

0101S101

Introduction to Sociology

Instructor: TBA

Time: May 18, 2026 - June 19, 2026

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

Contact Hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Credits: 4

Email: 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. What unites such a diverse set of interests, methods and units of analysis is a common perspective. In the simplest terms, sociology is concerned with the contextual understanding of human behavior, where the context is relational, cultural, institutional, historical, or (most commonly) some combination of these.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Required Textbook(s)

Reading materials will be provided in class.

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; and
6. Processes of social change.

Evaluation:

Exams: (60% of final grade) There will be three exams over the five-week term.

Paper: (30% of final grade) Each student is required to do a 3-5 pages paper on a topic of their choosing. The paper should be double spaced in Times New Roman 12 or Calibri 11. **No extensions will be granted, so please do not request one.**

Topic: Please hypothetically design your own video game and focus on the culture and environment of that video game. Research this topic by focusing on the following:

- Look at the game from the different sociological perspectives (Functionalist, Interactionist, Conflict)
- Who are the people or characters in the game?
- What do they look like? What are they wearing?
- How do they interact with other characters in the game?
- What does the environment of the game look like?
- What elements of culture are involved in the game?

Grading:

Research of topic	50 points
How does topic relate to sociology, sociological perspective	40 points
APA format	10 points
Total	100 points

Attendance and Participation: (10% of final grade) The remaining 10% of the student's grade will be determined by regular attendance and participation in class. Each live discussion is 1pt. Students who keep their camera on during the weekly discussions will receive 0.5 extra credit. There are no make-ups or excused absences, so please do not request one. If you miss a weekly discussion, you will receive a zero for that week's discussion, unless other arrangements have been made beforehand. If you are late to the discussion, you will receive half credit for the discussion.

The remaining 5pts will be allocated to the "attendance" of each week. By the end of each week, TA will look at the progress of "lecture video watching" of each student. Students are expected to watch all the recorded videos for that week to earn a full point (1pt) for that week's attendance.

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	
Understanding Sociology	Lecture 1: What is Sociology and What is Sociological Imagination?
	Lecture 2: Some Important Classic and Contemporary sociologists
	Lecture 3: Four Different Sociological Perspectives
	Lecture 4: Taking Sociology with You
Sociological Methods	Lecture 5: What is a Scientific Method?
	Lecture 6: Major Research Designs
	Lecture 7: Ethics of Research and IRB
	Lecture 8: Data Rich Future
Culture	Lecture 9: Culture around the World
	Lecture 10: Cultural Variation, Norms and Values
	Lecture 11: Language, Global Culture War
	Lecture 12: Culture and the Dominant Ideology
Week 2	
Socialization and the Life Course	Lecture 13: The Role of Socialization
	Lecture 14: the Self and Socialization
	Lecture 15: Agents of Socialization
	Lecture 16: Socialization through Life Course
EXAM 1	You will have access to EXAM 1 from Wed. to Thur. to complete it.
Social Interaction, Groups, and Social Structure	Lecture 17: Social Interaction and Reality
	Lecture 18: Elements of Social Structure
	Lecture 19: Understanding Organization
	Lecture 20: Social Structure in Global Community
Week 3	
The Mass Media	Lecture 21: Sociological Perspective on the media I (functionalist and conflict perspectives)
	Lecture 22: Sociological Perspective on the media II (feminist and interactionist perspectives)
	Lecture 23: The Audience

	Lecture 24: The Media's Global Reach
Deviance and Social Control	Lecture 25: Social Deviance and Social Control
	Lecture 26: Law and Society
	Lecture 27: Crime: A Sociological Perspective
	Lecture 28: Crime Statistics and Death Penalty
Stratification and Social Mobility in the U.S.	Lecture 29: Systems of Stratification
	Lecture 30: Income, Wealth, and Poverty
	Lecture 31: Social Mobility in the U.S.
Global Inequality	Lecture 32: The Global Divide
	Lecture 33: Stratification in the World I
	Lecture 34: Stratification in the World II
	Lecture 35: Stratification within Nations: A Comparative Perspectives
Week 4	
EXAM 2	You will have access to EXAM 2 from Mon. to Tue. to complete it.
Racial and Ethnic Inequality	Lecture 36: Minority, and Racial/Ethnic Groups
	Lecture 37: Prejudice and Discrimination
	Lecture 38: Sociological Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity
	Lecture 39: Race and Ethnicity in the United States
Stratification by Gender	Lecture 40: Social Construction of Gender
	Lecture 41: Sociological Perspectives on Gender
	Lecture 42: Women: The Oppressed Majority
	Lecture 43: Emergence of a Collective Consciousness
The Family and Human Sexuality	Lecture 44: Family and Sociological Perspectives on the Family
	Lecture 45: Marriage and Family
	Lecture 46: Divorce and Diverse Lifestyles
	Lecture 47: Human Sexuality
Final Paper	Due Friday

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.