



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

SO900 Introduction to Sociology (Online)

Instructor Information:	Qingli Meng Home Institution: University of Northern Iowa Email: ztmeng99@yahoo.com Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 am to 10:30 am (China Time) or by Appointment		
Term:	June 29, 2020 - July 24, 2020	Credits:	4 units
Class Hours:	Monday through Friday, 120 mins per teaching day		
Discussion Sessions:	2 hours each week, conducted by teaching assistant(s)		
Total Contact Hours:	66 contact hours (1 contact hour = 45 mins, 3000 mins in total)		
Required Texts (with ISBN):	Jeanne H. Ballantine, Keith A. Roberts, and Kathleen Odell Korgen. 2019. Our Social World: Introduction to Sociology, 7th Edition. SAGE. ISBN: 978-1-5443-3353-3		
Prerequisite:	Competent in English (Oral and Written)		



On-line Course Orientation and Structure

SO900 Introduction to Sociology is a fully on-line course. It is a demanding and rigorous course that requires you to become more active participants in your learning. This fully on-line course means that all of our interactions and course requirements will be completed online using Blackboard. You must have access to a computer from which you can access the Internet, open PDF files and Word Files, and watch online videos. You must be prepared to spend at least 18-24 hours per week during the summer four-week period completing course readings and assignments. There are firm deadlines for all assignments, discussion board participations, and Quiz/Test/Exam (See the Course Calendar for due dates). Do not procrastinate! College level reading and writing skills are absolutely necessary to succeed. Students must be self-motivated and self-disciplined, and possess good time management skills.

1. Communication: I prefer that you communicate with me via email as the standard methods of communication for this class. If you have a personal concern or question, you are encouraged to email me at ztmeng99@yahoo. I will make every effort to response to your emails within a 24-hour window.
2. Office Hours: I will have online/virtual office hours from 9:00 am to 10:30 am (China Time) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which means I will be available by email and visual communication for immediate responses during the online/virtual office hours. These office hours are subject to change, and I will make every effort to notify you in advance of any changes. By appointment, I will also periodically be available for office hours at night (China Time), particularly in the day or two before an exam or assignment is due.

Course Description and Objectives

Course Description:

The objective of this course is to provide you with basic knowledge and understanding of concepts and content areas in the discipline of sociology. The course materials focus on understanding basic social processes, and how to apply sociological concepts to issues and topics concerning you and your relationships within various human groups anywhere in the world. This course explores sociological approaches to the study of society. It develops your ability to think critically about issues and topics affecting societies around the world, that is, the application of sociological perspectives to various sectors of social life and patterns of social relations as they vary by social location. Thinking critically means (a) understanding the strengths and weaknesses of different and/or opposing points of view (b) no matter how strongly you believe that you are right and everyone else is wrong.

Learning Outcomes / Course Goals

At the conclusion of the course, each student will be able to do the following: Students understand the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources.

Prerequisite:

Competent in English (Oral and Written)



Required Materials

A. Textbooks

Additional readings can be found in the Blackboard system as outlined in the syllabus.

B. PowerPoint Slides

A detailed PowerPoint slide for each course chapter will be available. Be sure you read through each PowerPoint assignment in conjunction with the assigned readings. You need to treat these slides just as you would treat a lecture from an on-campus class. The material in these slides is very important. Some of it overlaps with textbook material, and some of it is new material. You are expected to know this information in order to complete assignments and take exams.

C. Technology

You will need to have access to a computer, either personal or on-campus, from which you can access all course materials on the Internet in Blackboard as well as various websites and videos as indicated in several of the Power Point slides. Documents will be either PDF or Word files.

Learning Objectives

Course Objective	
#1 [C-1]	Identify major sociological theories, and compare and contrast their key concepts and assumptions.
#2 [C-2]	Apply sociological theories to explain social phenomena.
#3 [C-3]	Apply sociological concepts and principles to the study of organizations and specific examples of behavior and interaction.
#4 [C-4]	Identify basic methods used in building sociological knowledge.
#5 [C-5]	Explain the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts.
#6 [C-6]	Assess the nature and values of organizations and politics and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.
#7 [C-7]	Analyze quantitative and qualitative data to test hypotheses or address research questions.
#8 [C-8]	Evaluate an argument based on its thesis, assumptions and supporting evidence.



Course Organization and Requirements

Introduction to Sociology course is organized into four modules:

Module One: The Scientific Study of Society, Social Structure, Processes Week 1 (June 29 – July 5)

Module Two: Social Control and Inequality Week 2 (July 6 – July 12)

Module Three: Institutions Week 3 (July 13 – July 19)

Module Four: Social Dynamics Week 4 (July 20 – July 24)

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Course Expectations:

Email Etiquette: This is a fully online class, you will mostly be communicating with me through email. It is important to think of this communication as a formal dialogue between professor and student. Be sure that in all emails you send properly address me, identify yourself, and make an appropriately worded request. I will not respond to what I consider rude or inappropriately worded emails or emails that lack an appropriate salutation and sender identification.

Student Etiquette: You are asked to follow some guidelines to help maintain a constructive online learning environment. Be conscious of how your words can impact others. While each student has a right to his or her opinion and has the freedom of speech, no one has an unlimited right to either of these. A good rule to abide by is to think about whether or not you would say what you want to write to someone face-to-face. We need to ensure a safe and positive learning environment. Therefore, acts of racism, sexism, ageism, or any other "ism" will not be tolerated. Students engaging in such activity will receive a zero for their posts. A second such act will result in removal from the class. Class discussions should take place within the context of academic inquiry and in the spirit of understanding diverse perspectives and experiences.

2. Assigned Readings:

All readings for a particular chapter should be read in full before you complete associated assignments. It will be to your advantage to read multiple times prior to the exams covering all the chapters during the whole summer session. You are responsible for all material covered in the readings. You are expected reading the textbook and study it enough to answer questions on the exam generated from the textbook material.

3. Assignments:

There are a number of assignments for this course. Grades for each assignment will be posted approximately 1/2 week after the due dates. Descriptions of further details for the completion of each assignment can be found in the Course Content folder under the Assignments folder. Late assignments will lose one full letter grade per day, beginning on due date and time (e.g., 8:01pm for assignments due by 8:00pm).



Course Component	Due Date (At 8:00pm)	Points
Introduction Discussion Board	June 30	10
Syllabus Quiz	June 30	10
Essay Question Discussion Board #1	July 1	20
Exam 1	July 3	100
Essay Question Discussion Board #2	July 5	20
Essay Question Discussion Board #3	July 8	20
Exam 2	July 10	100
Essay Question Discussion Board #4	July 12	20
Essay Question Discussion Board #5	July 15	20
Exam 3	July 17	100
Essay Question Discussion Board #6	July 19	20
Essay Question Discussion Board #7	July 22	20
Final Exam	July 24	140
	Total	600

4. Discussion Board Participation:

The discussion board component of this class simulates, mildly, both being present in class as well as actual participation in the class. Therefore, your discussion board posts must be substantive and draw on class material. There are 8 Discussion Board Assignments (Including the Introduction). In the discussion board, you will 1) respond to the question assigned in the learning unit (original posting) and 2) reply to a minimum of two of your classmates' postings (reply posts). Posting are time-sensitive, so be sure you read the Course Outline closely.

5. Discussion Board Netiquette:

Most importantly, always remember to address the professor and students in a respectful manner. I do not expect all of us to agree in our discussion board topics. But we can disagree in a civil and respectful manner. Avoid using texting “jargon” like ‘u’ and ‘r’ –use proper English spelling and grammar.

6. Discussion Board Grading:

Because discussion boards are meant to engage you in dialogue with your classmates over course material, I expect substantive, detailed posts. To earn full credit for each unit posting, you must do the following:

- a) Post an original response that
 - Completely addresses the topic/question provided
 - Approaches the topic in an innovative way



- Use of course materials to inform the response/reply. It is important to refer to and properly cite the textbook or PowerPoint slides in your posts.
- b) Post two replies to classmates' responses/posts that:
 - Build on your classmate's response by being detailed, creative, and clear (i.e., do NOT reiterate what they have said or what you have already said in your original post). For example: why do you agree or disagree with their post or what else did their post make you think about?
 - Use course material to support your argument.
- c) All posts must contain the following:
 - Use of standard English (correct spelling, proper grammar, no text-message abbreviations)
 - On-time posting (late entries = 0 points)

7. Blackboard Announcements:

The course announcements will include any changes or modifications to course materials or requirements. I will also use this tool to announce activities that reflect topics we are studying and that might be of interest to you. If you would like for me to post an announcement about a co-curricular activity that might be of interest to other students, please email me, and I will review the request and post in the announcements if relevant.

8. Examinations

There is a total of four exams. The final exam is not cumulative. All exams will comprise multiple-choice questions. Exams will cover material from the course textbook, readings, and Power Points. See the course outline for specific reading and PowerPoint assignments that correspond with each exam.

Exam Procedures: **Each exam will be timed.** Be sure to pick an appropriate time and location in which to take the exam (See “Best Technical Tips on Online Quiz/Test/Exam Taking” by clicking “Start here”. You can also get access to “Best Technical Tips on Online Quiz/Test/Exam Taking” in each of Exam Week Folder on the Blackboard). You need to have an uninterrupted 120 minutes to take each exam. Once you enter the exam, you only have 120 minutes to complete it. If you leave the exam and try to return to it after the 120-minute time limit has elapsed, you will not be able to re-enter the exam; no responses will be saved.

Exams must be taken between the dates and times listed below.		
You will have a 120 minutes time limit to complete each exam.		
Exams	Exam Available Beginning:	Exam must be completed by:
Exam 1	8 am Friday, July 2	10 pm Friday, July 2
Exam 2	8 am Friday, July 10	10 pm Friday, July 10
Exam 3	8 am Friday, July 17	10 pm Friday, July 17
Final Exam	8 am Friday, July 24	10 m Friday, July 24



Make-up Policy: You are expected to take all exams on time as directed in the course outline. Make-up exams are only given for extreme extenuating circumstances. Decisions about make-ups and extended deadlines will be made on a case-by-case basis and will depend on the circumstances as well as your prior history of adherence to due dates and other class rules. In this case, you are required to provide documentation of why you missed the exam. In the rare event a make-up exam is warranted under the circumstances described above, the exam may differ (e.g., more essays) than a regular exam. Make-ups may be harder than regular exams. This is not meant to be mean or spiteful. It is to uphold the integrity of this class, college grades, and your fellow classmates. If you want to request an extended deadline, you must do the following:

- Notify me by email at least 12 hours before the due date.
- Include in the email responses to these two statements:
 - 1). Why you are requesting the extension.
 - 2). The time of extension you will be requesting.

9. Grading

- Your final course grade is based on the following scale:

A	555-600	B	495-524	C	435-464	D	375-404
A-	540-554	B-	480-494	C-	420-434	D-	360-374
B+	525-539	C+	465-479	D+	405-419	F	0-359

- Grade Appeals:

If you dispute an assignment or test grade, submit a written complaint via email to me within one week of receiving the grade. In writing the complaint, address all comments given to you on the assignment/exam by the professor. Write a clear, rational paragraph addressing these comments and explain why you feel you didn't earn the assigned grade. If you have extenuating circumstances that are prohibiting you from completing course requirements, contact me immediately, not at the end of the July Session.

- Assistance:

You are encouraged to contact me as soon as you encounter difficulty. Assistance is readily available for those who make sincere efforts to understand the material (i.e. reading daily assignments, participating in discussion board, etc.).

10. Honor Code

You are expected and required to do your own work on course assignments. Cheating and plagiarism are unethical. These behaviors undermine the learning experience.

If a student is caught cheating on a course assignment, that student will receive zero points for the assignment. If a second offense should occur, the student will receive a failing grade for the course.



Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

Date	Day	Lecture	Graded Assignments and Exams	Objectives
June 29 Monday	1	Sociology: A Unique Way to View the World(Chapter 1 Page 1 – 25)	1). Introduction Discussion Board ; 2). Syllabus Quiz ; 3). Essay Discussion Board Assignments #1, #2; 4). Exam 1	1,2,3
June 30 Tuesday	2	Examining the Social World: How Do We Know? (Chapter 2 Page 26-53)		
July 1 Wednesday	3	Society and Culture: Hardware and Software of Our Social World (Chapter 3 Page 55-89)		
July 2 Thursday	4	Socialization: Becoming Human and Humane (Chapter 4 Page 90-117)		
July 3 Friday	5	Interaction, Groups, and Organizations: Connections That Work Exam 1 Review (Chapter 5 Page 118-141)		
July 6 Monday	6	Deviance and Social Control: Sickos, Freaks, and Folks Like Us (Chapter 6 Page 142-177)	1). Essay Discussion Board Assignments #3, #4; 2). Exam 2	3, 4, 5, 6
July 7 Tuesday	7	Stratification: Rich and Famous or Rags and Famine? (Chapter 7 Page 180-214)		
July 8 Wednesday	8	Race and Ethnic Group Stratification: Beyond “Us” and “Them” (Chapter 8 Page 216-250)		
July 9 Thursday	9	Gender Stratification: She/He-Who Goes First? (Chapter 9 Page 252-285)		
July 10 Friday	10	Exam 2 Review		
July 13 Monday	11	Family: Partner Taking, People Making, and Contract Breaking (Chapter 10 Page 292-319)	1). Essay Discussion Board Assignments #5, #6; 2). Exam 3	4, 5, 6, 7
July 14 Tuesday	12	Education: What Are We Learning (Chapter 11 Page 320-349)		
July 15 Wednesday	13	Religion: The Social Meaning of Sacred Meaning (Chapter 12 Page 350-384)		
July 16 Thursday	14	Politics and Economics: Probing Power, Dissecting Distribution (Chapter 13		



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		Page 386-418)		
July 17 Friday	15	Exam 3 Review		
July 20 Monday	16	Health Care: Anatomy of Health and Illness (Chapter 14 Page 420-452)	1). Essay Discussion Board Assignments #7; 2). Final Exam	6, 7, 8
July 21 Tuesday	17	Environmental Sociology: Population, Urbanization, and Climate Change (Chapter 15 Page 456-490)		
July 22 Wednesday	18	Process of Change: We Can Make a Difference! (Chapter 16 Page 492-522)		
July 23 Thursday	19	Final Exam Review		
July 24 Friday	20	Final Exam		