



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

SO900 Introduction to Sociology (Online)

Instructor Information	Qingli Meng, Ph.D Home Institution: University of Northern Iowa Email: ztmeng99@yahoo.com		
Term	June 28, 2021 - July 23, 2021	Credits	4 units
Course Delivery	The class will be delivered in the format of online. Other than recorded lecture videos, the instructor will arrange 3 hours' real-time interactions with students per week (via discussion forum, zoom meeting, and WeChat). The workload students are expected to complete to properly pass this course is about 8 hours per week.		
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)		



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 politics 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 taking 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%)

Since this is an online class, class participation will be replaced by discussion board assignments. You will be required to complete 10 discussion board assignments during this summer session of classes. Your grade on class participation is based on both original postings and respond postings.

Discussion Board:

Discussion topics will be locked after two days. This means that you will no longer be able to post on these topics! So please do not wait to post. The Discussion Forum on Blackboard Learn 9 will be used for class discussions as well as for postings of general interest that are directly related to the course. You are expected to participate actively in these online discussions by posting multiple high-quality course-related messages. Please note that regular participation in online discussions is a graded element of this course. Regular participation will be factored into your final grade. Participation includes not only responding to the established topics but also reading and replying to your classmate's posts. You will be evaluated on both the quality and quantity of your post. 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:

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.

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.

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).

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.



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 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

Date	Lecture/Content/Topics/...	Online Teaching Arrangement	Readings/Chapter/...
Day 1	Sociology: A Unique Way to View the World	Approximately 60 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom	Chapter 1 Page 1 – 25
Day 2	Examining the Social World: How Do We Know?	Approximately 50 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom	Chapter 2 Page 26-53
Day 3	Society and Culture: Hardware and Software of Our Social World	Approximately 50 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom	Chapter 3 Page 55-89
Day 4	Socialization: Becoming Human and Humane	Approximately 50 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom	Chapter 4 Page 90-117
Day 5	Interaction, Groups, and Organizations: Connections That Work Exam 1 Review	Approximately 50 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom	Chapter 5 Page 118-141
Day 6	Exam 1		
Day 7	Deviance and Social Control: Sickos, Freaks, and Folks Like Us	Approximately 50 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom	Chapter 6 Page 142-177
Day 8	Stratification: Rich and Famous-or Rags and Famine?	Approximately 50 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom	Chapter 7 Page 180-214
Day 9	Race and Ethnic Group Stratification: Beyond “Us” and “Them”	Approximately 50 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom	Chapter 8 Page 216-250
Day 10	Gender Stratification: She/He-Who Goes First? Exam 2 Review	Approximately 50 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom	Chapter 9 Page 252-285



Day 11	Exam 2		
Day 12	Family: Partner Taking, People Making, and Contract Breaking	Approximately 50 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom	Chapter 10 Page 292-319
Day 13	Education: What Are We Learning	Approximately 50 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom	Chapter 11 Page 320-349
Day 14	Religion: The Social Meaning of Sacred Meaning	Approximately 50 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom	Chapter 12 Page 350-384
Day 15	Politics and Economics: Probing Power, Dissecting Distribution Exam 3 Review	Approximately 50 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom	Chapter 13 Page 386-418
Day 16	Exam 3		
Day 17	Health Care: Anatomy of Health and Illness	Approximately 50 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom	Chapter 14 Page 420-452
Day 18	Environmental Sociology: Population, Urbanization, and Climate Change	Approximately 50 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom	Chapter 15 Page 456-490
Day 19	Process of Change: We Can Make a Difference! Final Exam Review	Approximately 50 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom	Chapter 16 Page 492-522
Day 20	Final Exam		