

Sociology of Higher Education Section 01 SOCI 179

Fall 2023 3 Unit(s) 08/21/2023 to 12/06/2023 Modified 08/18/2023

Contact Information

Instructor:	Megan Thiele
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Office Hours:	Tuesdays on Zoom 9:30-10:30 a.m. https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/92544100827

Course Description and Requisites

This course will examine the institution of higher education and its relationship to and with society. The course will address a number of other relevant topics, including educational inequalities, student debt and consequences of policy.

Prerequisite: Upper division Standing

Letter Graded

Program Information

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to think sociologically about the relationship between social structure, interaction, identities, and inequalities.
2. Students will be able to identify and explain major sociological theories and apply them to everyday life.
3. Students will be proficient in qualitative and quantitative research design, data collection and data analysis.
4. Students will be proficient in oral and written communication skills appropriate to the discipline.
5. Students will be able to practice sociology as educated and civically engaged persons.

Course Goals

Course description: This course will examine the institution of higher education and its relationship to and with society. Structural reproduction of education-based inequalities will be discussed. The course will draw on sociological, political, philosophical and economic perspectives of higher education. The intent of the course is to analyze the environment of higher education from both a macro and micro perspective. To this end, material will be based on both qualitative descriptions and quantitative trends of contemporary issues in the field of higher education. Part of this process will involve an analysis of the way in which certain issues become the focus of public policy while other issues are absent from this arena.

In the process of examining the terrain of higher education, the course will address a number of other relevant topics, including educational inequalities, social class, racial segregation, labor markets, social capital, cultural capital, human capital, dual frames of reference, the gender gap, identity development, opportunity structures and consequences of policy.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Program Learning Outcomes	Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Method
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Critical Thinking	Students will be able to define the core terms and the major theoretical approaches within the Sociology of Higher Education field and apply these concepts to various situations.	Class Discussion, Presentations, Assignments, and Memos
Written and Communication Skills	Students will be able to identify and explain major sociological theories within the Sociology of Higher Education field and apply them to everyday life.	Class discussion, assignments and presentations
Evaluate Empirical Sociological Research	Students will read and evaluate empirical sociological research.	Class discussion, assignments, and Memos
Acting as Civically Engaged Persons: Valuing Diversity and Having Global Awareness	Students will understand how identities such as race, class, gender, geography and sexual orientation contribute to a range of social experiences and social perspectives within the institution of Higher Education.	Class discussion, assignments, final project, discussion board
Self-Awareness	Students will be able to think sociologically about the relationship between social structure, interaction, identities, and inequalities, particularly as it relates to the field of Higher Education.	Class discussion, memos, discussion boards and assignments

☰ Course Requirements and Assignments

All readings are available through the class resources on Canvas and/or online.

Classroom Protocol:

- Do the required reading **before class** and as needed. I recommend reading the pieces twice.
- Follow the student code of conduct.
- Do your own work.
- Active participation in classroom activities is expected.
- **Email correspondence: Please provide your name and course section in each email.** Emails without this information may not be responded to. I try to maintain a 24-hour email response policy, effective 9-5 p.m., Monday through Thursday; if you email me Thursday night at 4 p.m. you may not get a response until Monday at 4 p.m.
- **Email Correspondence: Please provide your name, course name and course time in each email.** Emails without this information may not be responded to. I WILL NOT send you any information about your grade or performance in this class through email—I am happy to provide this information during office hours. I am often prompt in email response, but I have a 24-hour email response policy, effective 9-5 p.m., Monday through Thursday and if you email me Thursday night at 4 p.m. you may not get a response until Monday at 4 p.m.
- **If you want to do well in this course, you must put in the work.**

✓ Grading Information

In-class participation, Module Assignments, flipgrids, discussion boards and/or quizzes	250 pts. total
In-class Dialogue /Participation in Discursive Space	40 pts total
Dialogue Facilitation	25 pts
Final Project	35 pts.
TOTAL	350 pts.

Criteria

331 - 350+ = A
315 - 330 = A-
303 - 314 = B +
293 - 302 = B
280 - 292 = B -
268 - 279 = C +
258 - 267 = C
245 - 257 = C -
233 - 244 = D +
223 - 232 = D
209 - 222 = D -
000 - 208 = F

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

Date(s)	Topics	Reminders
Aug 21 st -25 th MODULE 1	Welcome back to SJSU: *Introductions and Course Basics	Check on Canvas for information about course
Aug 28 th -Sep 1 st MODULE 2	Our Schooling System	
Sept 4 th -8 th MODULE 3	History, Patterns and Demographics of Higher Education	Last Day to Add Courses and Register Late

Date(s)	Topics	Reminders
Sept 11 th -15 th MODULE 4	Getting In and Access	
Sept 18 th -22 nd MODULE 5	Market Forces: Privatization of Higher Education	
Sept 25 th -29 th MODULE 6	Campus Climate and Socialization: Sexism and Heteronormativity	
Oct 2 nd -6 th MODULE 7	Activism on Campus	
Oct 9 th -13 th MODULE 8	Undocumented students and Higher Education	
Oct 16 th -20 th MODULE 9	Racism on Campus	
Oct 23 rd -Oct 27 th MODULE 10	Higher Education and Incarceration	
Oct 30 th - Nov 3 rd MODULE 11	Class Status and Relationship to Authority and Home	
Nov 6 th -Nov 10 th MODULE 12	Decreased Value, Increased Debt?	
Nov 13 th - 17 th MODULE 13	Post-University	
Nov 20 th -24 th MODULE 14	*Thanksgiving Break	*We will not meet on Zoom this week
Nov 27 th -Dec 1 st MODULE 15	Campus Climate and Socialization: Athletics	Last synchronous Zoom meeting
Dec 4 th -6 th MODULE 16	The Future of Higher Education	SJSU: Last Day of Instruction: Dec 6th
December 12th	Final Projects Due	