

A brief note about me:

My personal history is perhaps a bit different from the average college instructor. Prior to returning to college in an "adult reentry" program at the University of California at Santa Cruz, I had been in the photography trade, and later, in the restaurant business. There I remained for a dozen years working with family. Later I tried the impossible, having been self-employed for so long. I took a normal job. In a normal corporation. Sadly, or happily, it did not last long and through circumstance and serendipity, I returned to school (UCSC) where I received a bachelors degree, with honors in the major, in sociology. Naturally, my appetite was only whetted by the experience, so it went on to graduate school at the University of New Mexico, where received my masters degree. Due to some family misfortune I terminated there.

[Note: this is one reason I council my students to get their education early, if possible. As time goes by, life gets more complicated, family members die, and obligations tend to increase.]

Why sociology? First, during the restaurant years, I upon occasion got into trouble asking certain customers rather personal questions. That, of course, is now simply part of the job. I am a certified snoop. Second, during my stay in that "corporation," I continually asked for information which I was told was none of my business. Oh yeah? On my own I began reading about "work" (Jeremy Rifkin for example) and about labor (to wit: Irving and son Barry Bluestone). Then, in college upon my discovery of classical social theory, it really came together. I'll leave it at that. You get the picture.

So here I am, having taught for ten years at a few different institutions, both face-to-face and online. I was among the first to develop online courses at Hartnell College in Salinas California. I enjoy educational technology, and creating my own classes, and learning from students. I am a fan of just about anything that is Open Source, so was quite happy to participate in the Openstax textbook project (<https://openstax.org/> ). The whole thing keeps me inspired and active - in an arm chair kind of way.



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