

Fall 2021

STS 221-451: Introduction to Sociology

Maria Paradiso

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STS 221: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Semester: Fall, 2021

Meets: Online

Instructor: Maria Paradiso, LSW

Office Hours: Online Audio/Video Conference by Appointment (WebEx)

Email: mcp25@njit.edu

**** I will respond to all emails/inbox inquiries within 24 hours. Quizzes, assignments and discussions will be graded weekly.**

Course Description:

This course is an overview of the discipline of sociology and introduces students to the complex and changing social world in which we live. Students will engage in critical thinking about social and cultural issues and gain exposure to different types of sociological theories and research methods. Students will gain an appreciation of the sociological imagination and how society impacts human behavior and society.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- a. Apply sociological concepts and theories to our lives.
- b. Identify relationships between the individual and society.
- c. Analyze factors contributing to social inequality and its consequences.
- d. Describe how sociologists conduct research.
- e. Demonstrate knowledge of the main sociological perspectives.
- f. Examine the cultural, racial, gender, and economic diversity that exists in the U.S. from a sociological perspective.

General Education Goals Addressed in the Course:

Students will:

- a. Increase knowledge of Society and Human Behavior.
- b. Develop Global and Cultural Awareness.
- c. Practice Independent/Critical Thinking.

Course Texts:

Required Text and other Materials:

The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology,

Kerry Ferris and Jill Stein

6th or 7th Edition (2016) (ISBN 978-0-393-66447-8) OR (ISBN 978-0-393-690743)

The current text can be found at:

<https://www.bkstr.com/njitstore/shop/textbooks-and-course-materials>

OR

<https://digital.wwnorton.com/realworld6>

Other reading materials to be used for class will be provided in course modules and made available on CANVAS.

Evaluation of Student:

Class Grading Scale:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Quizzes (4) 10 points each | 40 points |
| Assignment: Response Essay | 10 points |
| Assignment: Research Paper | 20 points |
| Final Exam: | 15 points |
| <u>Discussion Boards/Participation</u> | <u>15 points</u> |
| Total | 100 points |

Grading

Course grades are based on the total number of points you earn throughout the course of the semester. Make an appointment to chat with me during the semester to discuss your performance and progress. **All grades are non-negotiable and I do not give incompletes.**

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|----|-----------|
| A | 90 to 100 |
| B+ | 85 to 89 |
| B | 80 to 84 |
| C+ | 75 to 79 |
| C | 70 to 74 |
| D | 60 to 69 |
| F | ≤59 |

Feedback

Students will receive meaningful feedback for major course assessments/assignments. The instructor will deliver feedback on each major assignment using the comments feature in Canvas. It is up to the student to review the comments sections for each assignment. The instructor may provide feedback in discussions boards as well. Students are expected to review and make corrective actions per instructor’s feedback.

Weekly Expectations/Course Pacing

This course is organized by weekly modules. Each week, students must either watch a lecture video, *routinely complete* reading the textbook and or additional learning material located in the module section and participate in a class discussion forum (if assigned) by each Thursday at 11:59pm.

The course requires you to follow these weekly modules and complete weekly discussions, quizzes, and assignments. You are expected to be online a minimum of four (4) times each week. Your work in this course does affect other students because you must respond to weekly discussion topics, post your initial comments by Thursday evening and respond to a minimum of one other student each week. Initial discussions must be completed by

11:59pm each Thursday. Responses to a minimum of one other student must be completed by Sunday at 11:59pm that same week. Additionally, materials for future weeks will be available in advance of the current week so you are welcome to read/listen/watch ahead.

Communication with Instructor: It is the responsibility of our students to communicate regularly with the instructor about absences, lateness and assignment expectations and any questions about the course or material. **Students are to utilize their NJIT email or CANVAS email ONLY.**

Online Course Etiquette

Students are expected to participate actively online for the entire course. Students are equally expected to engage in civil debates, share their opinions and integrate new knowledge gathered from their readings, videos or outside resources to support their arguments or opinions. Hostility or overly personal sharing or criticisms will not be tolerated. A breach of online course etiquette will result in a student/instructor meeting, point grade deductions to offending students' class participation grade and/or dismissal from the course if behavior is disruptive or adversely affecting other students and/or the instructor.

Participation in Online Discussions

Everyone is expected to participate in online discussion regularly or other activities on a weekly basis and to play a positive role in fostering an online learning community. Discussion posts are meant to be dynamic, include personal perspectives and include academic knowledge acquired from your readings, videos, lectures, etc. Debates are expected, as are civil, thoughtful responses and discussions based on evidence, one's own opinions and experiences. Active and engaged learning is critical in this course.

Online class communication (discussions, emails, papers, Webex meetings, etc.,) requires a formal academic writing style to express your thoughts and opinions. It is expected students substantiate their comments with observations and especially new academic knowledge learned from their readings, outside sources and review of course materials.

Online Final Exams

NJIT policy requires that all midterm and final exams must be proctored, regardless of delivery mode, in order to increase academic integrity. Note that this does not apply to essay or authentic based assessments. Effective beginning Fall semester 2019, students registered for a fully online course section (e.g., online or Hyflex mode) must be given the option to take their exam in a completely online format, with appropriate proctoring. In this course you will be required to use the following proctoring method to ensure academic integrity for exams. Please see NJIT's response to questions about online proctoring [here (Links to an external site.)]

(<https://www5.njit.edu/provost/response-questions-about-online-proctoring/>). See below for more information about how exams will be proctored in this course. ----- Webex ----- Webex can be used to allow instructors to proctor exams themselves. Your instructor will schedule a Webex exam session and share the meeting information with you ahead of

time. The exam in Canvas will be password-protected. You can connect to the Webex session with either your phone or computer. You can find links to download the mobile app from the App Store or Google Play Store at the bottom of [njit.webex.com] (<https://njit.webex.com/webappng/sites/njit/dashboard?siteurl=njit>). When your instructor is ready to start the exam, they will provide the exam password in the meeting so all students can begin the Canvas quiz. Your instructor will then watch you, via the web camera, as you take the exam. Students are expected to remain connected to the Webex session until their exam is submitted. The session may also be recorded by your instructor. In order to use Webex for proctored exams, you will need the following: * High-speed internet connection * Webcam (internal or external) and/or smartphone with camera (instructor's preference) * The process for connecting to Webex will be the same as when you connect for a class. Tips for ensuring a smooth experience while using Webex: * Connect to your Webex session before class starts. * Log into Canvas before connecting to Webex. Questions or problems can be submitted via web form by going to: [<https://servicedesk.njit.edu>] (<https://servicedesk.njit.edu/>) and clicking on the "Report your issue online" link. You may also call the IST Service Desk with any questions at 973-596-2900.

Student Accountability Statement:

“Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.

Students are expected to read and understand NJIT's academic integrity policy. The policy will be sent in one of the discussion week's post and all students are expected to read and agree to its contents. Members of the NJIT community are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. There is a zero-tolerance policy on any and all forms of cheating. Any student found to be violating the academic policy will be reviewed and sanctioned. Students must do their own work and may not use other papers from classes previously taken by themselves or others. This is in violation of the academic integrity policy.

Students that require special accommodations / Disabilities Service Policy

Students with disabilities who are otherwise qualified and are college able will receive reasonable accommodations to support their special needs. Students must self-identify to the Disabilities Services office to qualify to receive services. NJIT is in full compliance with the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. It is expected that students speak to the faculty member directly to discuss needs.

Weekly Schedule:

Note: Subject to revision; Readings beyond the textbook (TB) will be posted on Canvas.

| Class # | Topics and Assignments |
|--------------------|---|
| Week 1 Mod 1 | <p>Welcome, Introductions and Review Of Course Expectations</p> <p><i>Sociology and the Real World</i></p> <p><i>Read-- The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 1</i></p> <p>Activity: Review of Syllabus and Course Expectations</p> <p><i>Discussion Board #1: Introduce yourself online. Post your introduction in the discussion board.</i></p> <p><i>Discussion Board #2: Pick your two Sociological Theories. Respond to 2 others student post.</i></p> <p>Both discussion boards must be completed.</p> |
| Week 2 Mod 2 | <p>Studying Social Life: Sociological Research Methods</p> <p><i>Read--The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 2</i></p> <p>Discussion Board</p> <p>Quiz # 1 - Chapters 1 and 2</p> |
| Week 3 Mod 3 | <p><i>Culture (Ethnocentrism, Dominant Cultures & Subcultures)</i></p> <p><i>Read--The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 3</i></p> <p><i>Discussion Board</i></p> |
| Week 4 Mod 4 | <p>Socialization, Interaction and the Self</p> <p><i>Read--The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 4</i></p> <p><i>Discussion Board</i></p> <p>Final Project Review: Project ACT: Act on what you believe. Praxis Project</p> <p>Quiz # 2 - Chapters 3 and 4</p> |
| Week 5 Mod 5 | <p>Separate and Together: Life in Groups</p> <p><i>Read--The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 5</i></p> <p><i>Discussion Board</i></p> |
| Week 6 Mod 6 | <p>Deviance</p> <p><i>Read--The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 6</i></p> <p><i>Discussion Board</i></p> <p>Quiz #3 - Chapters 5 & 6</p> |
| Week 7 Mod | <p>Social Class: The Structure of Inequality</p> <p><i>Read--The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 7</i></p> |

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| 7 | <i>Discussion Board</i> ASSIGNMENT: Response Essay Due (10 pts) See Assignment Guidelines |
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| Class # | Topics and Assignments |
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| Week 8 Mod 8 | <i>Race and Ethnicity As Lived Experience</i> <i>Read--The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 8</i> <i>Discussion Board</i> Quiz #4 – Chapters 7 & 8 |
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| Week 9 Mod 9 | <i>Constructing Gender and Sexuality</i> <i>Read--The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 9</i> <i>Discussion Board</i> |
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| Week 10 Mod 10 | <i>Social Institutions: Politics, Education and Religion</i> <i>Read--The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 10</i> |
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| Week 11 Mod 11 | <i>The Economy of Work</i> <i>Read--The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 11</i> |
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| Week 12 Mod 12 | <i>Life at Home: Family and Relationships</i> <i>Read--The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 12</i> |
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| Class # | Topics and Assignments |
|---------|------------------------|
|---------|------------------------|

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| Week 13 Mod 13 | <i>Leisure and Media</i> <i>Read--The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 13</i> ASSIGNMENT: Research Paper Due: Project ACT: Act on what you believe. (Karl Marx) Praxis Project (20 Points) |
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| Week 14 Mod 14 | Bringing it all together... |
| Week 15 | Preparing for FINAL EXAM (15 Points) |

Academic Honesty:

Cheating and Plagiarism Policy

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cribbing, fabrication, misrepresentation, unauthorized collaboration, and/or cheating on any academic assignment submitted for a course as well as identity fraud in any face-to-face or distance learning course, exam, or academic exercise. Any student aiding another student in any form of academic dishonesty is considered equally guilty and subject to the same penalties.

Statement of Plagiarism: Definition of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or by appropriate indentation and must be properly cited in the text or in a footnote. Acknowledgment is required when material from another source is stored in print, electronic, or other medium and is paraphrased or summarized in whole or part in one's own words. To acknowledge a paraphrase properly, one might state: to paraphrase Weber's comment...and conclude with a footnote identifying the exact reference. **Students should refer to the student handbook.**

Students will be given a grade of "0" for an assignment if a student plagiarizes. Subsequent college actions will be determined for more than one infraction according to NJIT policy.

This course uses APA (American Psychological Association) style and format to cite resources within social sciences. For more information, please consult the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (6th ed., 2nd printing)*.

For additional assistance APA style for research papers, in-text citations, endnotes or footnotes and reference or bibliography pages, students may also refer to:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Statement about Civility: Civility is defined primarily as the demonstration of respect for others, basic courtesy, reciprocity (treating others as we wish to be treated), and behaviors that create a positive environment in which to learn and to work.

ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES:

Written Assignment #1: Response Essay

10 points

In Chapter 7, Social Stratification is addressed to describe how we define ourselves, groups and how we use it to divide others into categories.

Using two Theories of Social Class such as Conflict, Weberian. Structural Functionalism, Postmodernism or Symbolic Interactionism, you are to answer and include the following guidelines:

1. Reflection—First paragraph, discuss your own class status listed in Chapter 7. Is it consistent across criteria that make up economic status as described in your textbook (include general income levels i.e. low, middle, high, wealth, education, occupation and power) **(Paragraph 1 & 2 - 3 points)**
2. Identify two social class theories. Define briefly and apply them to your self-assessment and position from above reflection. **(Paragraphs 3 & 4- 3 points)**
3. Answer the question: Is this an example of status consistency or inconsistency?? Why? **(Paragraphs 5 - 1 point)**
4. Answer the question: How do you place individuals and groups in some sort of hierarchy in your day to day living? What accounts for this tendency and what were your influences? **(Paragraph 6 - 3 Points)**

Additional Guidelines: The Response Essay will include:

- 5 page written paper (additional pages will not be graded more favorably)
- Double-spacing using 12-point Times New Roman font
- No Title Page Required
- Submission of essay on Canvas- all essays will be uploaded onto Canvas
- If a student has a problem with uploading papers on CANVAS, the student must email paper to instructor instead. Due dates will remain in effect.

An excellent (grade A) Response Essay will present a well-articulated analysis of the topic of social class and social stratification and exhibit the following characteristics:

- It articulates a clear and insightful position on the issue of social class.
- It develops the position fully, with compelling reasons and/or persuasive examples.
- It sustains a well-focused, well-organized analysis, connecting ideas logically.
- It conveys ideas fluently and precisely, using effective vocabulary and sentence variety.
- It demonstrates excellent use of standard written English (i.e., grammar, usage, and mechanics) but may have minor errors.

- Meets all requirements listed in guidelines.

**Written Assignment #2: Research Paper: Project ACT: Act on what you believe.
Praxis Project
20 Points**

To be an effective sociologist OR to engage in social justice issues in a meaningful way, one must have a core belief that everyone deserves equal opportunities, resources, political influence and social rights and privileges. But do they? You have the power to affect and implement social change, improve social injustices and advocate for issues which are meaningful to you. We must ask ourselves, what can I do, what actions can I take on a micro or macro level, or both which will make a difference and change my chosen social injustice?

We have heard over and over again, our vote matters. Yes, it is indeed one important way we can assert our power and our voice. Yet there are other activities, services, campaigns, etc. which we can do every day. Your final research project will showcase what you have learned in this class This is where the rubber hits the road!!

Karl Marx contributed the concept of Conflict Theory and “praxis” to understanding opposing sociological perspectives. Praxis is the practical application of theories and concepts to challenge the status quo and affect positive change improving conditions of those who are traditionally oppressed for example. Think of ways to combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia or transphobia. It is complex and takes multiple approaches to move deeply entrenched beliefs and to change behaviors.

For this assignment, students were to choose a social problem important to them in the beginning of the semester. (Examples may be immigration rights, opioid epidemic, poverty, poor access to mental health treatment, gay rights, animal rights, environmental concerns, reducing sexual violence, improving access to health care, gaming addiction, dementia as a public health crisis, etc.)

Using Conflict Theory to guide your paper, you are to include the following by separating each discussion area by paragraphs (Use headers to organize your writing):

1. Define the Social Problem – What are the social justice or human rights confronting this population? **Who and what are the opposing forces at play? Who has ownership of the power, resources and opportunities? This must be based on**

your research. Use the Conflict Theory as your lens to discuss this social issue and use evidence-based material. (5 points) No opinions.

2. Who is adversely affected by this social problem? Who is being oppressed? Who are the dominant cultures or populations? Provide background information (data on demographics, ethnicities, race, cultural information, socioeconomic status(SES) , ages, sexual or gender identities, disabilities, rates of addiction, historical facts and other data, etc.) **(5 points)**
3. Using a micro-sociological lens, describe an individual who is affected by this problem. (Case Study) and provide historical data and facts regarding the severity of this problem **PUT A FACE ON THIS PROBLEM! You may include a real family, an individual, a community, etc. It must be a real case. (3 points)**
4. Call to Action: Explain your plan of action and how it will improve matters. How will your plan of action improve social conditions? How will your plan go about fighting for rights of oppressed populations or how will you go about changing actual policies affecting your oppressed population or improve this social justice issue. **(5 points) Ideas may be to create new programs, services, educational campaigns, lobbying or other activities and efforts to address this issue. BE SPECIFIC AND DO YOUR RESEARCH. WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN SUCCESSFUL?**
5. **Academic sources and resources used, format, writing, APA compliance and ability to convey content using newly acquired sociological knowledge from semester and research. Some students mistakenly focus on the economic, psychological, anthropological or medical reasoning to explain social problems, human behaviors or issues. Remember this is a sociology class. BE CREATIVE and INNOVATIVE as well.**

Additional Guidelines: The Research Paper include:

- **7 page paper (this is your substantive content) plus you must add a title page, abstract & bibliography (additional pages will not be graded more favorably). That translates to 10 pages!!!**
- Double-spacing using 12-point Times New Roman font
- A reference page (bibliography), title page and abstract must be included.
- APA style must be used to reference and format your paper.
- This assignment will be submitted on Canvas.
- If a student has a problem with uploading papers, the student must email paper to instructor and explain reason uploading failed. Add screen shot.

An excellent (grade A) paper will present a well-articulated analysis of the topic of social class and social stratification and exhibit the following characteristics:

- It articulates a clear, detailed and insightful position on the issue of social class. Research required!!
- Contains research informed data and information from reputable, peer-reviewed sources. (3 academic journals are required)

- It develops the position fully, with compelling reasons and/or persuasive examples.
 - It sustains a well-focused, well-organized analysis, connecting ideas logically.
 - It conveys ideas fluently and precisely, using effective vocabulary and sentence variety.
 - It demonstrates excellent use of standard written English (i.e., grammar, usage, and mechanics) though may have minor errors.
 - Exceeds all requirements listed in guidelines.
- Citations and bibliography match and are accurately applied using APA format.