



0101S101

Introduction to Sociology

Instructor: TBA

Time: May 13, 2024 - June 14, 2024

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.

Required Textbook(s)

Schaefer, R. (2012). *Sociology: A Brief Introduction* (10th Edition). New York: McGraw Hill Publishing.

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 and religion;
5. Key dimensions of inequality in society, including class, and gender; 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, Feminist, 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. Full and prepared participation is expected. Attendance is mandatory in the class. Respect towards the instructor and classmates are expected. Unjustified absences, disrespectful behavior and lack of participation will have a negative impact on the final grade. If you miss a weekly discussion you will receive a zero for that week's discussion. If you are late to the discussion you will receive half credit for the discussion. **There are no make-ups or excused absences, so please do not request one.**

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	Ch. 1: Understanding Sociology
	Ch. 2: Sociological Research
	Ch. 3: Culture
Week 2	Ch. 4: Socialization and the Life Course
	Exam 1 (Wednesday)
	Ch. 5: Social Interaction
Week 3	Ch. 6: The Mass Media
	Ch. 7: Deviance and Social Control

	Ch. 8: Stratification and Social Mobility in the U.S.
	Ch. 9: Global Inequality
Week 4	Exam 2 (Monday)
	Ch. 10: Racial and Ethnic Inequality
	Ch. 11: Stratification by Gender and Age
	Ch. 12: The Family and Intimate Relationships Final Paper (Friday)
Week 5	Ch. 13: Religion and Education
	Ch. 14: The Government and the Economy
	Ch. 15: Population, Communities and Health
	Ch. 16: Social Change in the Global Community
	Exam 3 (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.