

Sociology 1010: Introduction to Sociology Fall 2017

Instructor: Elham Hoominfar

Class: Tuesday, Thursday, 3 pm to 4:15 pm

Room: Old Main 326

Office: Old Main 224

Office Hours: Tuesday 2 pm to 3 pm, Thursday 2 pm to 3 pm (by appointment)

Email: ehoomin@aggiemail.usu.edu

Required Text:

Conley, Dalton. 2015. *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist*. **5th ed.** Norton.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to “Sociology”. We will learn the basic concepts about society and relationship between society and the individual. This course will help us to know about social behavior of humans and social institutions and organizations. Also, the course is an introduction to theories and methods for studying society and social issues.

In this course we will learn about class, race, gender, sexuality, religion, globalization, education, health care, crime, the media, and the environment through sociological lenses. Moreover, we will examine how society impacts individuals and how society is organized.

Sociology Course Objectives

Sociology courses contribute collectively to form major goals of the Sociology Program.

Students will learn to:

1. Communicate effectively.
2. Think critically, analytically, and reason logically about social issues and/or social problems.
3. Understand and use sociological principles, concepts, and theories to examine social behavior and issues.
4. Understand and evaluate the application of sociological methods to social behavior and issues.

Specific Course Objective

1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends).
2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories.
3. Learning to apply course materials (to improve rational thinking, problem solving and decisions).

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Identify how the sociological perspective illuminates understanding.
- Discuss specific methods used and areas of study within sociology.
- Synthesize the local and global nature and impacts of social circumstances.
- Critically examine theoretical perspectives and be able to apply them to current issues.
- Evaluate ideas and debates using the sociological perspective.

Course Evaluation and Grading

Class meetings will contain of lecture, discussion, presentations, teamwork, activities, and projects. We may also watch some films and video clips, and we may have one or more guest speakers. Students are expected to complete all required readings and assignments on time in order to receive a passing grade. All assignments and exams will be submitted via Canvas.

The evaluation will be weighted as follows:

- Participation, presentation & attendance 20 %
- Team work 20 %
- Four exams 40%
- Short paper 20%

The instructor will assign final grades following the USU standard (see table below):

A	100%	to 94%
A-	< 94%	to 90%
B+	< 90%	to 87%
B	< 87%	to 84%
B-	< 84%	to 80%
C+	< 80%	to 77%
C	< 77%	to 74%
C-	< 74%	to 70%
D+	< 70%	to 67%
D	< 67%	to 61%
F	< 61%	to 0%

- **Class participation, Presentation & attendance:** Students are required to attend each class to learn this course through lectures, class discussion, team works, activates and video presentations. Attendance will be taken periodically and if you are marked down for more than 5 missed classes without prior excuse from the instructor or a written medical excuse, your attendance and participation grade will be zero. (As USU Policy)

If you miss a class session, you are responsible for getting notes and handouts. Neither the instructor nor her teaching assistant will lend their notes or handouts to students. For some chapters, students will do a presentation on the chapter. Some will be individual and some will be in groups

- **Team work:** We will have several exercises in the class in the different groups. Each student should be in a group and do the exercises in collaboration. Each group has its own responsibility and creativity for organization and presentation of their own team work. In the first week of the semester the instructor will explain the team work in the class.

- **Four exams:** We will have four multiple choice exams during the semester, via Canvas, in the new USU testing center. The first exam is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, and the second exam for Tuesday, October 17, the third exam for Tuesday, November 14, and last exam for Tuesday, December 12. The questions derived from the course readings, discussions and videos. Please note that there will be no make-up exams except for those students who miss the exam due to serious illness (this requires submitting a doctors' note).

- **Short paper:**
You will complete paper assignment. This assignment helps you to apply some of the methods and concepts we are learning in the class to your own lives and topics that interest you.
This assignment are due by 11:59 pm on the due date.
Paper: (28-November, paper due)
Choose a topic that affects society in which you are interested.
Find two research articles on the topic (You will need to make sure your topic is sufficiently specific and narrow that all three articles are related) in one of the top sociology journals listed below: (or other academic journals)

Annual Review of Sociology
American Sociological Review
Sociological Methods & Research
American Journal of Sociology
Rural Sociology
Social Science Research
Society and Natural Resources
Social Forces
Social Problems

Read the articles.

Identify and describe the:

research question(s)
hypotheses tested (if they are testing hypotheses)
theories used (if they discuss theory)
methods used

main findings
conclusions of the paper
directions for further research that they identify (if they do)

Conclude by giving your thoughts on the article.

Give your thoughts on the articles and discuss further questions you have, or more research that you think might need to be done.

The paper should be only 5 or 6 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 point font)

A one-page outline for your short paper—which includes the topic of your choice, the name of articles (according to APA or ASA format), and a brief summary of your plan for the paper—will be due on Tuesday, 7-November

Classroom behavior

According to university guidelines and policies, students are expected to respect other students and views and be sensitive to the values and beliefs of others in the classroom. Also please do not disrupt the class by coming in late and leaving early. You do not have permission for using your cellphones in the classroom. Using cellphones or other electronic instruments during the exams are forbidden.

If you need to use laptops or tablets to take notes in the class you need to talk with the instructor within the second week of class. If approved, you need to sit in the first or second rows.

Late submission of works

Late submission for weekly assignments are not accepted after the due date. Late submissions of final projects will be penalized 10% of the grade for each hour that is submitted late.

Students with disability

Students with disability including physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments will likely require some accommodation. The students must contact the instructor and let her know how she can assist them to be successful in the class; and also they should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, (435) 797-2444 voice, (435)797-0740 TTY, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. You should contact DRC during the first two weeks of the semester.

Academic dishonestly

We will follow university guidelines regarding the academic dishonesty policy. Students who participate in academically dishonest activities will receive an F for the course at the minimum.

<http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=96>

<http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=265>

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>What's going on and what you need to prepare:</u>
Week #1		
Tuesday	29-August	Syllabus, Canvas, the textbook, and...What is Sociology?
Thursday	31- August	Ch. 1 (The Sociological Imagination: An Introduction)
Week #2		
Tuesday	5-September	Ch. 2 (Methods)
Thursday	7-September	Ch. 2 (Methods)
Week #3		
Tuesday	12-September	Ch. 3 (Culture and Media)
Thursday	14-September	Ch. 4 (Socialization and the Construction of Reality)
Week #4		
Tuesday	19-September	Ch. 4 (Socialization and the Construction of Reality)
Thursday	21-September	Ch. 5 (Groups and Networks)
Week #5		
Tuesday	26-September	take EXAM 1 (Ch. 1-5) in Canvas; Discuss paper
Thursday	28-September	Ch. 6 (Social Control and Deviance)
Week #6		
Tuesday	3-October	Ch. 7 (Stratification)
Tuesday	5-October	Discuss Paper (by Professional librarian)
Week #7		
Tuesday	10-October	Ch. 8 (Gender)
Thursday	12-October	Ch. 8 (Gender)
Week #8		
Tuesday	17-October	Ch. 9 (Race), take EXAM 2(Ch. 6-8) in Canvas
Thursday	19-October	No Class, Fall Break
Week #9		
Tuesday	24-October	Ch. 9 (Race) / Ch. 10 (Poverty)
Thursday	26-October	Ch. 10 (Poverty)
Week #10		
Tuesday	31-October	Ch. 11 (Health and Society)
Thursday	2-November	Ch. 12 (Family)

Week #11

Tuesday 7-November Ch. 13 (Education). OUTLINE for the Final Paper DUE
Thursday 9-November Ch. 14 (Capitalism and the Economy)

Week #12

Tuesday 14-November Ch. 14 (Capitalism and the Economy) take EXAM 3 (Ch. 9-14) in Canvas
Thursday 16-November Ch. 15 (Authority and the State)

Week #13

Tuesday 21-November Ch. 16 (Religion)
Thursday 23 -November No Class, Thanksgiving Holiday

Week #14

Tuesday 28-November Ch. 17 (Science, the Environment, and Society) PAPER DUE
Thursday 30-November Ch. 17 (Science, the Environment, and Society)

Week #15

Tuesday 5-December Ch. 18 (Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change)
Thursday 7-December Ch. 18 (Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change)

Week# 16

Tuesday 12-December take EXAM 4 (Ch. 15-18) in Canvas