

# Soc 141: Industrialization and Social Change

## TIME AND PLACE

**Professor:**

Prof. R. Finnigan  
[rfinnigan@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rfinnigan@ucdavis.edu)

**Office Hours:**

SS&H 2259  
Thurs. 11:00am – 1:00pm, and by appointment

**Teaching Assistant: Office Hours:**

TBA  
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TBA

**Course Description:** Many people use the term ‘industrialization’ in many ways. For some, industrialization was a historical process centered on changes in forms of production. For others, industrialization is a continuing process related to development and globalization. Despite such ambiguity, industrialization is often highlighted as a source of profound changes in work, economies, politics, cities, and families. Moreover, these consequences are highly varied across time and place. SOC 141 covers classical perspectives on industrialization, contemporary analyses of its consequences, and the role of (de)industrialization for patterns of inequality in the US and around the world.

**Required Reading:** There is no required text or reader to purchase for this class. All required reading will be available as pdf documents on SmartSite.

**Evaluation:**

Quizzes	15%
Essay Topic Description (Oct. 13)	5%
Essay Assignment 1 (Oct. 29)	20%
Essay Assignment 2 (Dec. 1)	25%
Midterm (Oct. 22)	15%
Final (Dec. 11)	20%

**Course participation** is evaluated through a combination of in-class and outside-class discussions. Lecture attendance alone is not sufficient. Only very regular and particularly insightful participation will receive an A (demonstrated mastery of the lecture and reading materials, thought provoking questions/comments relating these materials to additional topics, etc.) As an alternative, students may also submit written comments for participation. These comments might describe the connection between the readings and lecture material, or raise relevant and thoughtful discussion questions. Please raise your hand before speaking in either lecture or discussion, and be respectful of others even (or especially) when you disagree.

There will be small quizzes periodically covering lecture and reading material. These quizzes will be largely multiple choice, perhaps with some short answer questions. Some quizzes will be given in class (about 20 minutes), and other online through SmartSite (released on Tuesday and due on Thursday).

A major portion of the course grade comes from a cumulative **two-part essay assignment**. In the first part, you will analyze how a contemporary social institution has evolved or arisen since industrialization in approximately five double-spaced pages. Describe when and how this institution came to resemble its relatively contemporary form, and analyze this process from at least one classical perspective. For example, how might Durkheim interpret the evolution of the modern school system? How would this interpretation differ relative to Marx or Weber? For the second part, you will revise and extend your first essay to hypothesize how the institution you chose might continue to evolve in a post-industrial era. Your hypothesis should be based on contemporary analyses of post industrial society and/or globalization. The total length of the essay should be about eight to ten double-spaced pages.

The assignment prompts posted on SmartSite will provide more information on how they will be evaluated. *Requests for extensions should be made at least 48 hours in advance, and with documentation.* Late assignments will be penalized 10% each day late. The assignments should be submitted as a paper copy at the beginning of class, and as a *pdf document* to SmartSite before class on the due date. Finally, I recommend consulting the [Student Academic Success Center](#) for additional help with writing and other crucial study skills.

The **midterm and final exams** may have multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions. The midterm will cover the first half of the course, and the final will be partially cumulative. A make-up exam will only be allowed in extreme circumstances with appropriate documentation, and must be requested at least 48 hours in advance of the originally scheduled time.

You may request re-evaluation on papers or exams within a week of receiving the grade. To request a re-evaluation, you must submit a written memo to the TA outlining the areas you believe should be re-evaluated. Based on the memo and discussion with your discussion section instructor, both the TA and I may completely re-grade the assignment or exam. Be aware that a re-evaluation may also lead to a lower score.

### Final Grades:

A+	96.7–100%	B+	86.7–89.9%	C+	76.7–79.9%	D+	66.7–69.9%	F	below 60%
A	93.4–96.6%	B	83.4–86.6%	C	73.4–76.6%	D	63.4–66.6%		
A-	90–93.3%	B-	80–83.3%	C-	70–73.3%	D-	60–63.3%		

## Course Expectations:

- **Attendance:** The lecture slides will be available online, but the content of the lectures will include much more than the slides. You will be expected to take detailed notes from the lectures. *The lecture slides and readings alone will not be sufficient to perform well on the exams.* Please sit in the back rows of the classroom you wish to use laptops. Phones should not be used in class for any reason.
- **Reading:** Required readings come from academic articles and book chapters posted on SmartSite, and a variety of online sources. The syllabus lists the required readings for each week, and contains hyperlinks for some online sources. As an upper division class, expectations for the length and complexity of the readings are high. It would be very difficult to complete the readings at the last minute, so I strongly encourage you to stay on schedule from week to week. Keeping up is particularly important to perform well on the quizzes.
- **Academic Integrity:** You are responsible for your own work. Group discussion of course topics and material is strongly encouraged. However, your arguments in course assignments and exams should be your own. Any instances of plagiarism (including the use of sources without appropriate citation) or other forms of cheating will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs. More information is available [here](#). Please consult the [Code of Academic Conduct](#), your TA, or me with any uncertainties.
- **Students with Disabilities:** Please notify me in the first week of the course for any necessary accommodations. Please also request a letter of verification from the Student Disability Center. Prior to each exam, email me one week in advance if you would like to make alternative arrangements for testing time/place.
- **Communication:** I encourage you to visit office hours with any questions or issues about the material or the course itself. You may email me to schedule an appointment if you have schedule conflicts with my regular office hours. Also, you should visit office hours *before* it is too late (i.e., the day before an exam or an assignment is due) to resolve any issues with understanding the material, study/note-taking skills, etc. Please inform the instructor of your discussion section if you cannot attend. You are not expected to notify me or the TAs if you cannot attend lecture. However, you are still responsible for knowing the material you missed. Please be sure to begin the subject line for all emails with “Soc 141:”, or your message may be missed. Email responses may take a couple days, and email will not be checked regularly during evenings and weekends. *Please consult the syllabus and other relevant course documents before emailing with questions that are already answered. In general, any question or concern requiring a reply longer than a two sentences is best discussed in office hours.*

## Course Schedule

The course schedule and assigned readings are subject to revision throughout the quarter.

- Week 1** Sept. 24                      **Introduction**
- Week 2** Sept. 29 & Oct. 1    **Classical Perspectives**  
Readings:                      Blumer, *Industrialization as an Agent of Social Change* (1964)  
   Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (1776)  
   Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society* (1893)
- Week 3** Oct. 6 & 8                      **Classical Perspectives (cont.)**  
Readings:                      Marx, “Wage Labour and Capital” (1847)  
   Marx and Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party” (1848)  
   Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (1904)  
   Polanyi, *The Great Transformation* (1944)
- Week 4** Oct. 13 & 15                      **Urbanization**  
Readings:                      Klein, *The Genesis of Industrial America* (2007)  
   Cronon, *Nature’s Metropolis* (1991)
- Essay topic due Oct. 13**
- Week 5** Oct. 20 & 22                      **Review & Midterm**  
Readings:                      Licht, *Industrializing America* (1995)
- Midterm (Oct. 22)**
- Week 6** Oct. 27 & 29                      **Birth & Death**  
Readings:                      Coale, “The Demographic Transition” (1984)  
   Kirk, “Demographic Transition Theory” (1996)  
   Bongaarts and Watkins, “Social Interactions...” (1996)
- Essay 1 due Oct. 29**
- Week 7** Nov. 3 & 5                      **Families, Gender, & Adolescence**  
Readings:                      Schwartz Cowan, “The “Industrial Revolution” in the Home” (1976)  
   Mintz, “The Changing State of Childhood” (2006)  
   Goldstone, “Gender, Work, and Culture” (1996)
- Week 8** Nov. 10 & 12                      **Post-Industrial Work & Inequality**  
Readings:                      Milkman, *Farewell to the Factory* (1997)  
   Harrison, *Buoyancy on the Bayou* (2012)
- Week 9** Nov. 17 & 19                      **Post-Industrial Work & Inequality (cont.)**  
Readings:                      Wilson, *When Work Disappears* (1996)  
   Brady and Wallace, “Deindustrialization and Poverty” (1998)

**Week 10** Nov. 24      **Globalization, Development, & Inequality**  
Readings:              Wallerstein, *The Modern World System*

**Thanksgiving (Nov. 26)**

**Week 11** Dec. 1 & 3      **Globalization (cont.) & Final Review**  
Readings:              Sassen, "The Global City" (2005)  
                                Sassen, "Cities in Today's Global Age" (2009)

**Essay 2 due Dec. 1**

**Final Exam**              **Friday, Dec. 11, 6:00 – 8:00pm**