



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

EC SO4001: Understanding Society

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



www.uwtsd.ac.uk

Welcome

- What is sociology?
- Why is it important to study sociology?
- Why are there so many theories?

A Sociological Experiment

- Philip George Zimbardo - The social psychology of prison life
- The Stanford Prison Experiment
- Although considered unethical now Zimbardo's experiment highlights the importance of studying sociology to understand people's behavior

(Giddens and Sutton 2013 p. 55-56)



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Sociological Theories

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The Sociological Perspectives we will be Studying

- Structural Functionalism
- Conflict Theory
- Symbolic Interactionism
- Feminism
- Postmodernism

Assessment 1

Module:	Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociological Theory		
Module code:	ECSO4001	Contribution to Overall Module Assessment (%):	70%
Lecturer:	Laura Jenkins	Internal Verifier:	KD
Assignment Title:	Assessment 1 Describe the key features of ONE significant sociological perspective and how they relate to the study of contemporary society.	Word count (or equivalent):	Assignment 2100 words
Submission deadline:	7 December 2023	Return date of provisional marks & written feedback:	25 January 2024

Assessment 2

Module:	Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociological Theory		
Module code:	ECSO4001	Contribution to Overall Module Assessment (%):	30%
Lecturer:	Laura Jenkins	Internal Verifier:	KD
Assignment Title:	Assessment 2 Apply a theory (different from Assignment 1) to explain social exclusion in a real-life situation. <i>(You can include images to illustrate your discussion – these must be referenced)</i>	Word count (or equivalent):	Seminar Presentation 8 mins
Submission deadline:	30 November 2023	Return date of provisional marks & written feedback:	18 January 2024

Module Aim

To provide an Introduction to the main sociological perspectives and to the methods used by social scientists to investigate contemporary society

Learning Outcomes

Describe the key features of significant sociological perspectives and how they relate to the study of contemporary society;

Understand the way in which society is structured and the nature of social justice and inclusion;

Understand the nature of sociological enquiry including the concepts of qualitative and quantitative research and primary and secondary evidence.

Indicative Content

An introduction to the main perspectives from which society is studied; e.g. Marxism, functionalism, neo-liberalism, feminism, capitalism, postmodernism and ecology/ sustainable development.

An introduction to the ways in which society is divided along lines of gender, class, race, age etc.

An exploration of the ways in which societal divisions rely on an imbalance of power and consequently lead to inequality.

An introduction to the nature of qualitative and quantitative research methods and how these relate to the study of contemporary society.

An introduction to the concept of primary and secondary evidence in social studies.

Questions?



'Since people do not exist apart from the world, apart from reality, the movement must begin with the human-world relationship'

Freire 1993 p.58