



Framingham
State University

SOCI 101 – Introduction to Sociology

COURSE INFORMATION:

Semester	: Summer 2020 (July 6, 2020 - August 7, 2020)
Credit	: 4
Teaching Hours	: 50 Hours
Location	: Online
Professor Name	: Fatema Zohara
E-mail	: fzohara@framingham.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is an introductory course to Sociology - a discipline that studies human behavior and the organizations of society. Sociology is a field of study that examines social, political, and economic phenomena in terms of social structures, social forces, and group relations. The course will cover several important sociological topics, including socialization, culture, and the social construction of knowledge, social inequality, and how sociologists carry out research. Credit: 4-hrs.

The Goal of this course is to convey the distinctive features of the sociological imagination to our students from different disciplinary areas via introducing the basic concepts, methods and theoretical approaches of sociology.

The Objectives By the end of the course, the students should be able to:

- Describe the sociological perspective and explain its improvement over common-sense reasoning;
- Describe the major sociological theories and the historical context of their creation;
- Apply these concepts and theories to explain contemporary social problems;
- Apply the key concepts highlighted in the course;
- Exercise independent and critical thinking skills;
- Understand of how society shapes us and how we shape our society.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: This course consists a range of activities including group learning, lectures, discussions, and video/audio presentations. Students will be evaluated by response papers, attendance, and participation in class, a final paper, and a final presentation.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Henslin, J. (2019). *Sociology. A down-to-earth approach* (14th Ed.). Pearson. ISBN: 13: 978-0-13-474004-1

Other course materials will be distributed via email.

EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE: Grades will be determined through the following major performance areas:

Response paper (400 - 500 words) (56%) – You are required to submit a total of **seven** out of eight 1-page response paper throughout the semester. Response papers are critical reflections of the readings and are not a simple repetition of the material; instead, they are designed as a critique and reflection.

RESPONSE PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH BLACKBOARD BY 11:59 PM EVERY TUESDAY AND FRIDAY.

Weekly Discussion (21%) – You’re required to post a question(s) and a comment(s) on the discussion board from the assigned readings. I encourage you to comment and/or answer on your classmates posed questions and comments.

RESPONSE PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH BLACKBOARD BY 11:59 PM EVERY TUESDAY AND FRIDAY.

Final paper (3-4 pages) (23%)– For your final paper, you can pick any topic of your choice that will be covered this semester. Write a term paper which provides a small overview of how sociology (mainly) has explored or approached the phenomenon. Make sure to explain the basic issue/phenomena, concepts, the different dimensions of the issue that are interesting to sociology and any other information that you think is necessary to explain what we know and what we still need to know about the issue/phenomena.

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A 94 - 100 points	C 73 - 76
A- 90 - 93	C- 70 - 72
B+ 87 - 89	D+ 67 - 69
B 83 - 86	D 63 - 66
B- 80 - 82	D- 60 - 62
C+ 77 - 79	F 59 or lower

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University assumes that all students come to Framingham State University with serious educational intent and expects them to be mature, responsible individuals who will exhibit high standards of honesty and personal conduct in their academic life. All members of the Salem State University academic community have a responsibility to ensure that scholastic honesty and academic integrity are safeguarded and maintained. Cheating and plagiarism are unfair,

demoralizing, and demeaning to all of us. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational role and cheapen and diminish the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected that Salem State University students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts.

Please refer to definition of plagiarism and cheating found on the FSU website:

http://catalog.framinghamstat.edu/content.php?catoid=19&navoid=2098#Academic_Integrity

CRITICAL EMERGENCIES

In the event of a critical emergency, please refer to the alternative educational plans for this course. Students should review the plans and gather all required materials before an emergency is declared.

EQUAL ACCESS

Framingham State University is committed to providing equal access to the educational experience for all students in compliance with Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act and The Americans with Disabilities Act and to providing all reasonable academic accommodations, aids and adjustments. Any student who has a documented disability requiring an accommodation, aid or adjustment should speak with the instructor immediately. Students with disabilities who have not previously done so should provide documentation to and schedule an appointment with Disability Services and obtain appropriate services.

STATEMENT OF INCLUSIVITY

This class respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds, identities, and abilities. If there are circumstances that make our learning environment and activities difficult, if you have medical information that you need to share with me, or if you need specific arrangements, please let me know. I am committed to creating an effective learning environment for all students, but I can only do so if you discuss your needs with me as early as possible. I promise to maintain the confidentiality of these discussions.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE
Week 1	Introduction to the course	Read the syllabus and email me if you have any questions	7/06
Week 1	The Sociological Perspective	Read Chapter 1 Response paper and Discussion	7/10
Week 2	Culture	Read Chapter 2 Response paper and Discussion	7/14
Week 2	Socialization	Read Chapter 3 Response paper and Discussion	7/17
Week 3	Social Structure and Social Interaction	Read Chapter 4 Response paper and Discussion	7/21
Week 3	Societies to Social Networks	Read Chapter 6 Response paper and Discussion	7/24
Week 4	Global Stratification	Read Chapter 9 Response paper and Discussion	7/28
Week 4	Social Class in the United States	Read Chapter 10 Response paper and Discussion	7/31
Week 5	Race and Ethnicity	Read Chapter 12 Response paper and Discussion	8/04
Week 5	Final Paper		8/07

Note: Topics and reading assignments are subject to change. The syllabus may change based on the class needs. Students will be notified in advance regarding these changes.

Date syllabus prepared: July 2020