

SOCIOLOGY 1010: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

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Textbook: *Introduction to Sociology*, by OpenStax College

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We all live in a society that influences us in a variety of ways. Everything from language and the economy to our families and religion can impact our sense of individuality, our beliefs and behaviors, and even our opportunities for success. These shaping forces result in patterns of behavior that can be observed and analyzed. Sociologists try to identify and understand these patterns. They aim to comprehend society by studying it in a scientific way. This course offers an introduction to the various ways that sociologists think about social behavior. Armed with a greater understanding of the ways in which society impacts our lives, we should be able to more effectively evaluate our own beliefs and behaviors, as well as the beliefs and behaviors of others.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

| IDEA Objective | Course Objective | Method of Evaluation |
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| 1. Gaining factual knowledge | ➤ Gaining a basic knowledge of social science research pertaining to patterns of behavior | ➤ Lectures ➤ Course assignments ➤ Quizzes |
| 2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories | ➤ Gaining understanding about concepts and theories related to patterns of behavior ➤ Gaining understanding about the causes and consequences of patterns of behavior | ➤ Lectures ➤ Course assignments ➤ Quizzes |

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| 3. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view | ➤ Learning to be a critical thinker about points of view and evidence pertaining to social behavior | ➤ Lectures ➤ Course assignments |
| 4. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions) | ➤ Learning to apply sociological principles, concepts, theories, and evidence in the examination of social behavior | ➤ Lectures ➤ Course assignments |

GENERAL POLICIES

Decorum and Etiquette: This course addresses many complex issues about which people have widely varying perspectives and insights. As it is important to hear all sides of an issue, we should be willing to listen to what others have to say, as well as to share our own thoughts. These interactions should be thoughtful and respectful. Additionally, no cell phones, laptops, etc. should be on or in use during class time without the consent of the instructor.

Late Work and Make-ups: I will not accept late Sociology Applied Assignments, Journals, and Journal Videos. Moreover, I will not allow make-up quizzes. Since I know that unexpected things can come up, I will drop your lowest quiz score. Finally, I will not allow make-ups on in-class assignments. You can receive credit for them only if you are there to participate. But, I will drop your lowest in-class assignment score.

Students with Disabilities: In accordance with the policies and procedures of the USU Disability Resource Center (DRC), I will gladly provide accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have any disability that may impact your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the DRC at 435-797-2444.

Cheating and Plagiarism: I understand that students are often under a great deal of pressure, but I will not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty. If you are unsure of what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, please refer to *The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State University* (<http://www.usu.edu/studentservices/studentcode/>). If you engage in any kind of academic dishonesty, you will fail the course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation: Throughout the semester, I will give several in-class assignments. The purpose of these assignments is to add to and deepen your understanding of course content. You can receive credit for these assignments only if you are in attendance on the days I give them. Each in-class assignment will be worth **5 points**.

Quizzes: During the course of the semester, I will give several quizzes. These quizzes will evaluate your knowledge of the reading material. Each quiz will be worth **10 points**.

Sociology Applied Assignments: Instead of requiring you to take exams, I will give you several opportunities throughout the semester to demonstrate your understanding of course content. You will write 6 reports (1-page, single-spaced) in which you directly apply sociological principles and concepts to specific activities and experiences. Each of these assignments will be worth **25 points**. I will provide more details about what you need to do as the semester progresses.

Journal: I expect you to write in a journal on at least 50 different days during the semester. A journal can be a useful tool in that it can help you to think about how your social environment shapes you and your life, the lives of those around you, and the world in general. You do not need to write about anything in particular. **I will not read your journal**. The journal will be worth **25 points**. You will **lose half a point** for each day you do not write.

Journal Video: As a final project, you will have to work with some of your classmates to create a 10 to 15 minute video explaining what you and your group members have learned about the impact of social environment in your lives. As you prepare to make this video, you should read and deeply consider what you have written in your journal. This assignment will be worth **50 points**. I will give you more details about this assignment later in the semester.

GRADING

Your grade will be based on how many points you earn relative to the total points possible. I will assign grades according to the following percent breakdown:

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|----------|----|
| 93-100 | A |
| 90-92 | A- |
| 87-89 | B+ |
| 83-86 | B |
| 80-82 | B- |
| 77-79 | C+ |
| 73-76 | C |
| 70-72 | C- |
| 67-69 | D+ |
| 63-66 | D |
| 60-62 | D- |
| Below 60 | F |

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1

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| 1/11 | Topic: Introduction to course Reading: Syllabus |
| 1/13 | Topic: Sociological imagination Reading: Chapter 1 An Introduction to Sociology |

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| 1/15 | Topic: Sociological theory (functionalism and conflict theory) |
| <u>Week 2</u> | |
| 1/18 | No class (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) |
| 1/20 | Topic: Sociological theory (symbolic interactionism and rational choice theory) |
| 1/22 | Topic: Sociological research Reading: Chapter 2 Sociological Research |
| <u>Week 3</u> | |
| 1/25 | Topic: Culture Reading: Chapter 3 Culture |
| 1/27 | Topic: Culture Due: Sociology Applied 1 (Theory) |
| 1/29 | Topic: Culture |
| <u>Week 4</u> | |
| 2/1 | Topic: Socialization Reading: Chapter 5 Socialization |
| 2/3 | Topic: Socialization |
| 2/5 | Topic: Socialization |
| <u>Week 5</u> | |
| 2/8 | Topic: Social structure and social interaction Reading: Chapter 4 Society and Social Interaction |
| 2/10 | Topic: Social structure and social interaction |
| 2/12 | Topic: Social structure and social interaction Due: Sociology Applied 2 (Culture and Socialization) |
| <u>Week 6</u> | |
| 2/15 | No class (Presidents' Day) |
| 2/16 (T) | Topic: Groups and organizations Reading: Chapter 6 Groups and Organization |
| 2/17 | Topic: Groups and organizations |
| 2/19 | Topic: Groups and organizations |
| <u>Week 7</u> | |
| 2/22 | Topic: Social stratification Reading: Chapter 9 Social Stratification in the United States No lecture (Stratified Monopoly) |
| 2/24 | Topic: Social stratification No lecture (Stratified Monopoly) |
| 2/26 | Topic: Social stratification Due: Sociology Applied 3 (Social Interaction, Groups and Organizations) |
| <u>Week 8</u> | |
| 2/29 | Topic: Global stratification Reading: Chapter 10 Global Inequality |
| 3/2 | Topic: Gender and gender inequality Reading: Chapter 12 Gender, Sex, and Sexuality |
| 3/4 | Topic: Gender and gender inequality |
| <u>Week 9</u> | |
| 3/7 | No class (spring break) |

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| 3/9 | No class (spring break) |
| 3/11 | No class (spring break) |
| <u>Week 10</u> | |
| 3/14 | Topic: Gender and gender inequality |
| 3/16 | Topic: Race and ethnicity Reading: Chapter 11 Race and Ethnicity Due: Sociology Applied 4 (Social Class and Stratification) |
| 3/18 | Topic: Race and ethnicity |
| <u>Week 11</u> | |
| 3/21 | Topic: Race and ethnicity |
| 3/23 | Topic: Deviance, crime, and social control Reading: Chapter 7 Deviance, Crime, and Social Control |
| 3/25 | Topic: Deviance, crime, and social control |
| <u>Week 12</u> | |
| 3/28 | Topic: Deviance, crime, and social control Due: Sociology Applied 5 (Gender, Race and Ethnicity) |
| 3/30 | Topic: Religion Reading: Chapter 15 Religion |
| 4/1 | Topic: Religion |
| <u>Week 13</u> | |
| 4/4 | Topic: The family Reading: Chapter 14 Marriage and Family |
| 4/6 | Topic: The family |
| 4/8 | Topic: Education Reading: Chapter 16 Education Due: Sociology Applied 6 (Deviance) |
| <u>Week 14</u> | |
| 4/11 | Topic: Education |
| 4/13 | Topic: Work and the economy Reading: Chapter 18 Work and the Economy |
| 4/15 | Topic: Work and the economy |
| <u>Week 15</u> | |
| 4/18 | Video groups |
| 4/20 | Video groups |
| 4/22 | Video groups |
| <u>Week 16</u> | |
| 4/25 | Video groups |
| 4/27 | Video groups |
| 4/29 | Topic: Final thoughts Due: Journal writing count and Journal Video |

Note: Anything in the syllabus is subject to change. Attending class and regularly checking Canvas will ensure that you do not miss any important news.

