

0101S101

Introduction to Sociology

Instructor: TBA

Time: Monday through Friday (June 29, 2026-July 31, 2026)

Office Hours: 2 hours (according to the teaching schedule)

Contact Hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Credits: 4

E-mail: TBA

Course Description

Sociology is the academic discipline concerned with the systematic investigation and understanding of human action and interaction. This broad definition includes everything from the actions, attitudes and beliefs of individual persons to the structures and cultures of entire societies and global regions. Sociologists study all manner of topics, from race relations to sports to religious rituals to immigration patterns (and many other things as well), and they do so through large-scale surveys, interviews, participant observation, documentary analysis and other means of measurement. Sociology not only can be turned into social policies and interventions, but it also enables individual to think imaginatively and to detach from existing preconceived ideas about society and social relationships.

Required Textbook(s)

Reading materials will be provided by the course instructor.

Prerequisites

No prerequisites

Course Goals

By the end of the course students will possess:

1. The basic principles and questions of the discipline;
2. How new members are socialized into the culture of their social worlds;
3. The relationship between individuals and the groups they belong to;
4. Major institutions of society including work, the family, education;
5. Key dimensions of inequality in society, including class, and gender; and
6. Processes of social change.

Course Hours

The course has 25 sessions in total. Each class session is 120 minutes in length. The course meets from Monday to Friday.

Course Schedule

Please note that the schedule is meant to give an overview of the major concepts this course. Changes may occur in this calendar as needed to aid in the student's development.

Week 1	
Monday	Introduction to the class
Tuesday	Sociology: Perspective, Theory and Method
Wednesday	Culture
Thursday	The Ghetto and the Ethnic Paradox
Friday	Discussions and debates Presentation of individual “takeaways” from daily readings
Week 2	
Monday	Socialization: From Infancy to Old Age
Tuesday	Social Interaction in Everyday Life
Wednesday	The Presentation of Self
Thursday	Groups, Networks and Organizations
Friday	Discussions and debates Presentation of individual “takeaways” from daily readings
Week 3	
Monday	Sexuality and Society (1/2)
Tuesday	Sexuality and Society (2/2)
Wednesday	Deviance
Thursday	Social Stratification (1/2)
Friday	Discussions and debates
Week 4	
Monday	Global Stratification Presentation of the topic chosen for final essay
Tuesday	Gender

Wednesday	Race and Ethnicity
Thursday	Family
Friday	Discussions and debates Presentation of individual “takeaways” from daily readings
Week 5	
Monday	Religion Presentation of the three documents for final essay
Tuesday	Health
Wednesday	Aging and the Elderly
Thursday	The Economy and Work
Friday	Discussions and debates Presentation of individual “takeaways” from daily readings

Course Requirements

1. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class.
2. Students are expected to read the required readings prior to the class session in which they are discussed.
3. Class Conduct: Consistent, respectful and informed participation is expected from every student in the course. This includes:
 - * Respectful discussion that avoids personal history;
 - * No email or Internet usage during class;
 - * Cell phones turned off when class begins.
4. I will respond to emails in a timely manner. It is best to make an appointment or speak to me after lecture.
5. It is your responsibility to keep me updated with attendance, email, etc.
6. Please check your email regularly for instructions and readings.

Assignments

There are THREE kinds of assignments that make up your final grade.

1. At the beginning of each class, two students will present and comment for five minutes about one topic they have chosen from the assigned reading. Students can choose from the textbook a concept, a theory, a graph, an image, etc.

This assignment will represent 20% of the final grade.

2. On Fridays, debates and discussions will be organized. For this class, every week each student must choose one topic covered during the week and must find on the internet one little document illustrating the chosen topic (it can be a newspaper article, an NGO report, a little video, a picture, a graph or table, etc.). Each student will present the topic and the document during five minutes. Discussions and debates will be organized based on the chosen topics to help the students deepen their understanding of sociological issues.

Presentation and participation in the debates will represent 30% of the final grade.

3. The written final assignment will be in an essay format. During the first two weeks, each student will select a little sociological topic, and will gather on the internet three documents related to this topic. The documents can be research articles, reports from international organizations as well as small videos and documentaries. The essay will consist in analyzing the gathered documents and mobilize their data as well as the concepts that have emerged during the classes, to propose some elements of a critical analysis of the chosen topic.

Students will be asked to present their chosen topic on Monday of Week 4, and the three selected documents on Monday of Week 5. On Monday and Tuesday of week 5, each student will come for at least one individual meeting with the professor (during office hours) in order to report about the progress made in writing their essay. All these steps will be taken into account in grading the final assignment.

The essay must be between 5 and 7 pages long, double-spaced. It will represent 50% of the final grade.

Grading Scale

The instructor will use the grading system as applied by JNU:

Definition	Letter Grade	Score
Excellent	A	90~100
Good	B	80~89
Satisfactory	C	70~79
Poor	D	60~69
Failed	E	Below 60

Academic Integrity

As members of the Jinan University academic community, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic coursework and activities. Academic dishonesty, includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e., misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or a substantially similar paper, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; or sabotaging other students' work within these general definitions. Instructors, however, determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties that range from the lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.

Attendance

For the purposes of learning assessment and strategic planning, all students must attend each class. Any students with more than three unexcused absences will automatically fail the course.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (Code of Student Life). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. Inappropriate behavior may result in disciplinary action or referral to the University's Behavioral Intervention Team. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

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