Welcome to Sociology 101! This course will introduce you to the systematic study of human social behavior. The focus will be on the examination of culture, how societies are organized, and the ecological changes and events that have influenced all of us. By the end of the semester the ideas of sociology will have combined so as to provide you with a richer comprehension of the global nature of sociology and its impact on our lives.

**REQUIRED TEXT**

**OPTIONAL MATERIALS**
Access to Internet strongly recommended

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**
The study of sociology primarily involves learning sociological concepts and applying them to questions about social behavior. Students in this course will

1. Recognize and apply the basic terminology used in sociology.
2. Define and apply the sociological perspective to an understanding of the patterns of human social behavior.

As an introductory course, there are no "prerequisites"; however, this course meets or exceeds the standards of other college or university introductory sociology course. *Consequently, "college level" reading and writing*
ability is highly desirable for success. It is hard to estimate the time needed for this class, but the usual college definition of work (2-3 times the class meeting hours per week) is probably a good guide.

**COURSE DETAILS**

**Overview:**
Any introductory sociology course can only touch on the various topics studied by sociologists. Each textbook presents a set of topics that represents what the author considers the essential ingredients of the discipline. Usually, this textbook interpretation differs somewhat from the instructor’s view, his interests, his specific experiences, and his audience. Thus, each sociology course is different; the challenge is to clearly blend the structure and formality of the text with the insights and experiences of the instructor who will try to fill in the gaps, expand certain topics, or add material not included in the textbook. But, by the end of the semester, you should have the crucial ingredients that will enable you to view everyday life from a “sociological” perspective and ultimately gain “a sense of society”. As we know, social life is not easily quantified and much still remains part of an evolving mystery. If it has been a long time since your last college class or if you are unfamiliar with college expectations, I strongly recommend “Student Success” on my website.

**Highlights of the course:**

- **Global/U.S/local orientation:** Our lives are globally interconnected. Much of this is the result of the ongoing nature and consequences of the Industrial and Postindustrial Revolution. One important **theme** of this course will be to examine how our lives are touched by global changes.

- **Culture/Social Structure/Social Ecology:** Since all of us want to make sense out of our social lives, we will learn how to use the valuable tools of practical sociology. Each of the above will be a **theme** for a portion of the course; by the end, you will be able to utilize these themes, collectively, to develop a sociological understanding of any common social issue.

- **Functionalism/Conflict/Interactionism:** The ideas of sociology come from research derived from a sociologist’s “mental image” of the world. The three major perspectives mentioned above drive much research; they will be a **theme** that will be discussed with each topic.

- **Text/Lecture/Resources:** As the numerically increasing facets of our social universe become more complex, we strive to make informed
decisions. One **theme** will be the ongoing challenge to discover, understand, relate and apply knowledge from the text, lectures, and other sources of information.

**Textbook:**
The required textbook, *Society, The Basics, Custom Edition for Modesto Junior College*, is available in the bookstore and includes a code for online access to **MySocLab**, which has study aids. You may also use *Society, The Basics, 11th edition* which is the same in content but may be priced differently, may or may not include a code, and must be bought elsewhere. These are the official textbooks and all assigned readings are keyed accordingly. If you wish, you may choose to use an older edition of this text which will have slightly different page numbering and no guarantee that content will be the same. Using the 10th edition or even the 9th edition might work, but earlier editions would not be recommended. In addition, you will be able to easily access a full-featured free **Companion Website for the 9th edition**: [http://www.pearsonhighered.com/macionis/](http://www.pearsonhighered.com/macionis/) with practice tests for each chapter that is compatible with your 9th or 10th edition text. Each edition shown on this page (except the 9th) requires purchasing an access code for online study guides. I recommend that you use the official and latest edition. The assigned readings are listed on my web pages for each class meeting.

**Lecture:**
Regular attendance is expected and necessary for success. I expect you to be prepared for each meeting, to be prepared to participate in class, and to bring in related materials or experiences to share. For each lecture, you will find **lecture notes** on my website. Each will contain a lecture overview, an explanation of the textbook readings, and some supplementary material that will be discussed in class. In each lecture notes page there will also be a **Challenge** question for extra credit.

I expect that each of you will conduct yourselves as adult learners who recognize that a college education is a desirable goal as well as a privilege; many in our society are unable, for a variety of reasons, to enjoy this very special lifestyle. Others are struggling to make this opportunity work for them and they do not want someone interfering with their learning experience. If you find someone violating this expectation please do not hesitate to express it to me or to those in question. I expect a comfortable and encouraging learning environment where respect, diversity of opinion and tolerance is a daily requirement. **Personal conversations, arriving late or leaving early for convenience rather than necessity, or other**
boorish behavior will not be welcomed; excessive violations will provoke hostile reactions from your peers and, inevitably, an instructor drop. In addition, no electronic communication devices other than a personal computer for note taking may be used during the class. Please refer to the syllabus for all questions; class time will not be taken to repeat information already contained in syllabus.

You should expect to take two or three pages of notes each day in addition to the visual aids that you will see with most lectures; you may wish to print out use your lecture notes pages for use as an in class guide. Expect that each lecture topic will have one or maybe several questions on the test. Be sure to review, edit and elaborate upon your notes within one day; otherwise they will not be useful weeks later when preparing for a test. Your final “notes” should resemble a personal textbook and not look like “notes”. Part of the learning process is tied to personally writing and understanding the material recorded during class time. The more effectively you use this note taking process, the more likely you will experience success in tests and papers. Approximately one half of each test will be on the lecture material.

EXAMS: There will be two midterm multiple-choice examinations and one final exam. Each will cover both text reading and lecture material. There will be 50 questions on each midterm. The final will have 100 questions and will be comprehensive. You will need Scantron #882. Do not miss a test! Currently, we have no regular procedures for makups! If an emergency occurs and if you immediately notify me by email, we might be able to arrange an alternative. But, do not count on it. Missing a test means that almost certainly you will not pass the class. (200 points)

WRITING: There will be one “extra credit” optional writing assignment worth up to 20 points. It will involve studying some aspect of everyday life in the community using sociological themes. Papers must be typed; severe penalties may be applied if late. A detailed handout will be available. Due date will be announced.

CHALLENGES: There will be a challenge question on each lecture notes page. A correct response is worth 1 point. Answers must be emailed prior to 9:30 am on day of class. You must be in class to receive extra credit. You may also submit relevant internet sites or other material. If it is selected for inclusion on the website, you will receive 1 point. (25 extra credit points possible)
**FINAL GRADE:** Your final grade will be based upon total points accumulated. Class participation and regular attendance will be an important factor in determining some grades.

A= 180+
B= 160+
C= 140+
D= 120+

FAMOUS SOCIOLOGISTS MARX, WEBER, DURKHEIM AND SWEENEY

**CLASS TOPICS:** for details see my website for each class meeting; dates approximate

**SECTION 1. Culture: What we know and what others know**
Culture, socialization, education, family, religion

**SECTION 2. Social Structure: Who we are and who others are**
Social interaction, organizations, stratification, health, urbanization

**SECTION 3. Social Ecology: Where we are and who we are with**
Global Stratification, population, demography, developing nations, immigration, social change