Semester at Sea Course Syllabus  
Colorado State University, Academic Sponsor 

Voyage: Fall 2016  
Discipline: Sociology  
Course Number and Title: Sociology 100, General Sociology  
Division: Lower  
Faculty Name: Dr. Susan J. Ferguson  
Semester Credit Hours: 3  
Prerequisites: None  

COURSE DESCRIPTION  

“Tell me the landscape in which you live, and I will tell you who you are.”  

— José Ortega y Gasset  

This introductory course provides an overview of sociology as a discipline, including emphases on sociological concepts, methods, perspectives, and areas of substantive concern. At the same time, the sociological orientation of this course should enable you to view the surrounding world in a different light. The familiar (e.g., families, friendships, school, work) and the perhaps unfamiliar (e.g., poverty, mental illness, natural disasters), can be analyzed and understood using sociological perspectives.  

This course is organized into five thematic sections. The first section is an introduction to the discipline of sociology and the study of society. This introduction includes an overview of the historical significance of sociology and the development of its subsequent theories and methods. The second section examines the relationships between the individual and society through the processes of socialization, social interaction, language, and group membership. Section Three focuses on culture, social structure, and the need for community. The fourth section investigates some of the major social institutions in society, including the family, religion, education, and the government. The final section examines social stratification and social inequality. In particular, we will discuss how societies stratify individuals and groups based on their social class, gender, race, and ethnicity.  

In addition to studying sociology in the U.S. context, we will have the opportunity to examine sociological concepts and processes in a global context. Your fieldwork assignments for this course will include making sociological observations in every country we visit and keeping a journal of your field notes. Where possible, I also will assign readings related to sociology in each country.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify and explain the essential concepts, theories, and methods used in the discipline of sociology to analyze phenomena.
- Understand the history of the discipline of sociology and linkage between sociological thought and other substantive areas.
- Identify and examine sociologically relevant problems and issues.
- Think critically, write more effectively, and to demonstrate their knowledge of sociology and how the discipline analyzes social issues.
- Appreciate more the complexity of social life.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Ferguson, Susan J., Editor.
ISBN #: 978-0-07-802679-9

A NOTE ABOUT READINGS

Students need to plan on reading three to four short articles per class. In addition to the Ferguson anthology, I will be assigning readings on sociology related to countries we are visiting. These readings can be found in the Electronic Course Materials list for this class. I also will assign data sheets on social inequality from United Nations documents and other international agencies for various countries.

Questions to Answer While Reading:

1) What is the author's main point or argument?

2) What theories and research methods does the author use to demonstrate their point?

3) What are the strengths and weaknesses of this argument?

4) How does this reading contribute to your understanding of sociology?
TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY AND THE STUDY OF SOCIETY

B1—September 13: Introduction to Course

Introductions and review syllabus, assignments, and grading policy.

Readings: None

B2—September 15: What is Sociology?

Readings: Three readings from Ferguson anthology.


B3—September 18: History of Sociology as a Discipline

Readings: Two readings from Ferguson anthology and readings on Greece.


Piraeus, Greece—September 19-23

B4—September 25: Theory Exercise

Readings: One reading in Ferguson anthology and readings on Italy.


Civitavecchia, Italy - September 26-28 and Livorno, Italy – September 29-30
B5—October 2: Research Methodology: How Do Sociologists Conduct Research?

Readings: Three readings from Ferguson anthology and readings on Spain.


4) Readings on Spain.

Barcelona, Spain—October 3-7

SECTION II: SOCIETY IN US: THE CREATION OF SELF AND SOCIAL IDENTITY

B6—October 9: Socialization and Identity

Readings: Three readings from Ferguson anthology and readings on Morocco.


2) Kane, Emily W. “‘No Way My Boys Are Going to Be Like That!’: Parents’ Responses to Children’s Nonconformity,” in Mapping the Social Landscape, pp. 121-133.


4) Readings on Morocco.

Casablanca, Morocco—October 10-14

B7—October 16: Socialization in Adulthood

Readings: Three readings from Ferguson anthology.


SECTION III: US IN SOCIETY: THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL STRUCTURE, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY

B8—October 18: The Development of Social Structure

Readings: Three readings from Ferguson anthology.


B9—October 20: The Importance of Culture in the Construction of Social Life

Readings: Three readings from Ferguson anthology and reading on Senegal.


Dakar, Senegal—October 21-24

B10—October 26: Labeling, Deviance, and Social Control

Readings: Two readings from Ferguson anthology and one on E-Reserve.


B11—October 29: Deviance and Crime, continued
**Readings:** Two readings in Ferguson anthology and one on E-Reserve.


**No Classes—October 28**

**SECTION IV: SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN SOCIETY**

**B12—October 31: The Institution of Medicine**

**Readings:** Two readings from Ferguson anthology and reading on Brazil on E-Reserve.


3. Readings on Zika Virus in Brazil  [https://www.directrelief.org/emergency/zika-virus/?gclid=CPfdx72I7ssCFQmQaQodHrkCMw](https://www.directrelief.org/emergency/zika-virus/?gclid=CPfdx72I7ssCFQmQaQodHrkCMw)

**Salvador, Brazil—November 1-6**

**B13—November 8: The Family**

**Readings:** Three readings from Ferguson anthology.


**B14—November 10: Religion**
Readings: Three readings from Ferguson anthology.


B15—November 12: Education

Readings: Three readings from Ferguson anthology.


Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago—Nov. 13-14

B16—November 16: The Media

Readings: Three readings from Ferguson anthology.


No Classes—November 18

B17—November 19: Government and Politics

Readings: Three readings from Ferguson anthology and a reading on Cuba.


SECTION V: SOCIAL INEQUALITY

B18—November 21: The Significance of Social Class

Readings: Two readings from Ferguson anthology and a reading on Peru.


Callao, Peru—November 22-26

B19—November 28: The Continuing Significance of Social Class

Readings: Three readings from Ferguson anthology.


B20—November 30:  **Gender Stratification**

**Readings:**  One reading from Ferguson anthology and two on E-Reserves.


Guayaquil, Ecuador—December 1-4

B21—December 6:  **Gender and Institutionalized Sexism**

**Readings:**  Three readings from Ferguson anthology.


B22—December 8:  **The Significance of Race**

**Readings:**  Two readings from Ferguson anthology


B23—December 15: Race and Institutionalized Racism

Readings: Three readings from Ferguson anthology.


Puntarenas, Costa Rica—December 9-13

B24—December 17: Social Change: What Can We Do?

Readings: Three readings from Ferguson anthology and one reading on E-Reserve.


San Diego, California—December 22
FIELD WORK

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class. Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course, and will be developed and led by the instructor.

Field Class for General Sociology: Interpersonal Connections in Morocco – October 10, 2016

Students will have the opportunity for in-depth discussions with young people from Morocco. Questions will be accumulated in class related to cross-cultural contexts for understanding social interaction, socialization, social norms, social roles and statuses. These questions will guide one-on-one small group discussion. The settings for these conversations will include on-campus and informal off-campus settings. Conversations will address the set of topics we have been studying in sociology up to that point in the semester, but students may ask questions about any topic covered in the syllabus, i.e., social institutions, social inequality, and social change. Students will be prepared to open and examine their own lives as they explore the lives of young people in Morocco.

Academic Objectives:

1. Apply introductory sociology by thinking critically about social concepts, theory, and research in a person-to-person context.
2. Make person-to-person connections with your people in Morocco.
3. Learn about culture and introductory sociology in the context of Morocco.

FIELD CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

After this field assignment, students will record their field class observations from Morocco in a concise 3-5 page reflection paper that reflects an understanding of this social setting based on observations and field notes. The essay should contain a brief first section that summarizes the social setting by answering the questions of who, what, when, where. The second section of the paper is an analysis of what you observed and experienced. (That is, do not just repeat your observations). Your analysis should incorporate some sociological theories and/or terms to explain what you described in the first section. In your analysis, you should use at least three sociological terms or concepts (define them when you use them). For this assignment, you might use terms like socialization, deviance, social norms, social structure, culture/subculture, social sanctions, dramaturgical analysis, presentation of self, and/or any others that you find appropriate. You also might use one of the theories discussed in class to explain how you understand the social setting you observed.
INDEPENDENT FIELD ASSIGNMENTS

In addition to the field work exercise described above, students will be expected to make observations about sociology in all of our port cities, and answer the following questions for a minimum of at least three port cities. The purpose of this assignment is to do unobtrusive observation, which means that you do not interview or interact with people in any way. For the purposes of this exercise, it may mean that your presence is noticed, but you want to minimize the effects of your presence on your observations. Your sociological observations can be about anything, but the questions below will help you focus your observations and help you to identify social patterns. Please write your observations, as legibly as possible, in a field notebook, and then type them up into a document that you will turn in late in the semester. This journal will count toward 20% of your final grade.

Field work Questions:

1. How are children socialized in this country?
2. What are some apparent social norms?
3. What are examples of culture, either material or non-material culture?
4. How do you read gender in this society? That is, are there gender markers for clothing, bodies, or physical spaces?
5. What can you observe about social institutions, the family, the media, religion, politics, etc.?
6. What can you observe about social inequality either between social classes, racial-ethnic groups, or by gender?
7. Other observations about sociological concepts?

Rather than giving a one sentence answer to each question, speculate about the reasons for the patterns you observe, relating them to course materials. Include sketches as appropriate. You also may collect cultural artifacts that illustrate things you observed or take photos of them. In terms of photographing people, take photos only if you can avoid invading anyone’s privacy and can comply with the Semester at Sea policy on taking photographs.

Note: Doing Field work observations is at the heart of doing contemporary sociology. I argue that sociology is everywhere, you just need to sit in one location and thoughtfully observe your surroundings. More instructions on how to take field notes are on the next page.

Kai Erikson, in Everything in Its Path, argues:

Sociologists are often drawn to street corners when they try to get a feel for new locales, and the nearest thing to a street corner on Buffalo Creek is Charlie Cowan’s gas station. I positioned myself there on my first morning,
watching the coal trucks make their way up the scarred roads of the hollow and talking a little self-consciously with the people who came in to pass the time of day. . . . I took extensive notes on that first trip to Buffalo Creek because my original intent had been to send a report to the law firm before passing on to other business, and there may be more method than self-indulgence in my trying to rephrase a few of those notes in order to convey something of the mood evoked by that first exposure. (1976:10)

What Erikson is talking about in the above passage is the critical research methodology of observation, which sociologists often use to get an understanding of a social setting before they design surveys, interviews, and experiments to study social phenomena. For this fieldwork assignment, you will become a sociologist, take field notes, and make initial analyses of your observations in a particular social setting.

Field notes: The tangible product of your observation is a set of field notes that, in time, will inform an ethnographic essay. Field notes consist of detailed observations that answer the basic who, what, when, where, and how of any solid description. For the moment, do not worry about the *why* and try to suspend judgment about what you are observing. Remember that your notes should SHOW, rather than TELL me something about your site. For example, describe how someone is dressed and the state of their clothes rather than simply asserting that they are a *working class*. While your own field notes may run into many pages, you will only turn in a distillation of these in your field work journal.

Tips on Taking Field notes:

$ Decide on a system to record observations: a portable pad or recorded notes to self?
Decide on using shorthand or abbreviations? Use diagrams and drawings. Write down counts. Take pictures. Record sounds. Describe smells. Take any available literature or pamphlets. The detail is important.

$ Be discreet. Do not walk around with a pad out like a junior news reporter. Carry a small, pocket-sized notebook where you can make jottings of observations and questions at convenient times and locations. Get down the basic who, what, where, when, and how. Again, do not worry about the *why* for now.

$ Get to your computer as soon as possible. If you are used to dictating notes to yourself, do so. However, remember that you will have to transcribe these at some point. Using your jottings, pictures, diagrams, drawings, etc. put together a cogent narrative about your observations. Do not overdo the formal analysis. Separate your reflections from the observational narrative.
**METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING SCALE**

Students will be graded on their attendance and participation. This means that students are expected to arrive to class on time, sign the attendance sheet, and be ready to participate in class discussion concerning the readings. Come to class with oral comments on the readings prepared.

All written assignments will be due at the beginning of class. Late assignments, if accepted, will be penalized each day they are late.

**The final grade will be calculated using the following criteria:**

- Quizzes and Assignments: 20%
- Class Participation: 20%
- Field Class: 20%
- Field Journal Assignment: 20%
- Final Exam: 20%

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is **not** an option for Semester at Sea coursework.

**Grade Distribution:**

- 97 and up: A+ Excellent
- 94 to 96: A
- 90 to 93: A-
- 87 to 89: B+
- 84 to 86: B Good
- 80 to 83: B-
- 76 to 79: C+ Satisfactory
- 70 to 75: C
- 60 to 69: D Poor, but passing
- 59 and down: F Failure

Also note that C-, D+, and D- grades are not assigned in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

**Note:** There will be no extra credit work in this class. Please keep up with assigned readings and assignments. If you are having academic difficulty in this class, contact the professor right away.
ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes is mandatory, and in this course, I will be taking attendance each day and assessing participation. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor’s supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

UNION SEMINARS

Faculty members on the Fall 2016 Voyage will present on various academic topics during the evening Union Seminars, held during at-sea days. These topics will present relevant cultural information in various disciplines, depending on the location on the itinerary. Students are encouraged to attend at least one of these sessions, relevant to the academic topic of this course. An appropriate assignment can be made at a time when the Union Seminar schedule has been finalized.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation. A memo from the student’s home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations pre-voyage as soon as possible, but no later than July 19, 2016 to academic@isevoyages.org.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one’s own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: “I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment.”
RESERVE BOOKS AND FILMS FOR THE LIBRARY

AUTHOR: Kilbourne, Jean.
PUBLISHER: Media Education Foundation.
ISBN #: 1-932869-44-1 (Documentary Film)

AUTHOR: Symons, Johnny.
TITLE: “Daddy and Papa.”
PUBLISHER: New Day Films.
ISBN #: (Documentary Film)

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

AUTHOR: Dworkin, Andrea.
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “Gynocide: Chinese Footbinding,”
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: WomanHating.
PAGES: 95-117.

AUTHOR: Henslin, James.
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “The Survivors of Flight 227.”
DATE: 1999.
PAGES: 251-259.

AUTHOR: Johnson, Allan G.
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “What Can We Do? Becoming Part of the Solution.”
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Mapping the Social Landscape
DATE: 
PAGES: 649-660.

AUTHOR: Kaw, Eugenia.
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Mapping the Social Landscape: Readings in Sociology
DATE: 
PAGES: 91-110.

AUTHOR: Lambiri-Dimaki, Jane.
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “Sociology in Greece: Trends and Prospects.”
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Southern European Society and Politics.
DATE: June 1996.
PAGES: 121-130.

AUTHOR: Masi De Casanova, Erynn.
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “No Ugly Women’: Concepts of Race and Beauty among Adolescent Women in Ecuador.”
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Gender & Society
VOLUME: Volume 18, No. 3.
PAGES: 287-308.

AUTHOR: Maurizo, Esposito.
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “The Social World of Seafarers. A Sociological Research in Central Italy”
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Advances in Applied Sociology
VOLUME: Vol.3, No.4.
DATE: 2013.
PAGES: 199-205.