



Carpinteria High School
Sociology
5 Credits
Fall 2010-11
Prerequisite(s): None

Instructor Information

Instructor: Mr. Bisson

Phone: (805) 684-4107 ext. 243

Website: <http://mrbisson.com/AmericanDemocracy/index.html>

Email: gbisson@cusd.net

Class meetings: Modified block schedule per school calendar

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 06:30 – 07:45 & 15:00 – 16:00; or by appointment

Course Description

Sociology is the study of human groups, organizations and societies and the patterns of similarity and difference among them. We will also be “doing” sociology; exploring our everyday social worlds and the often invisible or taken-for-granted social forces that shape it. Sociology is an elective academic class but it is not a class for “slackers”. It is a class for thinkers who like to discuss and understand important issues from our life, our culture, and our world. There will be daily reading and frequent written assignments as well as projects and field work.

Reading Comprehension:

10.1.1 Identify and use the literal and figurative meanings of words and understand word derivations.

10.2.3 Generate relevant questions about readings on issues that can be researched.

Writing strategies:

10.1.1 Establish a controlling impression or coherent thesis that conveys a clear and distinctive perspective on the subject and maintain a consistent tone and focus throughout the piece of writing.

Mathematical Reasoning:

6.2.4 Use a variety of methods, such as words, numbers, symbols, charts, graphs, tables, diagrams, and models, to explain mathematical reasoning.

Course Scope

This course is designed for high school students interested in the study of people and social groups. Students will engage in observations of local organizations, institutions, groups, and cultures. Issues that may be studied and discussed include culture, subculture, and counterculture; globalization, norms, ethnocentrism, taboos, stereotypes; family, gender roles, school, religion, workplace; status, role, groups, social networks, social institutions; social control, deviance, crime, drugs; race, class, ethnicity; stratification, class, inequality (gender, racial, economic); social movements and social change.

Course Objectives / State Standards Headings

Standard 1 — Foundations of Sociology as a Social Science

Students will describe the development of sociology as a social science, by identifying methods and strategies of research and by examining the contributions of sociology to the understanding of social issues.

Standard 2 — Culture

Students will examine the influence of culture on the individual and the way cultural transmission is accomplished. They will study the way culture defines how people in a society behave in relation to groups and to physical objects.

They will also learn that human behavior is learned within the society. Through the culture, individuals learn the relationships, structures, patterns and processes to be members of the society.

Standard 3 — Social Status

Students will identify how social status influences individual and group behaviors and how that status relates to the position a person occupies within a social group.

Standard 4 — Social Groups

Students will explore the impacts of social groups on individual and group behavior. They will understand that social groups are comprised of people who share some common characteristics, such as common interests, beliefs, behavior, feelings, thoughts and contact with each other.

Standard 5 — Social Institutions

Students will identify the effects of social institutions on individual and group behavior. They will understand that social institutions are the social groups in which an individual participates, and that these institutions influence the development of the individual through the socialization process.

Standard 6 — Social Change

Students will examine the changing nature of society. They will explain that social change addresses the disruption of social functions caused by numerous factors and that some changes are minor and others are major.

Standard 7 — Social Problems

Students will analyze a range of social problems in today's world. Social problems result from imbalances within the social system and affect a large number of people in an adverse way.

Standard 8 — Individual and Community

Students will examine the role of the individual as a member of the community. They will also explore both individual and collective behavior.

Course Delivery Method and Homework

Students are assigned readings and homework on a daily basis. This includes keeping up to date with news and forming opinions which they are able to support from their readings. Readings and homework are to be completed prior to the beginning of class. Class consists of a variety of instructional methods including lecture, film, class discussion, student reports and presentations, debates, etc. Students are expected to take notes on in-class activities as they are all considered testable material. All students are expected to participate in all facets of the class. Students have been given an assignment calendar along with their syllabus and are expected to have it in their class binder, which will be brought to class daily along with their **covered textbook and other necessary materials**. Points will be deducted from students' scores for failure to bring materials to class. Chronic lack of materials will result in detention.

Class Text

Shepard, JM, and Greene, RW. **Sociology and You**. Glencoe, 2008

Evaluation Procedures

Grades for this course will be based upon several grading instruments.

Grade Instruments:	% of Final Grade	Points
Attendance / Class Participation	15%	300
Class work	15%	300
Discussion Board	10%	200
Observations	10%	200
Homework	15%	300
Tests and Quizzes	35%	700
	100%	

Grading Scale

90% - 100%.....A	60% - 69.99%.....D
80% - 89.99%.....B	Less than 60%.....F
70% - 79.99%.....C	

Course Information

Attendance – Attendance to class sessions is mandatory. **Missing or arriving late to class will impact the student's grade.** Missed work and points cannot be made up except for excused absences. In any case, participation points cannot be made up. It is the student's responsibility to check with the teacher concerning missed work and to turn it in a timely manner (generally work missed from a one day absence is due the day of the student's return; with regards to block schedule, whether we have class or not). Students arriving late to class will lose participation points from the day's grade and assigned homework from any option (including emailed work) will be considered late. Habitual tardiness will result in lower grade and/or detention.

Readings, Assignments and Classroom Participation – You will be required to read daily for this course as well as keeping abreast of current political events. Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions and activities. Students who fail to participate, have their heads on their desk, attempt to sleep, etc. will lose participation points and/or be sent to the office. This course requires you to develop a time management plan and self-discipline to follow it.

Final Exam – The comprehensive final exam will be administered at the end of the course. It will consist of multiple choice questions, essay, and short answer questions.

Answers on all assignments should be specific and detailed in essay format. Specifically, that means your answers should be in paragraph format with complete sentences. Paragraphs should include a beginning statement, detailed and specific information responding to the question, and a summary statement. Do not submit answers with bulleted categorical headings or incomplete sentences with bullets or numbers unless directed.

Examination questions are derived from course readings, class discussions, and films shown in class. **If you miss class you miss testable material.** Your synthesis and analysis of the material in the course should be clearly demonstrated with detailed and specific responses. Some essay questions can be completely and thoroughly answered in two (2) paragraphs; whereas, other questions may require two (2) pages.

Assignment Submissions – All assignments are due at the beginning of class. **No late work is accepted** with the exception of excused, full day absences. If you are on campus for any part of the day, you are expected to turn in your homework. All work must be completed word processed or hand written in black or blue ink on standard sized 8 ½ x 11 inch lined paper, neat and legible, with a complete heading in order to receive a grade. Work torn from a binder, spiral, etc. is unacceptable. Students arriving late to class will receive a zero (0) on any work due as it is considered to be late. Work may be turned in via email (as a WORD attachment – not in the email body) if a student chooses but it must be received prior to the beginning of class and the student must arrive on time. I will send an automatic acknowledgement of receipt. Work submitted via email must be readable by Microsoft Word 2003. Sometimes problems occur with email. Be sure to keep a copy of the message in your sent folder. These messages are electronically dated by your provider and are the only items I will accept as proof of work.

Class Expectations

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Carpinteria High School supports and promotes academic honesty and personal integrity. Cheating may include but is not limited to:

- Submitting another person's work
- Working in a group effort without faculty consent
- Writing a paper for someone else
- Buying a paper from a research service

The Web & Plagiarism Note: The Web has made it quite easy to copy and insert materials into a paper. Students must be careful to properly attribute materials found on the Web. In a collegiate setting, attribution typically relies on a formal academic style manual for its citation models (At CHS we use

the MLA style that you learned in your English classes. If you need a refresher, see: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>).

WRITING EXPECTATIONS

All printed submissions, including those submitted via email, should be written in 12 point Arial, Times New Roman, or Verdana font, double-spaced format, and page margins top, bottom, left and right = 1 inch, with reasonable accommodation being made for special situations and online submission variances. All work must be readable with Microsoft Word 2003 or with Open Office. If you do not have either, Open Office is available online free of charge at <http://download.openoffice.org/2.2.0/index.html?focus=download>. Be sure to check your spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. Points will be subtracted for these types of errors. All handwritten work must be completed in black or blue ink on standard 8 ½ x 11 inch lined paper, neat and legible with a complete heading in order to receive a grade.

Nothing detracts from written work as much as a misspelled, misspeled, miss-spelled, misspelled word. The question, "Does spelling count?" is similar to "Do I *always* have to drive on the right side of the road?" "No" is an acceptable answer to both questions, but only for a short time. When professors read essays and papers in college one spelling error brings a smile – bad proofreading. Two errors cause a frown, three absolute disgust and the conclusion that this student is not college material.

Any work done in class is graded leniently with regards to spelling and English mechanics. Papers done at home give students ample time to spell check and have someone proof-read their work so frequent errors will reduce score.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

As noted above, late work is not accepted if you are on campus during the day. If you arrive late or leave early on a day when an assignment is due, you are expected to either bring it by the classroom or put it in my box in the office. **Students who leave for athletic events, roundtables, appointments, etc. are expected to take tests and turn in work due PRIOR to leaving. Late work is accepted only for excused all day absences.**

CLASS GUIDELINES

Be punctual, be prepared.

Electronics (including cell phones and iPods) are turned off and out of sight before entering the classroom (and stay out of sight until you are outside). If I see them, I take them.

No food, or gum in the class.

Profanity, even mild profanity, gets you a trip to the office. If I don't say it, neither can you.

No use of hats, caps, bandannas, hoods, scarves, other head coverings, sunglasses, mirror glasses, etc.

Follow the dress code.

Stay in your seats at all times, unless directed to do otherwise.

Work from the tardy bell until the teacher tells you to stop.

Be respectful.

No personal grooming during class time (brushes, make-up, creams, lotions, etc.). If I see it, I take it.

Sit in your assigned seat daily.

Follow directions the first time you hear them.

Know you that are responsible for your actions. All actions have consequences, good or bad.

The teacher dismisses the class. Stay seated until directed to leave the room at the end of the period.

Stay away from the door.

Issues dealing with an individual student and not the entire class should be discussed with the teacher before school, after school, at lunch, or at nutrition. **NOT** in the passing periods.

In addition, [all school guidelines](#) (including dress code) apply in this class. See student/parent handbook for details.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in loss of points, a call to parents, other disciplinary measures as required, and will also affect your citizenship grade.

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If you, the student, understand this syllabus and agree to abide by these guidelines, please sign below:

(Print Name) _____

(Period) _____

(Sign) _____

(Date) _____

If you as parent, have read and understand these guidelines, please sign below:

(Print Name) _____

(Sign) _____

In an effort to create more efficient communication between Teacher and Parent, please provide a daytime telephone number and an email address where you can be reached:

Telephone# _____

Parent's E-Mail (please print clearly) _____

Grades are usually updated on Saturdays and are available on the Aeries Portal which can be accessed per instructions sent to the student's parent or guardian at the address on record. If you do not have your log in information, see office for a copy of your letter.