Introduction to Sociology (SOCI 1301) Online

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Jana Tiefenwerth, M.S.

Email: JTiefenwerth@lit.edu (Usually responds within the hour.)
Department Phone: 409.880.8191
Office Location: Online Virtual Office Only
Virtual Office Hours: Phone Conferences Weekdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. by Appointment

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION
100% Online

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:
Check with your advisor.

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. *This course is time-bound, structured, and completed totally online.*

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.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
Students are expected to participate in the course at a minimum three times a week by completing weekly assignments and reading/viewing all posted resources and textbook reading assignments by the listed due dates. Due dates are within the Course Schedule.

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/SCHEDULE

Course Starts 1-17/23   Course Ends 3/10/23

DB=Discussion Board, Q=Quiz, SOC PROJ = Sociology Project

MODULE ONE

Week One: Starts 1/17 Covers Unit 1 & Unit 2

What's due? Meet and Greet, Q1, DB1, Q2

Due When? 1/22

Week Two: Starts 1/23 Covers Unit 3 & Unit 4

What's due? Q3, DB2, Q4

Due When? 1/29

MODULE TWO

Week Three: Starts 1/30 Covers Unit 5 & Unit 6

What's due? Q5, Q6

Due When? 2/5

Week Four: Starts 2/6 Covers Unit 7 & Unit 8

What's due? Q7, DB3, Q8

Due When? 2/12

MODULE THREE

Week Five: Starts 2/13 Covers Unit 9 & Unit 10

What's due? Q9, Q10,

Due When? 2/19

Week Six: Starts 2/20 Covers Unit 11 & Unit 12

What's due? Q11, DB4, Q12

Due When? 2/26

MODULE FOUR

Week Seven: Starts 2/27 Covers Unit 13 & Unit 14

What's due? Q13, **SOC PROJ**, Q14

Due When? 3/5

Week Eight: Starts 3/6 Covers all Units. Review all units and previous quizzes.

What's due? Final Exam

Due When? 3/10 FRIDAY! This is the last day of the course.

Notes:

Each week starts on Monday in this course and ends on Sunday except in Week 8 which ends on Friday. The Final Exam that is due on Friday, 3/10. Each unit has a quiz. Some units also have discussions due.

DB=Discussion Board, Q=Quiz, SOC PROJ = Sociology Project

The last day to drop with course WITH penalty is Feb. 17th. No late work will be accepted.

YOUR SOCIOLOGY PROJECT IS DUE 3/5/23

COURSE EVALUATION
Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

i. **[14 Quizzes]** (100 points each); There will be 20 MC/TF questions on each timed exam worth 5 points each. Some exam questions relate to the textbook reading, and relate to the posted resources (videos, files, etc.). Quizzes are open-book and have a time limit. Quizzes must be completed in one sitting. You cannot start the quiz and come back to it later because the time will expire. Your instructor will determine the amount of time allowed for each quiz.

ii. **[4 Discussion Board Mini-Papers]** (100 points each); All discussion board mini papers (your original discussion that addresses the week's topics which includes two substantive replies to other students' posts), are worth 100 points each. Each reply (2 required) to other students is worth ten points each. The point of the discussion board is to continue ongoing discussion of the week's topics.

iii. **[Sociology Project]** 100 points. There are two options for the project. Option 1 includes 3 hours of community service and a PowerPoint presentation about that experience. Option 2 is a Research Paper. The paper should be 5 FULL pages (body of paper, not counting cover sheet and reference page), double-spaced, 12-point font, and should include reference material from your textbook and scholarly web sites, a reference list, and cover page. The paper will be written in APA format. Students will choose one option and submit the final project by the due date listed in the Course Schedule. An abstract and running head are not required in the research paper. The paper must be submitted in

two places. One place is to check for originality. Copy and pasting from web sites will not be allowed. Students must avoid plagiarism.

iv. [**FINAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAM]** is worth 100 points. It will consist of 100 MC/TF questions. Many questions on the final exam will be similar to those seen on the unit quizzes.

These grades will be combined and are **weighted** as listed below:

---

1. **Fourteen Quizzes** [100 points each] Counts **28%** of the final course grade.

    Each quiz counts 2% of the final course grade.

2. **Comprehensive Final Exam** [100 points] Counts **12%** of final course grade.

NOTE: The quizzes/exams combined count **40%** of your final grade.

3. **Four Discussions** [100 points each] Counts **40%** of the final course grade.
    Each discussion and required replies count 10% of your final grade.

4. **SOCIOLOGY PROJECT** [100 points] Counts **20%** of the final course grade.
    There are two options for the Sociology Project [Choose one option.] Option 1: Community Service and PowerPoint Presentation OR Option 2: Research Paper
    _____
    These 4 types of learning opportunities combined = **100%** of the Final Course Grade.

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-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. 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.

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

Course Requirements: • This course is 100% online. No quiz or exam will be proctored. • Students are required to have the necessary computer equipment, software, Internet access, and supplies to complete all assignments. • It is the student's responsibility to make sure that assignments submit properly by the listed due date, Central Standard Time. • Read the Syllabus carefully. • Review the Discussion Board Grading Rubric guidelines for discussions. • Students are expected to log on daily to check for any posted announcements and check for e-mails, and

twice weekly to submit assignments and continue discussions on the discussion board in the assigned weeks. If you are not receiving posted announcements in your LIT email, please contact the instructor. Announcements can be viewed using the Announcements tab to the left of your computer screen while in the course room. • Students need Microsoft PowerPoint software. • Your instructor will determine whether to accept late work, but late work is rarely accepted except in the direst circumstance with proof (i.e., death in the immediate family; student is hospitalized.)

Grading Procedure:

How quickly are assignments graded in this class?

Usually, assignments are graded within three class days. Sometimes it takes longer.

How do I know what grade I made on an assignment?

Assignment grades may be accessed through **MyGrades** in Blackboard. Each assignment shows your grade and any comment/grading feedback the instructor might make on your assignment. If a button appears in your list of grades titled *View Rubric*, click it for feedback. To avoid making the same mistakes, students must view the grading feedback on previous assignments.

Please follow the **Course Schedule** to keep up with all due dates in this course. The Course Schedule will be posted within the online course room. The Course Schedule should be your number one source to see all listed assignments and due dates. Additional instructions will be posted in the online course for assignments.

LIT now recognizes "D" as a passing grade.

Grades of INCOMPLETE are rarely allowed and only under the most unusual circumstances. Incomplete grades will involve alternate research papers in APA format within a strict time frame and alternate timed exams that may be proctored.

Additional Instructions:

Students must plan their sociology project early in the semester and complete it well before the due date. The project and two replies must be submitted in the unit where it is due. See the Course Schedule and the Sociology Project Instructions to the left of your computer screen.

DISCUSSIONS: Students may work ahead on discussions to have them ready to copy and paste onto the discussion board during the week due.

Each Discussion and replies Count 10% of your overall grade. It is very important to follow all guidelines in the Discussion Board Grading rubric. Go to the Discussion Board Instructions to the left of your computer screen.

Topics for discussions are listed on the Discussion Board. Each discussion will address three topics. **These topics DO NOT need to be tied together**. They are separate topics that will be discussed in one paper.

Additionally, **one reference list should be provided at the bottom of the paper**. Students should reference the textbook and posted resources within their discussions. When referencing the textbook, after the referenced sentence put (SOC2e, Section #.#). When referencing the posted resources, put (Name of Resource, Unit #). Include a reference list at the bottom of the discussion. The Free Textbook in the **Reference List at the bottom of your discussion** can simply be listed as: Openstax, Intro to SOC, 3rd edition. NOTE: This is not perfect APA formatting, but the instructor is more concerned that you give credit to your sources.

If at any time during the semester a student finds that course content is not visible on the student's end, please contact the instructor immediately through e-mail. Sometimes a link may be broken, or a module may have been closed inadvertently, so please feel free to contact the instructor if a problem such as this arises.

Students should read ALL posted instructions before emailing the instructor with a question about instructions for assignments. There is a Q & A forum located on the discussion board for students to assist each other with technical or instructional questions.

If a student should stop participating in this online course, or does not ever participate in the course, he or she may receive a failing grade on his or her transcript. **It is the student's responsibility to contact the GEDS department to officially drop the course by the final drop date listed in the Academic Calendar.**

No extra credit will be offered in this course. This is recommended policy at LIT.

Students must submit assignments by the due dates listed in the Course Schedule. **Late work will NOT be accepted except in the direst circumstance with proof (i.e., death in the immediate family; student hospitalization). NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED MORE THAN A WEEK PAST THE DUE DATE. If you have a death in your immediate family or are hospitalized, contact the instructor, or have someone contact the instructor within that one-week period.**

Students must alert the professor to any discrepancy in their list of grades prior to the final exam.

<div align="center">This document is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.</div>