

Core Course Syllabus Template

Year Course Offered: 2014

Semester Course Offered: Fall

Department: Sociology, Human Sciences and Humanities

Course Number: 1301

Name of Course: Introduction to Sociology

Name of Instructor: Dr. Stephen Cherry

The information contained in this class syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

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.

Learning Objectives (LO)

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 (CO)

Introduction to Sociology addresses the following core objectives to ensure students develop the essential knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, in a career, in their communities, and in their lives. The core objectives meet the Texas Core Curriculum objectives for the Social and Behavioral Sciences Foundational Component Area

- Critical Thinking Skills - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Communication Skills - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- Social Responsibility - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Major Assignments/Exams

Exams: Two exams, a mid-term and a final will be given over the course of the semester (note dates on the schedule). The exams will primarily focus on information in specific halves of the course and will not span all units. However, students are expected to build upon their knowledge from unit to unit and in this sense, the final exam will be somewhat comprehensive. Possible format for unit exam questions may include multiple choice, short answer and definitions, listings, and essays. Each exam will count as **25%** of your final grade with both exams counting as **50%** in total. Please refer to the ‘policy’ section of the syllabus for make-up test details and procedures. LO 1, 2, and 3; CO – COM, EQS, SR

Projects and Papers: For the written component of the course, students will be assigned four projects throughout the semester, one per major unit. Each project is crafted to apply specific knowledge of course materials to the social world around you. In general, the papers should be **4 to 5** pages in length (may vary slightly per assignment) and will count as **10%** of your final grade with all four totaling **40%**. Specific details and formatting will be handed out in class for each project. LO 4 and 5; CO – EQS and CT

Attendance: Class Attendance is mandatory and roll will be taken. Students who will be absent for religious holidays, sports activities, and or other legitimate reasons need to inform me ahead of time and are responsible for acquiring notes from missed lectures. If a class activity is scheduled on the day of your absence and your absence is excused, please make arrangements for an alternative assignment (if necessary); remember that you can drop one class activity grade. If your absence is unexcused you will not be allowed to make up the work.

Attendance Quizzes/ Activities: At several points in the semester brief in-class activities will be assigned without prior notice. These assignments are intended to facilitate class discussion and provide a means to reward class attendance. Since these assignments will be an in-class activity for a specific day, no make-up assignments will be given. In some rare situations, an alternative assignment may be arranged. Students will be allowed to drop one activity at the end of the semester (if you are absent on an assignment day, you can use your one drop for that one assignment). Class activities will count as a total of **10%** of your final grade.

Extra Credit: Opportunities for extra credit **may** arise from time to time and will be announced in class.

Learning Outcomes	CO	Assessment Methods	Criteria/Targets
1. Compare and contrast the basic theoretical perspectives of sociology.	COM	Assess the Exams for ability to communicate basic theoretical concepts of the discipline.	At least 80% of SOCI 1301 students will receive an evaluation of acceptable or better.
2. Identify the various methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data in sociology.	EQS	Assess the Exams for ability to identify methodological techniques	At least 80% of SOCI 1301 students will receive an evaluation of acceptable or better.
3. Describe key concepts in sociology.	SR	Assess the Exams for ability to apply intercultural competence and civic engagement to key concepts in sociology.	At least 80% of SOCI 1301 students will receive an evaluation of acceptable or better.
4. Describe the empirical findings of various subfields of sociology.	EQS	Assess the 4-5 page papers for ability to analyze numerical data from articles.	At least 80% of SOCI 1301 students will receive an evaluation of acceptable or better.
5. Explain the complex links between individual experiences and broader institutional forces.	CT	Assess the 4-5 page papers for critical thinking skills.	At least 80% of SOCI 1301 students will receive an evaluation of acceptable or better.

Required Reading

Macionis, John J. and Nijole V. Benokraitis. 2006. *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology* (7th edition). Pearson, Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, New Jersey--- **Referred to in the Syllabus as the Main Text (M).**

Recommended Reading

Macionis, John J. 2006. *Society, the Basics* (8th edition). Pearson, Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, New Jersey--- **Referred to in the Syllabus as the Reference Text (R).**

Additional readings may be posted from time to time or handed out in class (all readings should be completed by dates noted on the schedule).

List of Discussion/Lecture Topics

Unit I: Sociological Foundations

Week 1:

What is sociology?
What is social structure?
What is the sociological imagination?

Week 2:

How do we study society and social interaction?
What are the major forms of sociological inquiry?

Week 3:

What are the major theoretical perspectives in sociology?
What are their strengths and weaknesses?
How does each conceptualize society?

Unit II: Culture, Self, and Social Structures

Week 4:

What is the relationship of self to society?
What is culture?

Project I--- due 9/22

Week 5:

Is America experiencing a culture war?
How do we learn culture?
What is the difference between a status and a role?

Week 6:

What are the key features of bureaucracy?
What makes the family the foundation of social life and stability?
How does religion impact individuals and society?

Week 7:

What is the difference between crime and deviance? Is it normal or disruptive?

Project II--- Due 10/11

Unit III: Stratification, Inequality, and Difference

Week 8:

What is the role of conformity on social life?
Are war crimes human nature?

Week 9:

What is the impact of class?
Is stratification beneficial or harmful?
Is the US controlled by a power elite?

Week 10:

What is the impact of stratification on a global scale?
Why has the revolution not occurred?
What is the harsh reality of social inequality?

Week 11:

How are identity, race and ethnicity constructed?
What is the impact of race on social life and institutions?

Week 12:

How has immigration impacted the US?
Now is gender constructed?
What are the changes and challenges for women in society?

Project III--- due 11/13

Unit IV: Urbanization, Modernity, and Social Change

Week 13:

What is urbanization? How has it changed society?

Week 14:

What are the changes and challenges of modernity?
What is McDonaldization?
Is the world clashing over civilizations?
What is terrorism?

Week 15:

How does collective action occur?

Do social movements matter?

What is the future of American society?