

Introduction to Sociology

SOCI 1

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

Contact Information

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| Instructor: | Carlos E. Garcia |
| Office Location: | DMH 222 |
| Telephone: | (408) 924-5804 |
| Email: | carlos.e.garcia@sjsu.edu |
| Office Hours: | MW 10:15-11:30 and by appointment |
| Class Days/Time: | MW 12:00-1:15 |
| Classroom: | DMH 161 |

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

Classroom Protocol

1. It is the expectation that everyone in the class behave with courtesy and grace toward one another.
2. You are expected to attend all classes.
3. Students are expected to take exams at the time and date scheduled.
4. I will hold and store all exams.
5. Academic misconduct will not be tolerated.
6. No late assignments will be accepted.
7. Students are encouraged to take notes by hand, if you choose to use a computer or tablet it is expected that you will only use it for class purposes.
8. Students are expected to remove headphones, earbuds, etc. during class
9. A note on emails and grades: I will not discuss grades in any way using email. This includes giving out grades or discussions on point totals or final grades. If you would like to talk about your grades please make an appointment to meet with me.
10. Incompletes will only be given in exceptional cases.
11. I reserve the right to amend the syllabus as necessary. Any such changes will be announced to the class.
12. If circumstances arise that will affect your performance in this class please communicate them to me as soon as possible so that we can plan accordingly.

≡ 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 Goals

1. Learn the sociological approach for understanding society and human behavior
2. Introduction to the foundational concepts in sociology
3. Introduction to some of the subfields in sociology
4. Learn best practices for completing work in sociology classes
5. Meet 2-3 people

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

Texts/Readings

[Introduction to Sociology 3E](#) The text is free online but can also be purchased for about \$30.

[Open Education Sociology Dictionary \(https://sociologydictionary.org/\)](https://sociologydictionary.org/)

Other readings are made available on Canvas

Course Requirements and Assignments

Video Introduction (10 points)

This is a short video where you introduce yourself to me. You will be able to use the Canvas functions to complete this assignment.

In-Class Exercises (2 points each, 20 points total)

Regularly during class we will have in-class exercises aimed at reinforcing lecture material. These exercises can only be completed in class and they cannot be made up. There will be at least 13 such exercises of which the 10 highest will be used toward your final grade.

Lecture Reflections (5 points each, 30 points total)

After every lecture you will be required to submit a short reflection. This assignment is meant to help you summarize some of the main points from each lecture and to reflect on how the concepts covered may have influenced your life. While there are 10 opportunities to complete this assignment only the 6 highest scores will be used to calculate your final grade.

Census Exercise (10 points)

In this assignment you will learn how to use the Census website to access local level data.

Sociological Autobiography (20 points)

In this assignment you will consider your unique position (e.g., your unique combination of race, class, gender, sexuality, ability status, generation status, etc.) to tell a story about your life and how it is related to the concepts we have learned about during the semester. For example you may want to discuss how your background influenced your education or work experiences. Or how the system of inequality has played out for you? Did you benefit in some respects? Did you receive any penalties?

Exams (30 points each, 90 points total)

Three exams are scheduled for this class. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Note that while exam three is not comprehensive per se, some material from lecture 1 and 2 will also be covered on this exam.

Grading Information

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There are 180 points possible in this course. Points will be earned through the following activities:

- 3 exams worth 30 points each, 90 points total

- In-Class Exercises worth 2 points each, 20 points total
- 6 Lecture reflections worth 5 points each, 30 points total.
- 1 Sociological autobiography, 20 points
- 1 Video introduction, 10 points
- 1 Census exercise, 10 points

No late assignments will be accepted.

Determination of Grades

| <i>Grade</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|----------------|-------------------|
| <i>A plus</i> | <i>96 to 100%</i> |
| <i>A</i> | <i>93 to 95%</i> |
| <i>A minus</i> | <i>90 to 92%</i> |
| <i>B plus</i> | <i>86 to 89 %</i> |
| <i>B</i> | <i>83 to 85%</i> |
| <i>B minus</i> | <i>80 to 82%</i> |
| <i>C plus</i> | <i>76 to 79%</i> |
| <i>C</i> | <i>73 to 75%</i> |
| <i>C minus</i> | <i>70 to 72%</i> |
| <i>D plus</i> | <i>66 to 69%</i> |
| <i>D</i> | <i>63 to 65%</i> |
| <i>D minus</i> | <i>60 to 62%</i> |

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

| Date | Day | Topic | Reading | Due |
|--------------------|-----------|---|-----------|-----------------------------|
| August 20, 2025 | Wednesday | Course Introduction | | |
| August 25, 2025 | Monday | Lecture 1: An Introduction to Sociology | Chapter 1 | |
| August 27, 2025 | Wednesday | Lecture 1 continued | | Introduction Assignment due |
| September 1, 2025 | Monday | Labor Day | | |
| September 3, 2025 | Wednesday | Lecture 2: Sociological Research | Chapter 2 | Lecture 1 Reflection due |
| September 8, 2025 | Monday | Lecture 2 continued | | |
| September 10, 2025 | Wednesday | Lecture 3: Culture | Chapter 3 | Lecture 2 Reflection due |
| September 15, 2025 | Monday | Lecture 3 continued | | |
| September 17, 2025 | Wednesday | Lecture 4: Society and Social Interaction | Chapter 4 | Lecture 3 Reflection due |
| September 22, 2025 | Monday | Lecture 4 continued | | |
| September 24, 2025 | Wednesday | Review exam 1 | | |
| September 29, 2025 | Monday | Exam 1 | | |

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| October 1, 2025 | Wednesday | Lecture 5: Socialization | Chapter 5 | Lecture 4 Reflection due |
| October 6, 2025 | Monday | Lecture 5 continued | | |
| October 8, 2025 | Wednesday | Lecture 6: Groups and Organizations | Chapter 6 | Lecture 5 Reflection due |
| October 13, 2025 | Monday | Lecture 6 continued | | |
| October 15, 2025 | Wednesday | Lecture 7: Population, Urbanization, and Environment | | Lecture 6 Reflection due |
| October 20, 2025 | Monday | Lecture 7 continued | Chapter 20 | |
| October 22, 2025 | Wednesday | Census Exercise | | |
| October 27, 2025 | Monday | Lecture 8: Social Stratification | Chapter 9 | Lecture 7 Reflection due |
| October 29, 2025 | Wednesday | Lecture 8 continued | | Census Exercise due |
| November 3, 2025 | Monday | Review exam 2 | | |
| November 5, 2025 | Wednesday | Exam 2 | | |
| November 10, 2025 | Monday | Lecture 9: Race and Ethnicity | Chapter 11 | Lecture 8 Reflection due |
| November 12, 2025 | Wednesday | Lecture 9 continued | | |
| November 17, 2025 | Monday | Lecture 10: Relationships, Marriage, and Family | Chapter 14 | Lecture 9 Reflection due |
| November 19, 2025 | Wednesday | Lecture 10 continued | | |
| November 24, 2025 | Monday | Sociological Autobiography Workshop | | |

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| November 26, 2025 | Wednesday | Thanksgiving Break | November 27, 2025 | |
| December 1, 2025 | Monday | Lecture 11: Deviance, Crime, and Social Control | Chapter 7 | Lecture 10 Reflection due |
| December 3, 2025 | Wednesday | Lecture 11 continued | | Sociological Autobiography Due |
| December 8, 2025 | Monday | Review exam 3 | | |
| December 12, 2025 | Friday | Final Exam Time:10:45:00 AM | Final Exam Time:10:45:00 AM | |