

## **Introductory Sociology (SOCI 1301)**



**Credit:** 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

**Prerequisite/Co-requisite:** None

### **Course Description**

The scientific study of human society, including ways in which groups, social institutions, and individuals affect each other. Causes of social stability and social change are explored through the application of various theoretical perspectives, key concepts, and related research methods of sociology. Analysis of social issues in their institutional context may include topics such as social stratification, gender, race/ethnicity, and deviance.

### **Required Textbook and Materials**

1. Intersections Collections. Strickland/Henslin. 1<sup>st</sup>. Edition. Pearson Education, Inc. 2005
  - a. ISBN number is 1-256-04445-8
2. A package of #882 Scantrons and #2 pencils.

### **Objectives**

#### **Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Compare and contrast the basic theoretical perspectives of sociology.
2. Identify the various methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data in
3. sociology.
4. Describe key concepts in sociology.
5. Describe the empirical findings of various subfields of sociology.
6. Explain the complex links between individual experiences and broader institutional forces.

#### **Core Objectives**

1. **Critical Thinking Skills:** To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. **Communication Skills:** To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills:** To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
4. **Social Responsibility:** To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

## Course Outline

- A. Welcome to Sociology
  - a. Overview of Materials
  - b. Definitions and objectives
  - c. Discussion of Term Projects
    - i. Participant Observation or Community Resource Interview
      - 1. Participant Observation (one of 6 research methods in sociology); sociologist is both a participant and observer in the study
      - 2. Community Resource Review, another research method, in which the sociologist interviews a respondent about an unusual or deviant lifestyle
    - ii. Community Service Project. Student volunteers in community service organization (16 hrs.); or student may work in special events for community-based group, such as “walk-a-thons,” races, food, clothing, toys for needy in area
- B. Learning the Basics in Sociology
  - a. The Sociological Perspective or Imagination
    - i. The Sociological Perspective – how it affects students’ view of world
    - ii. Origins of Sociology – where discipline started; classical sociologists
      - 1. Culture – Material and Nonmaterial
      - 2. Socialization – The process of learning to be human
      - 3. Social Structure and Social Interactions – Groups in Society
      - 4. Societies to Social Networks – Organization & Communication
- C. Social Groups and Social Problems in Society
  - a. Deviance and Social Control
    - i. Location of Sex Offenders by Internet Search
  - b. Social Stratification – Rankings of Property, Power and Prestige
  - c. Sex and Gender – Inequality and Bias Regarding Males and Females (Sexism)
  - d. Race and Ethnicity – Recognizing Racism in Society
  - e. Marriage and Family – A Powerful Social Institution
- D. A Summary of Sociology – Its Core Concepts
  - a. Core Concepts include the following:
    - i. The Sociological Perspective or Imagination – a new view of the world
    - ii. Culture – material and nonmaterial elements of society
    - iii. Socialization – the process of learning to become human
    - iv. Social Structure and Social Interaction – getting along in diverse groups
    - v. Societies to Social Networks – most primitive to most advanced societies

**SOCI 1301**  
Course Syllabi

- vi. Deviance and Social Control – how to control non-conformity
- vii. Social Stratification – layers of people divided by property, prestige, power
- viii. Sex and Gender – sexist attitudes pervading society
- ix. Race and Ethnicity – prejudice and discrimination in diverse society
- x. Marriage and Family – defining the modern family

**Grade Scale**

90 – 100 (360-400 points)	A
80 – 89 (320-359 points)	B
70 – 79 (280-319 points)	C
60 – 69 (240-279 points)	D
0 – 59 (less than 239 points)	F

**Course Evaluation**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- 1. Midterm Exam (Ch. 1-5) 25%
- 2. Final Exam (Ch. 6-10) 25%
- 3. Community Service; Daily Grades 25%
- 4. Course Project 25%

**Course Requirements**

- 1. Written Research Project. Participant Observation Study in Behavior – In a participant observation (case study), the sociologist becomes both a participant and observer in the research project. For this paper, the student should do something outside of the norm by violating a folkway (a weakly sanctioned norm) and write the observations (results) in a factual research paper.
- 2. Current Event Articles. Sociological Issues from newspapers, magazines, or internet sites. Students bring in various articles explaining social problems and events occurring in society as part of class participation/daily grades.
- 3. Community Service Project. Spend at least 16 hours working in a social service or community organization. Students may also give blood, or participate in special events such as “walk-a-thons,” races, or food, clothing drives for points.
- 4. Two Exams (Midterm & Final). Each test will consist of 5 chapters from text; a review sheet will be given to students before the tests.

**Course Policies**

- 1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
- 2. Beepers, telephones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off while in class.

**SOCI 1301**  
Course Syllabi

3. The students are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. Students who stop coming to class and fail to drop the course will earn an ‘F’ in the course.
4. **Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.**

**Disabilities Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the office in Student Services, Cecil Beeson Building.

**Course Schedule** (Schedule subject to change)

<b>Week of</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Week 1	Course introduction and policies; Pre-tests	
Week 2	The Sociological Perspective	pp. 2-35
Week 3	Culture	pp. 36-63
Week 4	Socialization	pp. 64-95
Week 5	Social Structure & Social Interaction	pp. 96-125
Week 6	Societies to Social Networks	pp. 126-151
Week 7	Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-5) Deviance & Social Control	pp. 152-183
Week 8	Guest Speaker: Sex Offenders in your Neighborhood; Megan’s Law. Social Stratification	pp. 184-225
Week 9	Sex and Gender Participation Observation Project Due	pp. 226-259
Week 10	Oral Reports – discussion groups; videos.	
Week 11	Race and Ethnicity	pp. 260-297
Week 12	Complete lecture	
Week 13	Community Service Projects Due	
Week 14	Marriage and Family	pp. 298-335
Week 16	Final Review; Last day of classes	
Final	FINAL EXAMS (May 6-12) <i>Given on the date and time specified by the official exam schedule</i>	

**Contact information varies by instructor.**