

Introduction to Sociology

SOCI 1

Fall 2025 Section 05 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/20/2025 to 12/08/2025 Modified 08/03/2025

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. William Armaline

Office Location: DMH 216

Office Phone: (408)294-2935

Email: william.armaline@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Course Information

Class Days/Time

Mondays and Wednesdays 4:30 - 5:45 pm

Classroom

DMH 163

Course Description and Requisites

How does society affect individual behavior and how does individual behavior affect society? Influence of social institutions and arrangements (family, school, workplace, politics, etc.) on roles, groups, values. Basic sociological theories and methods. Careers, specializations. Required for majors, minors.

GE Area: D (formerly GE Area D1)

Letter Graded

Classroom Protocols

1. This course depends on participation and interaction. Students are expected to be on time to class out of respect for your colleagues and instructor.
2. All classroom participants are expected to foster an environment that encourages participation, rather than silencing others (be respectful to one another, do not insult or intimidate others, and so forth).
3. Students are expected to complete all readings and assignments by the dates indicated on the syllabus.
4. Students are responsible for any and all notes and materials missed in their absence.

Program Information

Welcome to this General Education course.

SJSU's General Education Program establishes a strong foundation of versatile skills, fosters curiosity about the world, promotes ethical judgment, and prepares students to engage and contribute responsibly and cooperatively in a multicultural, information-rich society. General education classes integrate areas of study and encourage progressively more complex and creative analysis, expression, and problem solving.

The General Education Program has three goals:

Goal 1: To develop students' core competencies for academic, personal, creative, and professional pursuits.

Goal 2: To enact the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice by ensuring that students have the knowledge and skills to serve and contribute to the well-being of local and global communities and the environment.

Goal 3: To offer students integrated, multidisciplinary, and innovative study in which they pose challenging questions, address complex issues, and develop cooperative and creative responses.

More information about the General Education Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) can be found on the [GE website \(https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php\)](https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php).

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

GE Area D: Social Sciences

Area D courses increase students' understanding of human behavior and social interaction in the context of value systems, economic structures, political institutions, social groups, and natural environments.

Students develop an understanding of problems and issues from different disciplinary perspectives and examine issues in their contemporary as well as historical settings and in a variety of cultural contexts.

The CSU requires students to complete General Education courses in the Social Sciences in at least two different disciplines. Students may meet this requirement by either 1) taking two lower-division Area D courses in different disciplines, or 2) taking two lower-division Area D courses in the same discipline and an Area S upper-division GE course in a different discipline.

GE Area D Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of an Area D course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the ways in which social institutions, culture, and environment shape and are shaped by the behavior of individuals, both past and present;
2. Compare and contrast the dynamics of two or more social groups or social systems in a variety of historical and/or cultural contexts;
3. Place contemporary social developments in cultural, environmental, geographical, and/or historical contexts;
4. Draw on social/behavioral science information from various perspectives to formulate applications appropriate to historical and/or contemporary social issues.

Writing Practice: Students will write a minimum of 1500 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline.

Course Materials

Required Text

Henslin, Jim. 2018. *Essentials of Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach* (13th Ed.). London, England: Pearson.

ISBN: 9780134736587

You may use the hard copy text or e-text. Note that the e-text will have access to tools such as imbedded video.

Other Readings

All assigned readings/videos/materials beyond the required text above will be provided by the instructor via email (links and PDF files). Should you have any problems obtaining reading materials throughout the course, please email the instructor for assistance.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Readings

Students are expected to complete readings by the class session indicated on the course schedule. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings so that we can engage the material together. Though readings are not a graded assignment, the exams will certainly focus on students' ability to recall and understand course materials

Classroom Activities and Discussion

Though not graded, this course requires a great deal of classroom discussion and classroom activity. Discussions and classroom activities are designed to help students successfully achieve all learning objectives and to prepare students for exams.

Exams

The only graded material in this course (other than extra credit) will be a Midterm and Final Exam, each worth 50% of the final course grade. Exams are not meant as memorization exercises, and will focus on major concepts and themes discussed in class and in course readings/materials. Before each exam, a review guide will be distributed and the instructor will offer a review session to help students to prepare.

That being said, students are encouraged to take notes on course lectures/readings and to form study groups to help prepare for the two exams.

Extra Credit

Students may submit an unlimited amount of extra credit in this course. The typical written assignment should be split into three sections: summary, analysis, and critique. Assignments may be on any subject matter, and may be in any format/media (written, video, audio, artwork, etc.), but **MUST** apply a sociological analysis drawing on course content. The instructor will provide some EC opportunities where/when available, but students are encouraged to come up with their own ideas, and should take advantage of this opportunity to examine content of their choice for credit.

Extra credit can be submitted at any time to the instructor via email (or however appropriate). However, all EC assignments must be submitted by the last day of class (12/08/25).

✓ Grading Information

Determination of Grades

Final grades will be calculated as a percentage on a typical "100 point scale":

A+ 98-100%

A 94-97

A- 90-93

B+ 88-89

B 84-87

B- 80-83

C+ 78-79

C 74-77

C- 70-73

D+ 68-69

D 64-67

D- 60-63

F <60%

Assignment Percentage of Final Grade

Midterm 50%

Final Exam 50%

TOTAL 100%

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 1 - Wednesday 08/20/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Introduction to course and explanation of syllabus	What is the point of sociology and what do sociologists do? What is the importance of current events and critical news literacy?
Lecture Week 2 - Monday 08/25/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 1: Sociological Imagination and Theory	Define the Sociological Imagination and review basic theorists and types of sociological theory. Talk about structure and patterns of the book/author. <i>Read Chapter 1</i>

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 2 - Wednesday 08/27/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 1 Continued	
Lecture Week 3 - Monday 09/01/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	LABOR DAY - NO CLASS	
Lecture Week 3 - Wednesday 09/03/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 2 - Culture	What is culture and how does it operate in society and in shaping our daily lives? <i>Read Chapter 2</i>
Lecture Week 4 - Monday 09/08/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 2 Continued	
Lecture Week 4 - Wednesday 09/10/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 3 - Socialization	How does society shape what and who we are as individuals and societies/communities? To what extent are we a result of nature vs. nurture? How do sociologists treat this question? <i>Read Chapter 3</i>

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 5 - Monday 09/15/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 3 Continued	
Lecture Week 5 - Wednesday 09/17/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 4 - Social Structure and Social Interaction	How do macro and micro forms of sociological analysis differ? What do they examine? What kinds of questions do they ask and what methods do they use? <i>Read Chapter 4</i>
Lecture Week 5 - Monday 09/22/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 4 Continued	
Lecture Week 5 - Wednesday 09/24/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 5 - Social Groups and Social Organization	How do people organize themselves to achieve something? What kinds of social groups and institutions exist and why? How do social groups and institutions impact our lives? <i>Read Chapter 5</i>
Lecture Week 6 - Monday 09/29/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 5 Continued	

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 6 - Wednesday 10/01/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 6 - Deviance and Social Control	What are norms and deviance? What role does rule-breaking play in society? Are norms necessary--how and for what? How do we deal with the "criminal" and/or "abnormal" in society, and what kinds of approaches have sociologists used over time to understand these phenomena? <i>Read Chapter 6</i>
Lecture Week 7 - Monday 10/06/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 6 Continued and Midterm Review	Make sure to bring all of your notes!
MIDTERM EXAM Week 7 - Wednesday 10/08/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	MIDTERM EXAM	Please make sure to bring a pencil or two and a "skinny" Scantron sheet to complete the exam.
Lecture Week 8 - Monday 10/13/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 7 - The Material (Class) Relations of Society (Marx and Weber)	In Chapters 7 and 8 we will examine the "material" or "class" relations of society at the national and international levels. We'll take a couple class sessions to define capitalism and other economic systems or "modes of production," and discuss the various ways that sociologists think about class, wealth/poverty, inequality, and the "political economy." We will also take this opportunity to compare the work of Karl Marx and Max Weber on the notion of class. <i>Read Chapter 7</i>
Lecture Week 8 - Wednesday 10/15/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 8 - Material Relations Continued	<i>Read Chapter 8</i>

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 9 - Monday 10/20/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Material Relations of Society Continued	
Lecture Week 9 - Wednesday 10/22/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 9 - Race and Ethnicity	What are the differences between Race and Ethnicity? How do they shape our lives and society? How is racism understood as a social system by sociologists? <i>Read Chapter 9</i>
Lecture Week 10 - Monday 10/27/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 9 Continued	
Lecture Week 10 - Wednesday 10/29/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 10 - Gender and Age	What are the differences between sex and gender? In what ways are societies and social institutions gendered? How are patriarchy and matriarchy defined and understood as social systems? What is ageism and how are our societies structured by age? What are the consequences of having an abundance of younger or older people in society? <i>Read Chapter 10</i>
Lecture Week 11 - Monday 11/03/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 10 Continued	

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 11 - Wednesday 11/05/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 11 - Politics and the Economy	Why do sociologists talk about a "political economy"? How does the economy relate to politics in the US? How does the economy and economic inequality shape the political world? How have politics in the US been corrupted by economic influences? <i>Read Chapter 11</i>
Lecture Week 12 - Monday 11/10/2025 4:30 PM - 5:15 PM DMH 163	Chapter 11 Continued	
Lecture Week 12 - Wednesday 11/12/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 12 - Marriage and the Family	What are the different kinds of family structures in society? How does the family operate as a critical social institution? How do family structures reflect and create the political and other (class, race) relations of society? <i>Read Chapter 12</i>
Lecture Week 13 - Monday 11/17/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 12 Continued	
Lecture Week 13 - Wednesday 11/19/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 13 - Education and Religion	What critical roles do education and religion play as social institutions? How is education historically structured in the US, and how is it changing now? How do religions form and develop in societies? What is the religions composition of the US and why? <i>Read Chapter 13</i>

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 14 - Monday 11/24/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
Lecture Week 14 - Wednesday 11/26/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
Lecture Week 15 - Monday 12/01/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 13 Continued	
Lecture Week 15 - Wednesday 12/03/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 15 - Social Change and the Environment	<p>What are "overlapping threats to human survival"? What are the significant social movements to address these massive, global, existential social problems?</p> <p>More generally, how do social movements tend to work? What kinds of social movements have existed over time and what are their pros/cons/characteristics?</p> <p><i>Read Chapter 15</i></p>
Lecture Week 16 - Monday 12/08/2025 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM DMH 163	Chapter 15 Continued and Final Exam Review	Make sure to bring all of your notes and materials!

When	Topic	Notes
FINAL EXAM 12/10/2025 3:15 PM - 5:15 PM DMH 163	FINAL EXAM	Please remember to bring a pencil or two and a "skinny" Scantron sheet to complete the Final Exam.