



Hunan University SOC 21: Sociology: American Culture and Society

Professor: To be announced
Total contact hours: 54 hours
Credit: 4

Course Description

Sociology leads students to move beyond their intuitive understanding of the social world and to instead examine society by applying a sociological perspective to contemporary issues, events, and everyday life. The class combines balanced coverage of theory with current research findings, examples that students can easily relate to, continues to encourage the development of a sociological imagination that students can use in class and take with them on campus, in their careers and into their communities, especially in the US context.

Required Textbook

Schaefer, Richard T. Sociology: A Brief Introduction. 9th Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill Publishers

Grading

- Participation 10%
- Midterm 1 30%
- Midterm 2 30%
- Final Exam 30%

A+ 96-100	A 90-95	A- 85-89
B+ 82-84	B 78-81	B- 75-77
C+ 71-74	C 66-70	C- 62-65
D 60-61	F < 60	



Course Schedule

The course has 24 class sessions in total. All sessions are 2 hours and 15 minutes in length.
Note: the course outline and required readings are subject to change.

Class 1

Understanding Sociology and Sociological Research

Class 2

Culture and U. S. Society

Class 3

Culture and U. S. Society (Cont.)

Class 4

Socialization and the Life Course, with emphasis on the US

Class 5

Social Interaction, Groups, and Social Structure, with groups and organizations in the US

Class 6

Mass Media in the US

Class 7

Deviance and Social Control (in the US)

Class 8

Review for the Exam No. 1

Class 9

Midterm No. 1

Class 10

Stratification and Social Mobility in the United States (inequality in the US)

Class 11

Racial and Ethnic Inequality (in the US)

Class 12

Race and Gender Issues in the US

Class 13

Gender and Family Issues in the US



Class 14

Review of for Exam No. 2

Class 15

Exam No. 2

Class 16

Religion and Education in the US

Class 17

Religion and Education in the US (Cont.)

Class 18

US Government and Politics

Class 19

US Government and Politics (Cont.)

Class 20

Health and Environment in the US

Class 21

Health and Environment in the US (Cont.)

Class 22

Watching a movie related to one of the topics

Class 23

Review for the Final Exam

Class 24

Final Exam and Relevant Evaluations

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

Hunan 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.