSE GRADE REQUIREMENTS:

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|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Field Lab and Field Lab Assignments | 20% |
| Exams (Objective and Take-Home) | 50% |
| In-Class Assignments | 20% |
| Attendance and Participation | <u>10%</u> |
| Total | 100% |

RESERVE BOOKS AND FILMS FOR THE LIBRARY

- **I will bring my own films, short YOU TUBES, and pre-taped panel discussions.**

AUTHOR: Joan Ferrante

TITLE: *Sociology: A Global Perspective*

PUBLISHER: Wadsworth

ISBN #: 10-0495005614

DATE/EDITION: 2006

AUTHOR: Caroline B. Brettel & Carlyn F. Sargent
TITLE: *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*
PUBLISHER: Prentice Hall
ISBN #: 0-13-0174874
DATE/EDITION: 2001

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

- **I will not use electronic course materials.**

AUTHOR:
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE:
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE:
VOLUME:
DATE:
PAGES:

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Students will be expected to use any library and electronic resources that are available on the Ship.

HONOR CODE

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University's honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager's Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: "On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment." The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed "[signed]."