



# Hunan University

## SOC101: Introduction to Sociology

(Last Modified in 2022)

**Credit: 6**

### Course Description

What is society? How can we understand it? What is the role of the individual in society, and how does society affect individual lives? This course introduces students to the field of sociology. By surveying social theory as well as empirical studies, students acquire what C. Wright Mills calls the "sociological imagination": the ability to think beyond our personal lives and to connect the experiences of individuals with large social structures. The course introduces students to classical theoretical traditions of Marx, Durkheim, Weber, and Simmel, as well as their contemporary heirs. Readings include prominent empirical investigations into family dynamics, class inequalities, organizations, the nation-state, capitalism, democracy, and globalization. We examine common-sense assumptions about culture, politics, history, and psychology, and empower students to replace them with evidence-based reasoning. By emphasizing reading, writing, and critical thinking skills, this course helps students build the foundation for a deeper understanding of theory and methods in the social sciences.

*Note: This Syllabus is subject to change in the future.*

### Course Prerequisites

There is no prerequisite for this course.

### Class Planning

This course is composed of 24 two-hour lecture sessions, 3 three-hour tutorial sessions. Instructor will hold office hour three hours per week. A three-hour final exam will be arranged within a week of last day of class.

The expected hours of in-class engagement (Contact Hour) is 72 hours.

### Course Goals

Upon successful completion of this course, students will

1. Recognize the importance of natures of society in politics, economic, and other subjects of study
2. Apply the basic sociological methodology in different contexts



3. Identify sociology tools in terms of analyzing culture
4. Collect data to produce critical review of articles read in class

## Textbook:

*The Sociology Project: Introducing the Sociological Imagination* by Jeff Manza

## Grading

The grading of this course breaks down as following components:

Participation	5%
Homework	25%
Quizzes	15%
Midterm	20%
Final	35%

Letter Grade	Grade Points
High Distinction	85-100
Distinction	75-84
Credit	65-74
Pass	50-64
Fail	0-49

## Academic Honesty

Students are expected to conduct all their own work as original. Hunan University does not tolerate any form of plagiarism or other forms of cheating; violators will be reported to the University Administration. Detailed Policies are listed on

<http://emsc.hnu.edu.cn/summer/academics.htm>

## Attendance

Attendance is taken regularly. Students are expected to attend lectures unless they have a valid reason to do so. Every unexcused absence beyond the fourth time will drop the student's grade by a third letter grade. In medical leave more than four days, students shall present a medical certificate.

## Enrollment

In accordance with university policy, the last day to add or drop this course is the Monday of the second week of lecture. The approval of late withdraw is only given to students who have shown substantial work and have a valid reason to do so.

## Special Accommodations



Students with documented disabilities or serious illness will be granted special accommodations in assessments after prior arrangement with instructor.

## Tentative Lecture Schedule

1	Introduction
2	Sociological Imagination
3	Sociological Theories 1
4	Sociological Theories 2
5	Sociological Theories 3
6	Social Structure
7	Social Interactions
8	Media and Communication
9	Culture
10	Media, Representation, and Covering
11	Power and Politics 1
12	Power and Politics 2
13	Midterm
14	Stratifications 1
15	Stratifications 2
16	Inequality and Poverty
17	Race and Ethnicity 1
18	Race and Ethnicity 2
19	Race and Ethnicity 3
20	Immigration
21	Gender and Sexuality 1
22	Gender and Sexuality 2
23	Project Presentation
24	Review for final