

Sociology 101
Introductory Sociology
Spring 2021
Online

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Office/Student Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:15-12:45pm
(<https://olemiss.zoom.us/j/92062429914>) or by appointment

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Where is Sociology? The Sociology Department is located on the 5th floor of Lamar Hall. Currently, the offices are closed because of the pandemic. If you have any questions about the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the programs we offer, please visit the Department website: <http://socanth.olemiss.edu>

Prerequisites: This course is open to any undergraduate student. Introductory Sociology is required for Sociology majors. This course may be counted toward the “Social Science” requirement for most University degrees.

Course Summary: This course will introduce students to the concepts and principles of sociology—“the scientific study of human social behavior.” We will focus on two central course objectives:

- 1.) To develop *critical thinking skills* involved in “*the sociological imagination*”—the ability to see the private realities of our own lives in the context of common social structures; and
- 2.) To use these skills to examine U.S. society as well as the larger global scene.

We will attempt to come to a preliminary understanding of our current social situation by placing it in historical perspective. By focusing on how our current cultural, political, and economic circumstances affect the way we live our lives, we will be able to more clearly define the problems that we, as a society, are confronting at the start of the 21st century. In particular, we will look at how the social dynamics of wealth, power, and ideology lead to various forms of inequality. We will analyze gender, race/ethnic, and class inequality in some depth. We will also briefly examine many other social issues which confront us at this point in history. Among the topics we will investigate in some detail are: socialization, bureaucracy, consumerism, industrialization, post-industrial society, ethnocentrism, suicide, conforming to authority, rationalization, modernity, post-modernism, political systems, capitalism, socialism, the division of labor, the global economy, modernization, third world development, poverty, wealth, racism, genocide, patriarchy, feminism, sexual violence, and social change. It is my hope that every student in the class will find something of specific interest to her or him and

that all students will come away from the course with an appreciation for what the sociological perspective has to offer.

Course Requirements: To do well in the class, students are expected to do the readings, watch the assigned videos, participate in our online discussions, and complete the activities applying the course material for each week. Reach out for help if you have trouble accessing materials or understanding assignments.

Required Materials: All required materials will be available to you on Blackboard. Make sure you access Blackboard on a regular basis via the web and/or an app on your phone.

There are two books we'll be relying on extensively in this course. Overviews of the topics we'll be addressing come from ***Introduction to Sociology 2e***, available in various formats, most for free, at <https://openstax.org/details/introduction-sociology-2e>. Links to the appropriate sections will be listed in a folder dedicated to each week under the *Content* folder on Blackboard.

The second book is a reader offering classical examples of original sociological writings for many of the topics we'll be addressing: ***Life in Society***, edited by James M. Henslin. I found an electronic copy of the book online and have uploaded it under the *Content* folder on Blackboard.

Additional required readings, videos, weekly discussion boards, assignments, and other course materials will be available in folders dedicated to each week under the *Content* folder on Blackboard.

I'll be sending regular announcements with important information and clarifications by email. Make sure to read these. Copies of the announcements will also be posted under the *Announcements* folder on Blackboard.

A copy of the syllabus is available under the *Syllabus* folder.

Course Assignments: Grades in this course will be based upon the following assignments:

Discussion Board Participation: Each week, you are invited to participate in class discussions related to the topic of the week. Discussion participation involves writing an original post engaging with the readings of the week and responding to at least 4 other students' posts. The original post should demonstrate you grappled with an important concept(s), thinking about how the concept(s) applies to your experiences (or not) and why this may be the case and/or identifying other cases to which the concept applies (or not) and why this may be the case. You may raise questions or suggest elaborations. Responses to other students' posts should be meaningful showing engagement with their ideas and experiences. You are welcome

to express disagreement but must do so respectfully. Initial discussion board posts are due by the end of the day on Wednesdays (except during week 1, when they are due on Thursday) and should be about 100 words. Responses to discussion board posts are due by the end of the day on Sundays and should include at least two complete sentences each. Discussion board participation will be worth 10 points every week, divided equally between initial discussion board posts and responses to your classmates.

Application Activities: Each week, you will also have a series of application activities to complete. The prompt for the week’s application activities will be posted in red in the folder for that week. These activities are designed to help you apply the material you are learning. Experiential learning solidifies the conceptual learning promoted by reading and watching. Each series of application activities will be worth 15 points, except those for week 1, which will be worth 20 points. Application activities are due by the end of the day on Sundays.

Taking Stock Vlog: Finally, you will have the opportunity to take stock of what you have learned during the semester by creating a video and posting it to a class discussion board. The final vlog will be worth 45 points, 35 points for the video itself and 10 points for meaningful responses to the video posts of at least 5 of your classmates.

Course Grade:

Discussion participation	10 pts. weekly	140
Application activities	20 pts. week 1	20
	15 pts. weekly after	195
Taking stock vlog	<u>45 pts. finals week</u>	<u>45</u>
	Total =	400

Final Letter Grade:

90-100%	(360-400 points) = A
80-89%	(320-359 points) = B
70-79%	(280-319 points) = C
60-69%	(240-279 points) = D
00-59%	(0 - 239 points) = F

Discussion and Respect: Many issues in sociology lend themselves to dialogue and debate. The requirement is that you engage in class discussions prepared with evidence! Readings are the basis for our discussions. You are expected to show respect for divergent opinions and conduct yourself according to the University's honor code found in the [M Book](#). In order to provide a safe and secure learning environment, discrimination of any sort—by gender, race, ethnicity, creed, sexual identity, age, ability, or the like—will not be tolerated. Students who fail to respect this code will be advised to the Dean’s office. Sometimes, students may feel strong emotions related to what we discuss. If this happens, you are welcome to say “Ouch!” The class will then

address the source of the strong emotions. Strong emotions indicate some important social phenomenon is involved. We can learn from unpacking what is going on.

Academic integrity: The University of Mississippi Creed affirms the values of “personal and professional integrity” as well as “academic honesty.” In the context of this class, this means working independently (unless otherwise instructed) and guarding against cheating and plagiarism. Plagiarism involves taking someone else’s work, or part thereof, and turning it in as one’s own. This includes taking text from course readings without proper citation. If students have questions about what constitutes academic integrity, cheating, or plagiarism, they can talk to me so I can help clarify this for them. If a student violates the principle of academic integrity, cheating or plagiarizing, there will be consequences, up to and including failing the course and being reported to the Dean for disciplinary action. It will be a BIG mess and will make all of us feel very uncomfortable. (If you feel that you are in a situation that may compel you to cheat see "Help" below).

Help: Dr. Velitchkova and Ms. Hall are available to help you with any problems you may have during office/student hours or by appointment. Please take advantage of this resource. Both your professor and your graduate teaching assistant are here to help you do well in the course. Have your questions ready when you arrive and plan your visit well ahead of a deadline. Dr. Velitchkova is usually not available on the weekend. Also, if you feel that you may need extra help to do well in the course, be sure and see us as soon as possible. The sooner the better.

Email: Dr. Velitchkova teaches hundreds of students and can be overburdened with email. So, before emailing her, do the following:

1. Check the syllabus for answers (yes, it’s like the fine print on an Internet service agreement but read it anyway; you’ll sound unprepared if you don’t).
2. Check for announcements on Blackboard and in your email (yes, you are supposed to read the emails you receive; you expect professors to read the emails you send, right?).
3. If you absolutely must email her, write a professional message following business etiquette (<https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/04/16/advice-students-so-they-dont-sound-silly-emails-essay>). Emailing is not like texting. Due to the large amount of email she receives, expect a delay in her responding and do not be offended if her responses are short. Do not expect a response outside business hours or on the weekend.

Students with Disabilities: Any student who is eligible for accommodations to complete the requirements of this course because of a disability is invited to make her or his needs known to the instructor and should also follow the procedures established by the Office of Student Disability Services (SDS), information about which can be found at <http://sds.olemiss.edu>.

Counseling Support: The University Counseling Center is a professional facility offered by the University of Mississippi to assist students, faculty, and staff with many types of life stressors

which interrupt day-to-day functioning, including the stressors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. They offer individual counseling, couple’s counseling, group counseling, stress management, crisis intervention, assessments and referrals, outreach programs, consultations, and substance abuse services. There is no fee for currently enrolled University students and everything you say to your counselor is confidential. You can contact the Counseling Center for information about mental health issues at <https://counseling.olemiss.edu>, counslg@olemiss.edu, 662-915-3784, 320 Lester Hall, and <https://www.facebook.com/universitycounselingcenterolemiss/>. You can schedule an appointment or get information about appointments by calling the UCC at 662-915-3784.

Food Insecurity Support: For students struggling with food insecurity, the University offers support through the Grove Grocery. For more information, please visit: <https://grovegrocery.olemiss.edu/>.

Semester at a glance

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Assignments for the week</i>
1	Sociological Imagination	▶ <i>Discussion post</i> ▶ <i>Responses to at least 4 people</i> ▶ <i>Application activities</i>
2	Sociological Theory	▶ <i>Discussion post</i> ▶ <i>Responses to at least 4 people</i> ▶ <i>Application activities</i>
3	Scientific Method	▶ <i>Discussion post</i> ▶ <i>Responses to at least 4 people</i> ▶ <i>Application activities</i>
4	Culture	▶ <i>Discussion post</i> ▶ <i>Responses to at least 4 people</i> ▶ <i>Application activities</i>
5	Socialization	▶ <i>Discussion post</i> ▶ <i>Responses to at least 4 people</i> ▶ <i>Application activities</i>
6	Groups and organizations	▶ <i>Discussion post</i> ▶ <i>Responses to at least 4 people</i> ▶ <i>Application activities</i>
7	Social interaction	▶ <i>Discussion post</i> ▶ <i>Responses to at least 4 people</i> ▶ <i>Application activities</i>
8	Social stratification	▶ <i>Discussion post</i> ▶ <i>Responses to at least 4 people</i> ▶ <i>Application activities</i>
9	Gender, sex, and sexuality	▶ <i>Discussion post</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Responses to at least 4 people</i> ▶ <i>Application activities</i>
10	Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Discussion post</i> ▶ <i>Responses to at least 4 people</i> ▶ <i>Application activities</i>
11	Global stratification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Discussion post</i> ▶ <i>Responses to at least 4 people</i> ▶ <i>Application activities</i>
12	Social institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Discussion post</i> ▶ <i>Responses to at least 4 people</i> ▶ <i>Application activities</i>
13	Social change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Discussion post</i> ▶ <i>Responses to at least 4 people</i> ▶ <i>Application activities</i>
14	Social movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Discussion post</i> ▶ <i>Responses to at least 4 people</i> ▶ <i>Application activities</i>
<i>Finals week</i>	Taking stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Vlog</i>