

SOCIOLOGY (SOCI 1301 3D1)

Introduction to Sociology



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION Instructor:

Dennis White

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Office Phone: 409-247-5277

Office Location: Technology Center Building Room 214

Office Hours: By Appointment

MONDAY: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm; 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

TUESDAY: 10:00 am – 10:30 am; 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

WEDNESDAY: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

THURSDAY: 10:00 am – 10:30 am; 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

FRIDAY: 8:30 am – 10:00 am

CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face

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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Explain what sociology is, how it developed, and how it differs from other social sciences.
2. Compare and contrast sociological perspectives as they relate to our social world.
3. Identify various research methods and explain why sociological research is important in our everyday lives.
4. Describe key concepts in sociology and early contributors to the field.
5. Explain how using our sociological imagination helps us to understand society.

Approved: August 2025

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

- Textbook: SOCI - Introduction to Sociology 3e, OpenStax, Rice University, 2021. ISBN number for digital version is 978-1-951693-97-8. Note: Digital version is immediately available on Blackboard for students and there is no need to purchase the book.
- Note: Bring Pens/Pencils and writing and Note Taking Materials to Each Class. Study All Handouts supplied in the course. Make Use of Study Guides
- Access to media/video files Blackboard, Computer Access, etc. for submitting all assignments
- Access to PowerPoint – Chapter Power Points via Blackboard
- Internet access and appropriate computer for Course EXAMS 1 and 2 and Final Exam.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Participation is assessed through exercises completed in class. Activities may consist of class assignments, group activities and individual analysis of information from various sources including the text. However, six unexcused absences will result in a 50% grade reduction in the Participation/Attendance Grade

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 (Subject to Change)

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week 1	Course introduction and policies An Introduction to Sociology	Orientation <i>Textbook</i> : Chapter 1 September 20, 2025	September 20, 2025
Week 2	Sociological Research	<i>Textbook</i> : Chapter 2 September 20, 2025	September 20, 2025
Week 3	Culture	<i>Textbook</i> : Chapter 3 September 20, 2025	September 20, 2025
Week 4	Society and Social Interaction	<i>Textbook</i> : Chapter 4 September 20, 2025	September 20, 2025
Week 5	Socialization	<i>Textbook</i> : Chapter 5 October 18, 2025	October 18, 2025
Week 6	Groups and Organizations	<i>Textbook</i> : Chapter 6 October 18, 2025	October 18, 2025
Week 7	Deviance, Crime and Social Control	<i>Textbook</i> : Chapter 7 October 18, 2025	October 18, 2025
Week 8	Media and Technology Social Stratification in the United States	<i>Textbook</i> : Chapters 8 & 9 October 18, 2025	October 18, 2025
Week 9	Global Inequality Race and Ethnicity Gender and Sexuality	<i>Textbook</i> : Chapters 10, 11, 12 November 15, 2025	November 15, 2025
Week 10	Aging and Elderly Relationships, Marriage and Family Religion	<i>Textbook</i> : Chapters 13, 14, 15 November 15, 2025	November 15, 2025
Week 11	Education Government and Politics Work and the Economy	<i>Textbook</i> : Chapters 16, 17, 18 November 15, 2025	November 15, 2025
Week 12	Health and Medicine Population, Urbanization, and the Environment Social Movements and Social Change	<i>Textbook</i> : Chapters 19, 20, 21 November 15, 2025	November 15, 2025
Week 13	All Assignments Due All Projects Due		December 2, 2025
Week 14	All Research Papers Due Final Exam Review		December 2, 2025

Week 15	Final Exam Review		December 2, 2025
Final Exam	Online Blackboard		December 3-8, 2025 (Until 11:30 AM on December 8, 2025)

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Core Assessment “Self Reflection” - 21 %
- Exams 1 & 2 One (1) FINAL EXAM – 33 %
- Community Service Project – 10% Alternative to Community Service Research Document(Counts toward Exams)
- Critical Thinking Analysis – 10 % (Counts Towards Exams)
- Assignments – 16 %
- Participation – 5 %
- Attendance – 5 %

GRADE SCALE

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

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

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-minimumcomputer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or Wi-Fi 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. 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. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

AI STATEMENT

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into the classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses.

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

- EXAMS – Tests will cover various theoretical perspectives, key concepts, and related research methods of sociology. Exams will be administered on BLACKBOARD. There will be two exams and the Final Exam.
- ASSIGNMENTS – All Assignments must be submitted on BLACKBOARD.
- RESEARCH PAPER – Each student will conduct research on a specified topic relative to sociology. The student will work to produce a research paper and presentation using the research model and methods discussed in class. ALL written work must be submitted on BLACKBOARD.
- Critical Thinking Assignment – Students will utilize their critical thinking skills to discuss issues currently trending in the field of Sociology and complete one (1) typed document that must be submitted on BLACKBOARD.
- Community Service Project – Students will complete 10 hours of volunteer service working with social and civic organizations in a local community. (Alternative Project). The student must provide official confirmation from the social or civic organization at which volunteer service was conducted, to include the date(s), hours of service, and the type of service provided.
- Participation/Attendance – Participation is assessed through exercises completed in class. Activities may consist of class assignments, group activities and individual analysis of information from various sources including the text. However, six unexcused absences will result in a 50% grade reduction in the Participation/Attendance Grade.
- Students should log in to BLACKBOARD a minimum of three times a week to view announcements, to view exam dates for availability and due dates for exam completion, check e-mail, etc.
- **The Course Calendar is subject to change without prior notice.**
- The instructor does not allow AI use in this class. Students work must be their own and sources must be properly cited.