

## Introduction to Sociology (SOCI 1301-2A3-202510)

### INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Walter L Holt

Email: [wholt@eagle.lit.edu](mailto:wholt@eagle.lit.edu)

Office Phone: (409) 853-6261

Office Location: N/A

Office Hours: I will be on-call from 2:00PM – 5:00PM Mondays through Friday via phone or email. If using the phone, text me your name and class beforehand.



**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

### CREDIT

3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

### MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Distance Learning (Online)

### PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:

Complete the Online Orientation and answer yes to 7+ questions on the Online Learner Self-Assessment: <http://www.lit.edu/depts/DistanceEd/OnlineOrientation/OOStep2.aspx>.

### 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.

### Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

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

**Core Objective**

1. **Critical Thinking:** To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. **Communication:** To include the effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. **Social Responsibility:** To include the intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

**Required Textbook and Materials**

1. Conerly, T. R., Holmes, K., & Tamang, A. L. (2021). *Introduction to Sociology 3e*. Houston, TX: OpenStax.  
<https://www.oercommons.org/courses/openstax-4/view>
2. Access to media/video files via YouTube, Netflix, Hulu, etc.
3. A laptop, computer, tablet, or iPad, and consistent and reliable internet access.

**Course Outline**

- I. Welcome to Sociology
  - a. Overview of Materials
  - b. Definitions and objectives
- II. An Introduction to Sociology in The Global Age
  - a. The Sociological Perspective or Imagination
    - i. The Changing Nature of the Social World – and Sociology.
    - ii. Thinking about and researching the Social World – classical sociological theory, theorist, and sociological research.
      1. Culture – Material and Nonmaterial
      2. Socialization and Interaction – The process of learning to be human
      3. Organizations, Societies, and The Global Domain – Groups in Society
- III. Social Groups and Social Problems in Society
  - a. Deviance and Crime – Shifting Definitions of Deviance.
  - b. Social Stratification in the United States and Globally – Rankings of Property, Power and Prestige
  - c. Race and Ethnicity – Recognizing Racism in Society
  - d. Gender and Sexuality – Gender Diversity, Femininities and Masculinities, Sexuality
- IV. Social Institutions
  - a. Families
  - b. Education and Religion
  - c. Politics and the Economy
  - d. The Body, Medicine, Health and Health Care
  - e. Population, Urbanization, and The Environment
- V. Social Change, Social Movements, and Collective Actions

**ASSESSMENT:**

- 1) **Exams & Quizzes:** Students will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of the material through quizzes and examinations. **There are four quizzes and one**

**comprehensive final** in this course, which consist of true or false and multiple-choice questions. Quizzes are worth 50 points, and the final exam is worth 200 points.

- 2) **Discussion Board:** Students will have **5 discussion posts** that they will be required to complete throughout the semester. Discussions board requirements in this course, consist of a minimum of 250 words, one in-text reference properly cited and listed after the discussion in APA format. **Please Note:** you must respond to two student discussions in complete sentences after making your initial post and you must cite your work in the initial post. All discussion posts are to be cited in proper APA format along with the listed reference(s). **(Wikipedia is NOT a valid source!)**. **All assignments will be due by 11:59 PM on the due date.**
  - a. Failure to follow APA format will result in loss of 10% of the grade for the assignment.
  - b. Failure to hit the minimum of 250 words for the assignment will result in a loss of 10% of the grade for that assignment.
  - c. Lack of replies for that week (2 are required) will result in a loss of 5% of the grade per replies not done (lack of one response is -5%, no responses is -10%)
  
- 3) **Research Paper:** Students will write a two to three-page essay on their background history (upbringing, family history, culture, etc.), their current major/area of focus at LIT, and their career aspirations, in addition to describing the reason(s) as to why they chose the course. Regarding the research paper, I am looking for the following things in the paper: a description of your background (your cultural upbringing), your career goals and aspirations after completing your studies at LIT, and a description of how and why a sociology course such as this one is important in your career and life outside of LIT. When working on the paper, please think about the *sociological imagination* and how each person's sociological imagination differs from person to person, culturally, geographically, and from generation to generation. Questions you should ask yourself and answer when writing this paper include: Who raised you? Are you the oldest, middle child, or the youngest/only child? Were you adopted? What values were instilled in your household? Who planted the seed to pursue higher education? What is your major/area of focus? Where do you plan to work? What type of people do you anticipate working with? How will this course improve, modify, challenge and/or change your world view about the people and world around you? Please keep in mind that ALL of these sources MUST be cited properly in the paper and given proper credit as well as being properly listed in APA format on the "References Page".
  
- 4) **Extra Credit:** Extra credit assignments provide an opportunity to add points to student's overall total via projects assigned specifically by the professor. Assignments include but are not limited to typed summaries of journal articles relevant to class discussions, submitting a typed, one-page paper on a subject selected by the professor (social justice, discrimination, ageism, etc.) as it relates to the course, and/or other opportunities as they arise.

#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance in this course is strongly encouraged and necessary to be successful in any course. Since sociology is a shared learning experience better suited for groups, class discussions, online

discussion boards, and additional assignments (if applicable), will make up a significant portion of one’s participation and attendance in the course.

**DROP POLICY**

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified drop date as listed on the [Academic Calendar](#). If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an “F” in the course.

**STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT**

For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit-hour class, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16- week session OR approximately twelve to eighteen hours in an 8-week session. Online/Hybrid students should expect to spend at least as much time in this course as in the traditional, face-to-face class.

**COURSE CALENDAR**

**SOCI 1301: Introduction to Sociology, Instructor Walter Holt, Spring 2024**

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due for the Week)	Discussion Board (Due on this Date by 11:59 PM)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date by 11:59 PM)
3/20-29	Introduction Week(s) Module #1	Syllabus; Chapters 1&2	DQ #1: Culture	Quiz #1 (CH 1-2)
3/31-4/5	Module #2	Chapters 3-5	DQ #2: Socialization	
4/7-12	Module #3	Chapters 6-8	DQ #3: Stratification	Quiz #2 (Ch 6-8)
4/14-19	<b>Catch up Week</b>	<b>Catch up Week</b>	<b>Catch up Week</b>	<b>Catch up Week</b>
4/21-26	Module #4	Chapters 9-10	DQ #4: Education	
4/28-5/3	<u>Module #5</u>	Chapters 11-15		Quiz #3 (Ch 11-13)
5/05-10	Module #6	Chapters 16-21	DQ #5: Final Thoughts	Quiz #4 (Ch 14-16)
5/12-17	Research Paper Week	<b>No Readings</b>	No DQ due	<b>Final Paper Due</b>
5/19-26	<b><u>Finals Week</u></b>	<b>No readings</b>		<b>Final Exam Due</b>

**Course Evaluation**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- 1. Quizzes/ Exams 57%
- 2. Discussions 23%
- 3. Research Paper 20%

**Grade Scale**

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
0 – 59	F

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

**Course Policies**

1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
2. Cell phones, pagers, earbuds, and other electronic devices must be turned off placed at the lowest possible noise level (silenced) while in class.
3. Earbuds, headphones, beats should not be worn in class.
4. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an 'F' in the course.
5. No late work. In the case of a documentable emergency beyond the student's control, make-up work may be accepted solely at the professor's discretion. Discussion board assignments will have a courtesy of up to one day beyond listed due date to post assignments without penalty. Make up work for quizzes, exams, additional assignments, and extra credit are solely at the discretion of the professor.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students need to familiarize themselves with the institution's Academic Dishonesty Policy available in the Student Catalog & Handbook at <http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty>.

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

**DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of

Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email [specialpopulations@lit.edu](mailto:specialpopulations@lit.edu). You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](#).

### **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT**

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at [www.lit.edu](http://www.lit.edu). Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

### **STARFISH**

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

### **ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION**

I'll reply to your questions within 24-48 hours except during holidays or weekends. When emailing, always list your name, the course and section number. **Example: SOCI 1301. 2A1. [2A1 is the section number in this example.]** Make sure to always use proper email etiquette when emailing and/or responding to classmates on the discussion board. All assignments must be submitted by the due date unless specified by the professor with a valid excuse. Students are required to participate by interacting with other students via discussion board assignments, in-class discussions, group activities, and the research.