

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 globalization, consumption, technology, social institutions, social structure, social stratification, gender, race/ethnicity, politics, health, education, social movements, 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.

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. 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.
- 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
 - i. Social Change, Social Movements, and Collective Actions

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	15%
2. Research Paper	30%
3. Critical Thinking Analysis	25%
4. Common Assignment	20%

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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/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support/Browser_Checker A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi 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 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. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document

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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.

