

Introduction to 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. Essentials of Sociology by George Ritzer, 2nd edition, Sage Publications, Inc., 2016
 - a. ISBN number is 978-1-4833-8089-6
2. A package of #882 Scantrons and #2 pencils.
3. Access to media/video files via YouTube, Netflix, Hulu, etc.

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 Objectives

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. **Empirical & Quantitative (optional):** To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
4. **Social Responsibility:** To include the intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Approved
07/2017

Course Outline

- I. 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 (10 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
- II. 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
- III. 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
- IV. 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
 - 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

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Grade Scale

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

Course Evaluation

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

1. Tests	30%
2. Research Paper	25%
3. Critical Thinking Analysis	20%
4. Common Assignment	15%
5. Participation/Attendance	10%

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. Children are not allowed in class.
5. 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.
6. No late work. In the case of a documentable emergency beyond the student’s control, make-up work may be accepted solely at the instructor’s discretion.
7. Attendance policy – Student may miss up to 6 class periods. More than six absences may cause a student to fail the course. If a student is tardy to class or departs early three (3) times it will be equal to one (1) absence.
8. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor and can be found in the course syllabus addendum according to section.

Technical Requirements (for courses using Blackboard)

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, software, Java, etc. can be found online at: https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Student/015_Browser_Support/015_Browser_Support_Policy A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or Wi-Fi is necessary to maximize the use of the online technology and resources.

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

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accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the online resource:

<http://www.lit.edu/depts/stuserv/special/defaults.aspx>

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 or obtained in print upon request at the Student Services Office.