



Nanchang University
SOC101: Introduction to Sociology
(Last Updated in Jan. 2025)

Credit: 6

Contact Hours

This course is composed of 24 lecture sessions, 3 tutorial sessions and 9 office contact hours. Each lecture session takes 2 contact hours in length; each tutorial session takes 3 contact hours in length; There will be a Q-A review session (3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours) at the end of this term. This course has 72 contact hours in total.

Course Description

This course is an introductory survey to sociology, by which is meant an overview of this discipline as well as the major components of human societies and particularly our contemporary global society. The sociological discipline is introduced first throughout the presentation of its ways of thinking, its methods, and theories. Among the major components of human societies, the following will be approached: culture; socialization and social interaction; groups, networks, and organizations; stratifications and inequalities; politics, economics, and world views (religion, education, and mass media). All of these components will be presented emphasizing their current shape in our globalized world. Moreover, the last section of the course will be fully dedicated to the process of globalization.

Note: This Syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class.

Required Textbook

Textbook: *Introduction to Sociology*. Giddens, A. et al. W. Norton & Company.

Grading

•Participation	20%
•Homework	20%
•Midterm	30%
•Final Exam	30%

Letter Grade	Grade Points
High Distinction	85-100



Distinction	75-84
Credit	65-74
Pass	50-64
Fail	0-49

Course Schedule

The course has 24 class sessions in total. All sessions are 2 contact hours in length. At the end of this term, there will be a Q-A review session (3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours).

Note: the course outline and required readings are subject to change.

Class 1:

What is Sociology? Sociological Research: Process, Methods, and Problems

Reading: Ch. 1 & 2

Class 2:

Culture and Society

Reading: Ch. 3

Class 3:

Socialization and the Life Cycle

Reading: Ch. 4

Class 4:

Social Interaction and Everyday Life in the age of the Internet

Reading: Ch. 5

Class 5:

Groups, Networks, and Organizations

Reading: Ch. 6

Class 6:

Conformity, Deviance, and Crime

Reading: Ch. 7

Class 7:

Stratification, Class, and Inequality

Reading: Ch. 8

Class 8:

Global Inequality

Reading: Ch. 9



Class 9:

Gender Inequality

Reading: Ch. 10

Class 10:

Ethnicity and Race

Reading: Ch. 11

Class 11:

Aging

Midterm Review

Reading: Ch. 12

Class 12:

Midterm Exam

Class 13:

Government, Political Power, and Social Movements

Reading: Ch. 13

Class 14:

Work and Economic Life

Reading: Ch. 14

Class 15:

Families and Intimate Relations

Reading: Ch. 15

Class 16:

Education and the Mass Media

Reading: Ch. 16

Class 17:

Religion in Modern Society

Reading: Ch. 17

Class 18:

The Sociology of the Body: Health, Illness, and Sexuality

Reading: Ch. 18

Class 19:

Urbanization, Population, and the Environment

Reading: Ch. 19



Class 20:

Social Change and Globalization

Reading: Ch. 20

Class 21:

Social Change and Globalization

Class 22:

The Global and the Local

Class 23:

The Effects of Globalization on Our Lives and Politics, Economics, and World views in a Global World

Class 24:

Final Exam Review

Attending Policy

Regular and prompt attendance is required. Under ordinary circumstances, you may miss two times without penalty. Each absence over this number will lower your course grade by a third of a letter and missing more than five classes may lead to a failing grade in the course. Arriving late and/or leaving before the end of the class period are equivalent to absences.

Policy on "Late Withdrawals"

In accordance with university policy, appeals for late withdrawal will be approved ONLY in case of medical emergency and similar crises.

Academic Honesty

Nanchang University expects all students to do their own work. Instructors will fail assignments that show evidence of plagiarism or other forms of cheating, and will also report the student's name to the University administration. A student reported to the University for cheating is placed on disciplinary probation; a student reported twice is suspended or expelled.

General Expectations:

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all materials covered in class and otherwise assigned;
- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class;
- Review the previous day's notes before class and make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading;



- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time;
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during the class period;
- While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.

Special Needs or Assistance

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.