Introduction to Sociology

Course Description:

Introduction to Sociology includes the study of the major theories and concepts of sociology. Analyses of culture and social structure, socialization and the principles of individual and group interactions, deviance, and social inequalities are addressed. Topics discussed are poverty and social stratification, race, gender and sexualities. Social forces and social movements on population and environment are examined. As a corollary, students will interpret sociological concepts throughout the Southeast Asia region with particular emphasis on Cambodia.

Text and References:

Website: Norwegian People’s Aid Dog Training Center in Cambodia. (www.npaid.org/News/News-archive/2016/New-NPA-Dog-Training-Centre-opens-in-Cambodia)
Website: Killing Field Museum (www.killingfieldsmuseum.com/khmer-culture.html).
Website: Norwegian People’s Aid in Cambodia (www.npaid.org/our-work/Countries-work-in/Asia/Cambodia/Humanitarian-Disarmament-in-Cambodia).
Course Objectives:

This course is designed to provide opportunity for the student:

1. review the basic sociological theories by which sociologists analyze society;
2. appraise the research methods utilized to conduct social research, collection of data, and the American Sociological Association (ASA) ethics and academy;
3. analyze the concepts of culture and social systems;
4. recognize the socialization process and systems that transmit to the individual norms, attitudes, and values of culture;
5. identify concepts of groups, organizations, and the impact on the individual;
6. describe theory and concepts of deviant behavior in American society;
7. examine the impact of social inequalities, social stratification, race, gender and sexuality on the individual in American society;
8. examine social institutions and assess the impact they have on groups within American society;
9. discuss social forces that are transforming American society.
10. demonstrate knowledge of Southeast Asia and Cambodia.

Course Outcomes:

This course is designed to provide opportunities for the student to:

1. use Sociological Theory in critical thinking;
2. interpret the world using a Sociological Perspective.
### Week 1

**Sociological Perspective**

**US:** "Sociological Imagination" by C. Wright Mills  
"Invitation to Sociology: A Humanistic Perspective" by Peter Berger  
Website: Dead Sociologists Society  
http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/DEADSOC.HTML

### Week 2

**Sociological Theory and Research**

**US:** "The Myth of the Missing Black Father" by Roberta L. Coles and Charles Green  
"The Many Faces of Gender Inequality” by Amartya Sen

### Week 3

**Culture**

**US:** "Why Migration Matters" by Khalid Koser  
"Code of the Street" by Elijah Anderson  
**BlkBd:** "The Rape Culture" by Dianne F. Herman  
Cambodia:  
(https://youtube.com/watch?v=KNTRaY4nD20)  
Website: Killing Field Museum  
(www.killingfieldsmuseum.com/khmer-culture.html)

### Week 4

**Socialization**

**US:** "Barbie versus Sea Monsters – Children Constructing Gender" by Michael Messner  
"Examining Media Contestation of Masculinity and Head Trauma in the National Football League" by Eric Anderson and Edward M. Kian  
**BlkBd:** "Socialization and the Power of Advertising" by Jean Kilbourne
Week 5
Society and Social Interaction

US: "Presentation of Self in Everyday Life" by Irving Goffmann
"Anybody’s Son Will Do" by Qwynne Dyer

Cambodia:

Week 6
Groups/Organizations

US: “Global Strategies for Workers: How Class Analysis Clarifies Us and Them and What We Need To Do.” by Katie Quan
"Racism in Toyland” by Christine Williams
“Working on People” by Robin Keidner

Week 7
Deviance

US: “The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison" by Jeffrey H. Reiman
“The Medicalization of Deviance” by Peter Conrad and Joseph W. Schneider

Website: http://www.ojp.gov/bjs/

Cambodia:

Week 8
Social Stratification

US: "America Without A Middle Class" by Elizabeth Warren
"Aspects of Class in the United States: An Introduction" by John Bellamy Foster
"The State of Poverty in America” by Peter Edelman
Weeks 9 & 10

Race and Ethnicity

**US:** “The Souls of Black Folk” by W. E. B. DuBois

“Color-Blind Privilege: The Social and Political Functions of Erasing the Color Line In Post Race America” by Charles Gallagher

“Toward A Framework for Understanding Forces That Contribute to or Reinforce Racial Inequality” by William Julius Wilson

“Subordinating Myth: Latino / a Immigration, Crime and Exclusion” by Jamie Longazel

“Muslims in America” by Jen’nan Ghazal Read

BlkBd: “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack” by Peggy McIntosh

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Week 11

Gender and Sexuality

**US:** "What It Means to Be Gendered Me: Life on the Boundaries of a Dichotomous System" by Betsy Lucal

"Strategic Ambiguity: Protecting Emphasized Femininity and Hegemonic Masculinity in the Hook Up Culture" by Danielle M Currier

"Dude, You’re A Fag”: Adolescent Masculinity and the Fag Discourse" by C. J. Pascoe
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<tr>
<th>Week 12</th>
<th>Social Institutions: Political &amp; Economic Systems</th>
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<tr>
<td>US:</td>
<td>“The Power Elite” by C. Wright Mills</td>
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<td>&quot;The Rise of the New Global Elite&quot; by Christy Freeland</td>
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<td>&quot;Cultures of the Tea Party&quot; by Andrew J. Perrin, Steven J. Tepper, Neal Caren and Sally Morris</td>
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<td>&quot;Children of the Great Recession: A Tour of the Generational Landscape, from Struggles to Success, Coast to Coast&quot; by Ronald Brownstein</td>
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<td>&quot;Harder Times: Undocumented Workers and the U.S. Informal Economy&quot; by Richard Vogel</td>
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<th>Week 13</th>
<th>Social Institutions: Education &amp; Family</th>
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<td>US:</td>
<td>“From the Achievement Gap to the Education Debt: Understanding Achievement in U.S. Schools &quot; by Gloria Ladson-Billings</td>
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<td>&quot;A School in A Garden&quot; by Mitchell Stevens</td>
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<td>BlkBd:</td>
<td>“Examining the Black Family in the Age of Mass Incarceration” by Ta-Hehisi Coates</td>
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<th>Week 14</th>
<th>Social Institutions: Religion and Health Care</th>
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<td>US:</td>
<td>&quot;The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism&quot; by Max Weber</td>
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<td>&quot;Beyond the Affordable Care Act: Achieving Real Improvements in Americans’ Health&quot; by David R. Williams, Mark B. McClellan and Alice Rivlin</td>
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<td>Environment</td>
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<td><strong>US:</strong> &quot;Poisoning the Planet: The Struggle for Environmental Justice&quot; by David Naguib Pellow and Robert J. Brulle</td>
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<td><strong>Climate Denial and Construction of Innocence: Reproducing Transnational Privilege in the Face of Climate Change</strong> by Karl Marie Norgaard</td>
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<td><strong>Cambodia:</strong> Website: Norwegian People’s Aid Dog Training Center in Cambodia. (<a href="http://www.npaid.org/News/News-archive/2016/New-NPA-Dog-Training-Centre-opens-in-Cambodia">www.npaid.org/News/News-archive/2016/New-NPA-Dog-Training-Centre-opens-in-Cambodia</a>)</td>
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<td>Website: Norwegian People’s Aid in Cambodia (<a href="http://www.npaid.org/our-work/Countries-we-work-in/Asia/Cambodia/Humanitarian-Disarmament-in-Cambodia">www.npaid.org/our-work/Countries-we-work-in/Asia/Cambodia/Humanitarian-Disarmament-in-Cambodia</a>).</td>
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