



**Shanghai Jiao Tong University**  
**SO900 Introduction to Sociology**

<b>Instructor Information</b>	TBD		
<b>Term</b>	June 28, 2021 - July 29, 2021	<b>Credits</b>	4 units
<b>Class Hours</b>	Monday through Thursday, 120 mins per teaching day		
<b>Discussion Sessions</b>	2 hours each week, conducted by teaching assistant(s)		
<b>Total Contact Hours</b>	66 contact hours (1 contact hour = 45 mins, 3000 mins in total)		
<b>Required Texts (with ISBN)</b>	Jeanne H. Ballantine, Keith A. Roberts, and Kathleen Odell Korgen. 2019. <i>Our Social World: Introduction to Sociology</i> , 7th Edition. SAGE. ISBN: 978-1-5443-3353-3		
<b>Prerequisite</b>	Competent in English (Oral and Written)		
The course might be moved to online delivery due to COVID-19 pandemic. Students will be notified once the decision is made.			



## Course Overview

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

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.

## Expected Learning Outcomes

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

## Course Grade

Your grade in this class will be based on Exam, Chapter Test, and Class Participation.

### Exam (60%)

There are three exams and a final exam. The format of the multiple choice questions and essay question exams. The exams are not cumulative but will be based on the information presented immediately preceding each exam. The final exam is also not cumulative but will be based on the information presented immediately preceding the exam. All the exams are close-book in class exams. The essay part of final exam is an open-book take home exam.

No make-up exams will be given except for rare and exceptional circumstances.

### Chapter Test (20%)

You will be required to complete 16 Chapter Tests during the whole semester. Chapter Tests will be distributed during each class session. All the chapter tests are take home open-book tests. You are expected to complete each test and submit it to the TA before each class session. No make-up after the due date. No exception. Test questions will cover material from the lectures, course text, readings, and



Power Points that correspond with each test.

**Class Participation (20%)**

Class will alternate among lectures, seminar, and class discussion formats. Instructions for discussion will be given during class time. Daily attendance is mandated for this course, and excessive absences will be reflected in your participation grade. For safety reasons, the classroom will be locked 10 minutes after class starts. Please be well prepared to discuss the topics and related readings each day that class is held. Please be polite to your peers and respect their different opinions. Your grade on class participation is based on both daily attendance and class discussion. Final participation grade will be impacted if you are absent from class or/and consistently unprepared for discussion. Please turn off your cell phones before coming to class. **Do not send text messages during class.**

**Grading Policy**

Chapter Test	20%
Class Discussion	20%
Exams	60%

**Grading Scale is as follows**

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1
≤59	F (Failure)	0

Note on Grading -- The professor reserves the right to assign additional work and/or tests if it becomes apparent students are not actively engaged in the material. Course grading will be adjusted accordingly.

Grade Appeals -- If you dispute an assignment or test grade, submit a written complaint via email to the professor 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 the professor immediately, not at the end of the semester.



## Contact Information

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, please email me at [ztmeng99@yahoo.com](mailto:ztmeng99@yahoo.com) or meet with me during my office hours or make an appointment to meet with me during non-office hours. I will make every effort to response to you within a 24-hour window. Exceptions to this will be weekends.



**Class Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Day 1	Sociology: A Unique Way to View the World	Chapter 1 Page 1 – 25
Day 2	Examining the Social World: How Do We Know?	Chapter 2 Page 26-53
Day 3	Society and Culture: Hardware and Software of Our Social World	
Day 4	Socialization: Becoming Human and Humane	Chapter 3 Page 55-89
Day 5	Interaction, Groups, and Organizations: Connections That Work	Chapter 4 Page 90-117
Day 6	Exam 1 Review	Chapter 5 Page 118-141
Day 7	Exam 1	
Day 8	Deviance and Social Control: Sickos, Freaks, and Folks Like Us	Chapter 6 Page 142-177
Day 9	Stratification: Rich and Famous-or Rags and Famine?	Chapter 7 Page 180-214
Day 10	Race and Ethnic Group Stratification: Beyond “Us” and “Them”	Chapter 8 Page 216-250
Day 11	Gender Stratification: She/He-Who Goes First?	Chapter 9 Page 252-285
Day 12	Exam 2 Review	
Day 13	Exam 2	Chapter 10 Page 292-319
Day 14	Family: Partner Taking, People Making, and Contract Breaking	Chapter 11 Page 320-349
Day 15		
Day 16	Education: What Are We Learning	Chapter 12 Page 350-384
Day 17	Religion: The Social Meaning of Sacred Meaning	
Day 18	Politics and Economics: Probing Power, Dissecting Distribution	Chapter 13 Page 386-418
Day 19	Exam 3 Review	
Day 20	Exam 3	