

SOC200 Introduction to Sociology

1st and 2nd quarters, Sophomore

Instructor	ITO ISAMU
Style of Class	Lecture
Number of Credits	2
Day and Period	Thursday, period 5

Course Description

The basics of this course are the fundamental standpoints of sociology such as “self and society” and “individual and group”, the basic concepts related to them, and the relationship between theory/doctrine and empirical research. Students develop a basic understanding through case studies of major doctrines and survey research projects of the Chicago School, contemporary symbolic interactionism (SI), and Japanese rural sociology.

Course Objectives

- To acquire a basic understanding of sociological approaches to “self and society” and “individual and group.”
- To understand the mutually constitutive relationship between theory/doctrine and empirical research in sociology.

Prerequisites

- Sociology A (Introduction to Interactionism)
- Sociology B (Sociology of Rural Communities Today)
- Introduction to Research (J)
- Introduction to Global and Community Studies

Class Materials

Text book: None specified. Reference works and materials will be distributed as necessary.

Reference books:

Nakano Masahiro and Hogetsu Makoto (eds.), *Shikago gakuha no shakaigaku* (The Chicago School of Sociology), Sekai Shisosha.

Funatsu Mamoru and Hogetsu Makoto (eds.), *Shimborikku sogosayoron no sekai* (The World of Symbolic Interactionism), Kouseisha-kouseikaku.

Torigoe Hiroyuki, *Ie to mura no shakaigaku (zohoban)* (The Sociology of Households and Villages (expanded edition)), Sekai Shisosha.

The Japanese Association for Rural Studies (ed.), *Mura no shakai o kenkyu suru* (Researching Rural Society), Rural Culture Association Japan etc.

Course Method

Classes are conducted in lecture format, but in order to avoid one-way teaching, all students will be required to submit a short memo on their thoughts in each class.

Evaluation/Assessment

Grades will be determined by reference to three types of submissions: (1) memos submitted in each class; (2) mid-term report; (3) final report.

Grading

Attitude to learning (1 above): 20%

Mid-term report (2): 30%

Final report (3): 50%

Course Schedule

Week 1: Orientation and introduction

Explanation of course structure, format, and grading methods

Introduction to sociology: Definitions, research subjects, research areas, theory and empirical research

Part 1: Approaches to “self and society” and “individual and group”

Week 2: Self and society in the Chicago School/SI (1): G.H. Mead

Interaction/communication as starting points, social development of self and mind, self and the “generalized other”, combined development of self/mind and group activity

Week 3: Self and society in the Chicago School/SI (2): W.I. Thomas

“Value” and “attitude,” “definition of situations,” “social disorganization” and “creative man,” reorganization of society

Week 4: Self and society in the Chicago School/SI (3): H. Blumer

Society as symbolic interaction, sociality and subjectivity of meaning, “joint action” and the self

Week 5: Self and society in the Chicago School/SI (4): E. Goffman

Society as performance, coexistence and interaction with others, maintenance and disruption of the interaction order

Week 6: Individual and group in Japanese rural sociology (1): Suzuki Eitaro

The village as united whole in social relations, “village mindset” and villagers, “household” (domestic union) and its constituents

Week 7: Individual and group in Japanese rural sociology (2): Aruga Kizaemon

Village and “household” plus household federation, “household” as a social security organization and its constituents

Week 8: Individual and group in Japanese rural sociology (3): Kanno Masashi, Tahara Otoyori, Hosoya Takashi

Insights from the studies *Thought and Action of Tohoku Farmers* and *Individual and Group in Rural Life*.

Part 2: Dialogue between theory and empirical research

Week 9: Theory and empirical research in the Chicago School/SI (1)

R.E. Park and E. W. Burgess’ theory of the city and Chicago study

Week 10: Theory and empirical research in the Chicago School/SI (2)

Theory and empirical research in W.I. Thomas and F.W. Znaniecki’s *The Polish Peasant*

Week 11: Theory and empirical research in the Chicago School/SI (3)

A.L. Strauss’ “grounded theory” and hospital study

Week 12: Theory and empirical research in Japanese rural sociology (1)

Suzuki Eitaro’s study on rural villages in Gifu and natural village theory

Week 13: Theory and empirical research in Japanese rural sociology (2)

Aruga Kizaemon’s study of Ishigami (monograph) and household federation theory

Week 14: : Theory and empirical research in Japanese rural sociology (3)

Kanno, Tahara, and Hosoya’s study of Shonai and methodological standpoint

Week 15: Summary of “individual and group” and “theory and empirical research”

Perspectives and methodological outlooks in sociology common across the Chicago School, symbolic interactionism, and Japanese rural sociology

Explanation of final report task

Preparation and Follow-up

- Preparation: Study the applicable chapters in the textbook and reference materials (approx. 1 hour).
- Follow-up: Revise the class content and identify points requiring clarification (approx. 1 hour).