

BA 112 – Sociology for Business
Course Schedule (Monday, Wednesday)

Instructor:	Besim Can ZIRH
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Office Hours:	Wednesday, 13:40 – 16:30
Course Web Page:	Link to ODTUClass Course Page
Course Description:	
<p>Mills opens his well-known piece on the promise of sociology by defining a problem of his age, “Nowadays men often feel that their private lives are a series of traps. They sense that within their everyday worlds, they cannot overcome their troubles, and in this feeling, they are often quite correct” (1959, p. 1). Social phenomena and related “traps” have become increasingly complicated in the age of globalization. Consequently, sociology, as a disciple undertaking the task of riddling such traps, expanded its scope of application through different disciplines and professions. This course is designed on this rationale and aims to assist its prospective participants in developing a “sociological imagination” by which they can approach various phenomena such as class, consumption, family, gender, market relations, money economy and religion in their disciplines or professions.</p>	
Course Student Learning Objectives: (CSLOs)	
<p><i>Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:</i></p> <p>Course Specific Skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognize the importance of patterns in understanding social relations in any given context. 2. Develop critical perspectives and analytical skills on social relationships. 3. Demonstrate an understanding the relationship between social structures and individual agency. <p>Discipline Specific Skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Recognize the importance of sociological thinking in understanding social phenomena. 5. Develop a certain set of skill in designing social research to understand social phenomena. 6. Demonstrate broad knowledge of literature and concepts on sociological thinking. <p>Personal and Key Skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Recognize the importance of intra-group communication in concluding a social research design. 8. Develop a certain set of skill in argumentation and analytical thinking. 9. Demonstrate critical reading and writing skills. 	
Learning and Teaching Methods:	
<p>Class meetings consist of a mixture of formal lecturing on the basis of text-book chapters, in-class discussions, in-class writing and bonus assignment (research design) exercises.</p>	
Required Reading:	
<p>Text Book: Giddens, Anthony. (2009), Sociology (6th Edition). London: Polity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mills, Wright. (1959), Sociological Imagination – “The Promise” (pp. 4-21). • Fox, Kate. (2004), Watching the English – “Food Rules” (pp. 295-323). • Harker, Richard. (1990), Bourdieu – Education and Reproduction, (pp. 86-108). 	
Suggested Reading:	
<p>http://www.listmuse.com/best-books-sociology-top-10.php</p>	

Assessment and Grading:				
Form of Assessment	% Contribution	Size of the assessment	CSLOs covered by the assessment	Feedback Method
Attendance, participation to in class discussions	%5	During in-class discussions	1-9	Oran (in class) Written (in the next class)
In-Class Essay Writing (x 2)	%10	Essay 150 words	8-9	Written (in the next class)
In-Class Pop Essay Writing (x 3)	%15	Essay 150 words	8-9	Written (in the next class)
Mid-Term Exam	%30	Multiple Choice and Essay Question	1-6, 8-9	Written (in the next class)
Final Exam	%30	Multiple Choice and Essay Question	1-6, 8-9	Written (in the next class)
Research Design Assignment	%10	Essay 250 words	5-6, 9	Oran and Written (in class)

Course Policies:

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: The Department of Business Administration has no tolerance for acts of academic dishonesty. Such acts damage the reputation of METU, the department and the BS/MBA degree and demean the honest efforts of the majority of the students. The minimum penalty for an act of academic dishonesty will be a zero for that assignment or exam.

CHEATING: All university, faculty/institute, and department principles on academic honesty will be strictly enforced. The usual consequence for academic dishonesty is failure of the course and referral of the case to the Dean of the Faculty or the Graduate School of Social Sciences for additional disciplinary action. Examinations are individual and are to be completed without outside assistance of any sort. Persons observed cheating during examinations will receive a failing grade in the course. Homework assignments are individual, unless otherwise specified by the instructor, and are to be completed without outside assistance of any sort, as well. Persons observed cheating in their homework assignments will receive a score of zero for the portion of the semester grade that is allocated to such assignments.

PLAGIARISM: The instructor assumes that students will do their own work. By placing their names on assignments (individual or team), students are affirming that the contents are their original work. Any previous work available from files or past students, as well as materials available on the internet may be used only as a suggestive model. Violation of this provision will be considered as unethical behavior, subject to disciplinary action. If you have any doubt about the use of a specific material, see the instructor ahead of time. Any material used from outside sources should be referenced appropriately. Persons observed to plagiarize while preparing assignments will be referred to the Graduate School of Social Sciences for additional disciplinary action and also they will receive a score of zero for the portion of the semester grade that is allocated to such assignments.

METU HONOR CODE: Every member of METU community adopts the following honor code as one of the core principles of academic life and strives to develop an academic environment where continuous adherence to this code is promoted.

"The members of the METU community are reliable, responsible and honorable people who embrace only the success and recognition they deserve, and act with integrity in their use, evaluation and presentation of facts, data and documents."

CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment which is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from using laptop computers and cellular phones, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class.

STUDENT DISABILITIES: Any student, who, because of a disabling condition, may require special arrangements in order to meet course requirements, should contact the instructor as soon as possible. Students should present the appropriate documentation from the university's Disability Support Office (Engelsiz ODTÜ Birimi, ODTÜ Kütüphanesi, Solmaz İzdemir Salonu, Tel: 210.7196; engelsiz@metu.edu.tr) verifying their disability, and outlining the special arrangements required.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES!

<http://oidb.metu.edu.tr/en/academic-rules-and-regulations>

NOTE THE IMPORTANT DATES ON THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR!

<http://oidb.metu.edu.tr/en/metu-ankara-and-erdemli-campuses-2022-2023-academic-year-calendar>

The instructor assumes that students who attend the next class have understood and accepted to agree with all the requirements and rules of this course.

Further Notes:

- Usage of cell phones is strictly prohibited during class. Please be courteous to your classmates and me and make sure that your phones are on silent mode before the class begins.
- Please arrive on time and do not enter the classroom if I already have closed the classroom doors. If you have to leave early, please inform me in advance.
- Please turn in the homework assignments on time and note that no late assignments (no matter how late) will be accepted.
- You are encouraged to drop by my office during office hours for questions, concerns, or suggestions. Outside the office hours, please make an appointment with me via e-mail. For quick questions that you may have, note that e-mailing is a very effective means of communicating with me.
- Please DO NOT grade grub. Asking higher letter grades at the end of the term seems to be a normal request for some participants BUT it is strictly unwelcomed for this course. To achieve a better grade, PLEASE attend all the classes, participate actively, study for exams, AND you can also do bonus assignment as indicated in this syllabus.

The following table gives the tentative schedule for the semester. The lectures will stress the most important and/or most difficult material. Appendices are required only if they are assigned. The students are required to read the chapters and appendices before they are covered in class.

Course Schedule					
Week	Month	Day	Topic	Reading/Assignment	CSLO
1	October	03	What is Sociology?	Chapter 1	1-8, 9
	October	05	What is Sociology?	"The Promise"	8-9
2	October	10	Asking Sociological Questions	Chapter 2	1-8, 9
	October	12	Asking Sociological Questions	Chapter 2	1-8, 9
3	October	17	Theories and Perspectives I	Chapter 3	1-8, 9
	October	24	Theories and Perspectives I	Chapter 3	1-8, 9
4	October	26	Symbolic Interaction	Chapter 7	1-8, 9
	October	18	Symbolic Interaction	"Food Rules"	8-9
5	October	31	Cities and Urban Life	Chapter 6	6, 9
	November	02	Cities and Urban Life	Chapter 6	1-8, 9
5	November		Mid-Term		
6	November	07	the Research Design Exercise (Beginning)		4-5, 7
	November	09	the Research Design Exercise (Beginning)		4-5, 7
7	November	14	Globalization	Chapter 4	1-8, 9
	November	16	Globalization	Chapter 4	1-8, 9
8	November	21	Family	Chapter 09	1-8, 9
	November	23	Family	Chapter 09	1-8, 9
9	November	28	Education	Chapter 19	1-8, 9
	November	30	Education	Chapter 19	1-8, 9
10	December	05	Stratification	Chapter 11	1-8, 9
	December	07	Stratification	Chapter 11	1-8, 9
11	December	12	Poverty	Chapter 12	1-8, 9
	December	14	Poverty	Chapter 12	1-8, 9
12	December	19	the Research Design Exercise (Finalizing)	"Bourdieu"	4-5, 7
	December	21	the Research Design Exercise (Finalizing)		4-5, 7
13	December	26	the Research Design Exercise (Applied)		4-5, 7
	December	28	the Research Design Exercise (Discussion)		4-5, 7
14	January	02	the Research Report Writing Exercise		4-5, 7-9
	January	04	the Research Report Writing Exercise		4-5, 7-9
15	January	09-21	Final Exam (To be announced)		

Attendance, in-class participation, short in-class writing exercises: Students are expected to attend classes and be active in the class discussions and be prepared.

In-class essay: Students are expected to write an essay in the class according to the critical writing principles.

Group Project: Students are going to design a sociological research on family and education background of students on the METU campus during the semester. In this exercise, students will analyze and critically evaluate their findings by synthesizing the reading material and establish links with the concepts that will be covered in the class. Creativity and originality of the ideas are also going to be marked.