SOCI 1301.2A2   1st 8-Week   SPRING 2026

CREDIT
3 Semester Credit Hours

MODE OF INSTRUCTION
100% 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 includes 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 100% 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.

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

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Jana Tiefenwerth, M.S.

Email: JTiefenwerth@lit.edu (Usually responds within two hours.)
Department Phone: 409.880.8191
Office Location: Online Virtual Office Only
Virtual Office Hours: Phone Conferences Weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by Appointment

Required Free Textbook Link

https://openstax.org/books/introduction-sociology-3e/pages/1-introduction

Required Textbook and Materials

1. Conerly, T. R., Holmes, K., & Tamang, A. L. (2021). Introduction to Sociology 3e.

Houston, TX: OpenStax. See link above.

2. Access to media/video files via YouTube, Netflix, Hulu, etc.

3. A laptop, computer, tablet, or iPad, and consistent and reliable internet access.

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. Online attendance is strongly encouraged and necessary to be successful. Since sociology is a shared learning experience better suited for groups, online discussion boards and additional assignments 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 date as listed in the College Calendar on the Student Success web page. 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, as in the traditional, face-to-face class.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Since students are allowed and encouraged to work ahead, NO LATE WORK will be accepted.

LIT SOCI 1301. 2A2   Spring 2026

1st 8-Week Semester: 1/20 to 3/16/26

Since you are allowed to work ahead, **NO LATE WORK** is accepted. This is a shorter, fast-paced course that completes an entire long semester amount of material in about 8 weeks, so you must work ahead each day on multiple assignments. There are several due dates listed below with multiple assignments due on Thursdays and Sundays in this course, except for the Final Exam. The good news is that you finish this course in only 8 weeks. **DB** = Discussion Board

Helpful Hints: Use this sheet to mark off ⊠ when you have completed all assignments for each unit.

Work Ahead in this course. No late work will be accepted. Follow the To-Do list in each unit.

2026 Due Dates:

Week One [1/20 to 1/25]

What's due on **Sunday 1/25**?

Read ALL the posted instructions on day one. This is **critical** for your success.

☐ – Unit 1: Quiz 1

☐ – 1-Minute **Meet & Greet Video** on the discussion board. Other students will view and reply to your video. This is required to move forward with other assignments in this course. Once graded you will receive a code to begin the first quiz.

Week Two [1/26 to 2/1]

What's due on **Thursday 1/29**?

☐ – Unit 2: Quiz 2

☐ – Written **DB1: What is Sociology?** Answer all question parts, then post two replies to at least two other students' posts.

☐ – 1-minute **DB1 Video Summation**. This summation will only be viewed by the instructor.

What's due on **Sunday 2/1**?

☐ – Unit 3: Quiz 3

☐ – Written **DB2: Sociological Imagination/Ethics/Culture** & two replies to other students' posts.

☐ – 1-minute **DB2 Video Summation**. This summation will only be viewed by the instructor.

Week Three [2/2 to 2/8]

What's Due on **Thursday 2/5**?

☐ – Unit 4: Quiz 4

What's Due on **Sunday 2/8**?

☐ – Unit 5: Quiz 5

☐ – Unit 6: Quiz 6

Week Four [2/9 to 2/15]

What's Due on **Thursday 2/12**?

☐ – Unit 7: Quiz 7

☐ – Written **DB3: Social Interaction/Groups/Crime & two replies.**

☐ – 1-minute **DB3 Video Summation**. This summation will only be viewed by the instructor.

What's Due on **Sunday 2/15**?

☐ – Unit 8: Quiz 8 **(Note: Work on your Sociology Project Parts 1 & 2 Due soon)**

Week Five [2/16 to 2/22]

What's Due on **Thursday 2/19?**

☐ – Unit 9: Quiz 9

☐ – Unit 10: Quiz 10

What's Due on **Sunday 2/22?**

☐ – Sociology Core Project Part One: Written HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

Week Six [2/23 to 3/1]

What's Due on **Thursday 2/26**?

☐ – Unit 11: Quiz 11

☐ – Written **DB4: Race/Gender & Sexuality/Aging & two replies**.

☐ – 1-minute **DB4 Video Summation**. This summation will only be viewed by the instructor.

What's Due on **Sunday 3/1**?

☐ – Unit 12: Quiz 12

Week Seven [3/2 to 3/8]

What's Due on **Thursday 3/5**?

☐ – Unit 13: Quiz 13

☐ – VERY IMPORTANT <u>Written</u> **SOCIOLOGY PROJECT CORE RESEARCH PAPER- Part Two**

☐ – 1-minute **Sociology Project Video Summation** of Project Paper. This summation will only be viewed by the instructor.

What's Due on **Sunday 3/8**?

☐ – Unit 14: Quiz 14

Week Eight [3/9 to 3/13]   SPRING BREAK.

Course Room will remain open. Final Exam due soon. Review previous quizzes and course content in each unit.

What's Due on **MONDAY 3/16**? [Final Exam]

You may take this early if you like in Unit 14.

☐ – **Comprehensive Final Exam** (Over all units and quizzes.)

If there is any discrepancy in your list of grades, you must notify the professor before the final exam.

The last day to drop this class with penalty is 2/20/26. Please double-check this date in the Academic Calendar.

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 do not have a time limit.

ii. **[Discussion Board Forums: 4 Discussion Board Posts/two replies; and 4 Discussion Board Video Summations and 1 Introduction Video. The first introduction video will simply be an introduction video and counts only as attendance. It is mandatory to be able to proceed with the course. It will not be counted in your overall grade.]** (100 points each); All discussion board posts (your original discussion that addresses the topics which include 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 topics. Each of the 4 discussions/with two replies, and the 4 Discussion 1-minute video summations, are weighted equally.

iii. **[Sociology Project Core Research Paper]** 100 points. There are two parts for the project: Part 1 a non-graded, but required, homework assignment, and Part 2 includes a Research Paper, with parts based on the homework assignment and one video summation. Part two paper and video summation are worth 100 points each. See detailed instructions for this SOCIOLOGY PROJECT Core Research Paper and Video Summation in the course room.

iv. [**FINAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAM]** is worth 100 points. It will consist of 50 MC/TF questions. Many questions on the final exam will be like those seen on the unit quizzes. There will be a two-hour time limit.

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

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1. **Fourteen Quizzes** [100 points each] Counts **35%** of the final course grade.

   Each quiz counts 2.5% of the final course grade.

2. **Comprehensive Final Exam** [100 points] Counts **18%** of final course grade.

   NOTE: The quizzes/exam combined count 53% of your final grade.

3. **Four Unit Discussions/4 Discussion 1-minute Video Summations** [100 points each] Counts **26%** of the final course grade.
   The discussions and required replies, and the 4 summation videos each count 3.25% of your final grade.

4. **SOCIOLOGY PROJECT** [100 points] Counts **21%** of the final course grade.
   There are two parts to this Sociology Project, a non-graded homework assignment and a research paper/1-minute video summation. The paper will include online research and academic writing.
   _____
   These 4 types of learning opportunities combined = **100%** of the Final Course Grade. NOTE: Grade weights are determined by the Sociology Department, not by the individual instructor.

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

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

Grading Procedure:
How quickly are assignments graded in this class?
   Usually, assignments are graded within three class days. Sometimes it takes longer.

LIT now recognizes "D" as a passing grade.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS
For the latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc., review the Minimum Computer and Equipment Requirements on the LIT Online Experience page. 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.

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.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE 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 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.

THE USE OF AI IN THIS COURSE

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AI should be used to supplement your learning, <u>not</u> replace your own thinking and effort. You are required to disclose any use of AI in your assignments, including how it was used and the specific tools employed. Misuse of AI, such as using it to complete assignments without proper attribution or during assessments/quizzes, will be considered a violation of academic integrity policies."

Instructor's Personal Policy: If you submit AI generated work without giving credit to your source and without putting the information into your own words, using your own thoughts, you will receive a zero on the assignment. You may (at the instructor's discretion) be able to redo the assignment for a grade of 80 for a perfect paper. The instructor must be able determine the work you submit clearly is from your own thought processes. To avoid receiving a zero, please avoid using AI generated information which defeats your own learning processes. If there is any doubt as to the originality of your work, you will receive a zero. The instructor reserves the right to run assignments through a variety of AI detection software such as Chat Zero.

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 are submitted properly by the listed due date, Central Standard Time. • Read the

Syllabus carefully. • Review all instructions carefully. • 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. • Students need Microsoft PowerPoint software. •Students need access to Kaltura Media or a smart phone to record videos.

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:

If at any time during the semester a student finds that course content is not visible, 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.

If a student stops 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. This is the recommended policy at LIT.

NO LATE WORK will be accepted. Students are allowed to work ahead. Students should not wait until the last minute to attempt to complete assignments since something may happen to prevent timely submissions.

In cases of illness or family emergencies, late work **may** be considered at the instructor's discretion, but it requires immediate communication with the instructor and appropriate documentation, such as a doctor's note. If you miss an assignment due to illness or other major issues, you must contact the instructor within 2 days, or have someone contact the instructor. For late work submissions, a 10-point penalty may be applied to all assignments submitted after the five-day grace period. Any work submitted more than five days after the original deadline will receive a grade of zero. Please note that late assignments may take longer to grade, and feedback may be delayed as a result.

It is crucial that all sources used in your assignments are properly cited in APA format, including references to textbooks, articles, and online resources. Failure to provide appropriate citations or references will result in a loss of points and may lead to academic integrity concerns. Ensure that you list all references used in your work to maintain proper academic standards.

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

*Assignments will only be accepted through Blackboard unless otherwise specified. Do not e-mail assignments to the instructor. Do not attach files unless you are instructed to do so. Copy and paste your discussion or assignment into the text box on the discussion board. For assignments, you may attach a file if instructed to do so. Papers will not be graded if submitted by e-mail. Additionally, all assignments must be completed and submitted as a Microsoft Word document. Following these practices will help ensure a smooth and successful course experience. If you use Google documents and the instructor cannot open your paper due to permission requirements within Google, you may receive a zero. Make sure permission is granted when submitting.

STUDENT CONCERNS AND COMPLAINT RESOLUTION If you have any concerns or complaints during this course, please follow the chain of command outlined below to ensure your issue is addressed promptly and appropriately: 1) Instructor: Your first point of contact should be your instructor. They are available to discuss any issues related to the course content, assignments, or classroom environment. (If your instructor has not responded to your email in a timely manner, please proceed to send a complimentary email to follow up. 2) Program Director/Lead Faculty: If your concern is not resolved after speaking with your instructor, please contact their Program Director or Lead Faculty. They can provide additional support and mediation. 3) Department Chair: Should the issue remain unresolved your complaint will be escalated to the Department Chair. The Chair's office is equipped to handle more serious or persistent issues.

CLASS ETIQUETTE POLICY Respect and professionalism are crucial in this course. All interactions, whether with the instructor or other students, should reflect courtesy and mutual respect. This includes maintaining professionalism when sending emails.

This document is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.