Sociology 70:  
General Sociology for Pre-Medical Students  
Prof. Jeff Tirshfield

Fall 2017  
email: jтиршфi@ucsd.edu

Time: Mon/Wed/Fri 3:00 – 3:50  
Office Hours: Mon/Fri 1:30 – 2:30 – Tables in front of RIMAC (if sunny and warm) or SSB 474 (if neither)

Location: CSB 002  
Course TA: Carolina Mayes

Course Information:

In 2015, the Association of American Medical Colleges introduced a revised MCAT that, for the first time, included a new section on the Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior. In other words, the AAMC now recognizes what sociologists have long taken for granted: socio-cultural factors are tremendously important determinants of health outcomes and that pre-medical students who have some minimal background in sociological concepts and research will be better prepared to serve their future patients. Consequently, this course is meant to provide an introduction to sociology that is tailored to pre-medical students. This means that breadth will be prioritized over depth; applications focus on health and the medical realm; and special attention will be paid to inequality and the social influences on health and well-being.

Evaluation:

➢ Section (30% of course grade) - Attendance, Reflections, and Participation
➢ Midterm exam (30% of course grade) - Matching, Short Answer, Short Essay
➢ Final exam (40% of course grade) - Paper on a relevant sociological topic – prompts to be distributed during week 9

Required reading:


Additional readings, many listed on the syllabus, and a few that are not, can be found at: jefftirshfield.com -- click the “teaching” tab, fall 2017, SOCI 70. I will post new items weekly.

The syllabus may (will) be updated throughout the course to address relevant social phenomena or social facts (for you Durkheim fans).

Note on the (non)use of Electronics:

Use of electronics (including laptops) during class is prohibited. This is to ensure a learning environment that is free from distractions; the educational benefits of longhand have also been experimentally demonstrated:


Academic Integrity:

Students should be familiar with UCSD’s regulations concerning plagiarism and integrity of scholarship. Plagiarism is serious, and suspected cases will be referred to UCSD’s Office of Academic Integrity. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, please ask me.
Schedule

Week 1: An introduction to Sociology; Sociological Methods
  • Conley Pp. 3-5, 8-41, 45-61, 64-71

Week 2: Culture and the Media; Socialization and the Social Construction of Reality
  • Conley Pp. 77-82, 86-96, 117-121, 124-146

Week 3: Socialization and Societal Norms; Groups and Networks
  • Conley Pp. 156-183

Week 4: Social Control and Deviance
  • Conley Pp. 191-209, 212-216, 223-231
**Week 5: Authority and the State; Religion**

- Conley Pp. 577-605, 617-633, 657-659

***MIDTERM EXAM on Friday, 11/03/17***

**Week 6: Family; Capitalism and the Economy**

- Conley pp. 453-459, 462-470, 486-493, 540-545, 547-571

**Week 7: Inequality I – Class, Gender and Race**


**Week 8: Inequality II – Discussion – Class, Gender and Race; Education**

- Charles, Maria. 2011. “What Gender is Science?” *Contexts* 10(2) 22-28
- Conley Pp. 498-507, 514-521

**Week 9: Healthcare**

• Conley Pp. 411-447


**Week 10: Medical Ethics, and Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change**

• Lyon, Evan, Paul farmer. 2013. “Inequality, Infections, and Community-Based Health Care.” Yale Journal of Health Policy, Law, and Ethics. 5(18) 465-473


• Conley Pp. 704-725


• Thematic reading TBD

***FINAL PAPER to be turned in on, or before, THURSDAY, 12/15/17 between 3:00 to 4:30 pm***