



# Introduction to Sociology

Wintermester Spring 2020  
SOC F101X Section FQ1 CRN 35583  
Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
MTWRFS, noon-5pm

## Course Description

This course provides examination of the complex social arrangements guiding individual behavior and common human concerns in contrasting cultural contexts.



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## General Course Goals

The goals of the course are to introduce core sociology concepts to undergraduate students as well as expand their self-awareness and critical thinking skills.

## Learning Objectives

Students who actively participate in all aspects of the course will be able to:

- understand concepts and applications of the sociological imagination and sociological perspectives as compared to other disciplines, junk and pop science, and common sense
- apply the sociological imagination to everyday situations
- apply one of the major sociological paradigms to any given social situation

- identify personally relevant sociological concepts
- have a beginning understanding of sociological theory and methods, including being able to read, understand, and critique simple sociological studies
- explain sociological aspects of societies and culture, roles and statuses, families, deviance, social group and institutional dynamics, class inequalities, race and ethnicity, sex and gender, and social change
- analyze the relationship between self and society

## Prerequisites

Placement in ENG F111X or higher (via ACT/SAT/Accuplacer) or prior college level writing course work.

## Required Text

- *SOC 2020* 6<sup>th</sup> edition by Jon Witt. McGraw Hill. ISBN 9781260075311 or 9781260398458 (loose leaf)
- Additional materials will be posted in the in Blackboard, please note when they need to be read by on the Class Schedule.

## Blackboard

We will use Blackboard fairly regularly (<https://classes.alaska.edu>) for grades, submitting out-of-class assignments (and getting feedback on them from me), as well as posting of additional resources and materials.

## Grading

You can earn up to 130 points in this class. 13 points = full letter grade!

Assignment	Points value	Due date
Someone Should Do a Study (paper)	20	Mon. 1/6
Changes (Final Project)	20	Sat. 1/11
9 Participation activities @ 10 pts/each	90	throughout
Extra Credit Opportunities (pts vary)	Up to 10	throughout

A+ = 126+	C = 95-99
A = 121-125	C- = 91-94
A- = 117-120	D+ = 87-90
B+ = 113-116	D = 82-86
B = 108-112	D- = 78-81
B- = 104-107	F = <78
C+ = 100-103	

## Out of Class Assignments

There will be two out of class assignments (OOCs) that will involve more detailed thinking and writing than our in-class activities. Instructions for these assignments are posted in Blackboard in the Out of Class Assignments folder. Late assignments will not be accepted due to the compressed nature of this course.

## Participation Activities

Please come to class fully prepared to participate by completing all posted reading assignments. Bring your textbook to class as well as something to write with. Attending class is essential! **In-class participation activities cannot be made up due to absence for any reason.**

Participation points on in-class activities can be earned in a variety of ways (see table below) but only 10 can be earned per session/day.

Attended class & on time	5 pts
Contributed to in-class discussion/activity*	1-3 pts
Demonstrated strong grasp of chapter concepts	1-2 pts
Participated meaningfully in chapter Discussion Board posts	1-3 pts

\*Students can earn contribution points by: participating meaningfully in discussions and class activities, being able to answer basic sociology questions from the textbook when called on, engaging fully in class activities, asking relevant or thought-provoking questions, providing meaningful examples from their life when appropriate, being rated as engaged and helpful by class-mates during small group activities.

Points will not be earned for: tardiness or leaving early, sleeping or otherwise not paying attention in class, using non-sociological arguments during class discussions/activities, engaging in any other prohibited behaviors as outline below in the “in class behavior” section of the syllabus.

Demonstrating a strong grasp means not having to look up the answers in the book during class, being able to relate the concepts being discussed to other disciplines, demonstrating critical thinking and sociological imagination, doing outstanding written work, being a strong facilitator during small group activities, bringing pertinent research articles to class for discussion. This is high B through A level work.

## **Discussion Board posts**

These dialy prompts are completely optional and are provided as a way for more shy or introverted students to still earn full participation points each week. Responses must be submitted no later than midnight on the day they are due. Respectfully commenting on other students’ posts is encouraged and may earn additional points.

## **Extra Credit**

Individual extra credit is not available in this course. Instead, class research time will be offered periodically during which we will engage in sociological research that is of interest to the class. Class research opportunities cannot be made up due to absence for any reason.

## **Universal Writing Rules for Out-of-class Assignments**

- use Word or similar word processing program then copy and paste or upload to Blackboard
- use the double space option for line spacing
- use normal 1” margins (this is usually the default setting)
- no extra line space between paragraphs (this should also be the default setting)
- 12 point Times or Times Roman
- number your pages at the bottom
- USE PARAGRAPHS (do not write one giant page-long paragraph)
- Do not waste a half page on your title (name/section/date/etc). Just your name and the name of the assignment is enough.
- proofread carefully for spelling, grammatical, usage, or other errors
- points may be deducted from your assignments for disregarding these writing rules
- If you mention a specific source in your paper, please provide me a link or note of some sort as to where I can find the original information. You are not required to use MLA or APA formatting, but may choose to if you wish.

# General Course Policies

## Contacting your instructor

I will almost always answer your e-mails within a few hours so that is the best way to reach me.

## Academic freedom

To be successful in the class, you do NOT have to adopt or like my ideas, the ideas from the course material, or the ideas of the other students. But you **MUST** use course material in your work in the class. Please note that this course does examine and discuss mature and sometimes controversial topics.

## Reading

Study the assigned readings so you can participate in class activities and be prepared. Commit sufficient time to do the reading in a comprehensive manner (ie do not cram right before class). If I call on you during class and you are consistently unable to answer questions, you will not be successful in this course.

## Assignments

Out-of-class assignments **are due in Blackboard** on the date posted. Emailed and hand-written assignments will not be accepted; these assignments must be submitted through Blackboard. I cannot open .pages documents (please save them as a PDF or copy/paste your work into the Blackboard submission textbox). If you need help using Blackboard, please contact me right away.

## Attendance

We will be learning in this class primarily through in-class discussion and activities so attendance is mandatory. Please remember that in-class participation activities cannot be made up. Due to the compressed nature of this course, if you miss more than one session you will be Withdrawn (on/before Jan 6<sup>th</sup>) or failed from the class (after Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>).

## In class behavior

Come to class prepared to engage and remain civil and respectful of others. Students who repeatedly disrupt class discussion, who flame or bait others, who chronically refuse to respect academic freedom, or who insist on using non-sociological theories/rationale will be dropped from the class, will lose points on assignments, and/or have their final grade lowered significantly at the instructor's discretion. That said, you are welcome to disagree and express your sociological viewpoint as long as it remains respectful and is backed up by the course material. Expect me to interrupt you if you stray too far away from course material during class discussion. If you have concerns, please come talk with me privately.

## Electronics in class

Please do bring your laptops, tablets, and smartphones to class as we may find these to be useful during class discussion. **Please do not use your electronics during class** in ways that are disruptive or do not include others (e.g. no texting, games, or personal calls). Yes, I can see you snapchatting. Please silence your phones so they do not disrupt the class.

## Incompletes

Incompletes are not possible for this course due to the short timeframe.

### **Instructor-initiated Withdrawal**

I may withdraw students who exhibit prohibited behaviors including: chronic lateness or leaving early; chronic absence; failure to read assignments; refusal to participate in class activities, including discussions; sleeping in class; using electronics inappropriately in class; hostile or disruptive behavior; are caught in an act of academic dishonesty; refuse to respect the academic freedom of others; insist on using non-sociological concepts during class discussions or in assignments; coming to class while under the influence of substances that are prohibited from UAF campus. I may also withdraw students who have not demonstrated sufficient progress of a “C-“ or better by the withdrawal deadline. I will always attempt to contact you by e-mail and phone if you are in danger of failing and/or being withdrawn.

### **Academic Honesty**

Expect an F if you are caught in an act of academic dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism, or falsification (submitting work that was done by someone else). You can read the university’s student code of conduct here: <http://catalog.uaf.edu/academics-regulations/students-rights-responsibilities/>.

### **Disability Services**

UAF’s Disability Services Office offers assistance, including academic accommodations, to students who have a documented disability, but you must do this at the beginning of the term. Please contact DSO for more information: website: <http://www.uaf.edu/disability/>; phone: 907-474-5655; email: [uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu)

### **NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: [www.alaska.edu/titleIXcompliance/nondiscrimination](http://www.alaska.edu/titleIXcompliance/nondiscrimination).

The University of Alaska Board of Regents have clearly stated in BOR policy that discrimination, harassment and violence will not be tolerated on any campus of the University of Alaska. If you believe you are experiencing discrimination or any form of harassment, including sexual harassment/misconduct/assault, you are encouraged to report that behavior. If you disclose sexual harassment or sexual violence to faculty members or university employees, they must notify the UAF Title IX coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. Your choices for disclosure include:

1. You may confidentially disclose and access confidential counseling by contacting the UAF Health and Counseling Center at 474-7043.
2. You can get support and file a Title IX report by contacting the UAF Title IX coordinator at 474-7599.
3. You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the UAF Police Department at 474-7721.

# How To Win SOC 101

TLDR

- There are 130 points: two out-of-class papers/projects you do at home (20 pts/ea) and nine in-class activities (10 pts/ea). Every assignment matters!
- Show up to class on time.
- Check your school or school-related email DAILY in case of emergency class cancellation or change.
- Yes, the textbook is required. Read the textbook.
- No really, read the textbook and preferably take notes. I will call on you in class!
- IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION AND EXTRA CREDIT DAYS CANNOT BE MADE UP.
- There are no cumulative tests, mid-term, or final.
- Back up your ideas with sociological terms/concepts on all assignments and in class discussions. Do not assume that I know what you know. Write or speak enough to demonstrate your understanding.
- Use the free Writing Center Tutoring in the English department to proof-read/spell-check your four out-of-class assignments. Points will be deducted for spelling/grammar issues.
- Don't be a jerk. We're not all going to agree on everything and that's great! Be respectful and listen before you speak.
- Maximum effort. Read the textbook.

# How To Fail SOC 101

what not to do

- *Show up late.*
- *Sleep in class.*
- *Sneak out of class early.*
- *Be unable to answer basic questions about the chapter each week.*
- *Answer questions in class (or on assignments) based on what your Uncle Ned/Wikipedia/religious text/psychic hotline told you about how the world works. I am not trying to say they are bad or wrong, just that our focus is sociology during our class-time together.*
- *Blow off your two out-of-class assignments.*
- *Ask to make up in-class assignments (the answer is no!)*
- *Ask to make up extra credit days (the answer is no!)*
- *Don't ask for help.*
- *Bait your classmates into arguments.*
- *Wait until the last minute to submit work in Blackboard only to have a technical glitch happen.*
- *Email me 5 minutes before class with an urgent question.*
- *Work two jobs, take 15 credits, and expect to pass this class with no effort.*

Date	Day	Topic/Chapter
1/2	Thurs	Ch. 1- Soc Imagination
		Ch. 2- Research
1/3	Fri	Ch. 3- Culture
		Ch. 4- Socialization
1/4	Sat	Ch. 5- Soc. Strct & Intrxn
		Ch. 6- Deviance
NO CLASS SUNDAY JAN. 5TH		
1/6	Mon	Ch. 7- Families
		Class Research Project, catch up if needed
1/7	Tue	Ch. 8- Ed & Religion
		Ch. 9- Econ & Poli
1/8	Wed	Ch. 10- Social Class
		Ch. 11- Global Inequality
1/9	Thurs	Ch. 12- Gender & Sexuality
		Class Research Project
1/10	Fri	Ch. 13- Race & Ethnicity
		Class Research Project
1/11	Sat	Ch. 14- Pop, Health, & Envr
		Ch. 15- Social Change