

University of Texas at Dallas
Program of Sociology

Course : Introduction to Sociology (SOC 1301.001),

Meeting day and time: (Tuesday and Thursday 2:30 - 3: 45 PM), Room _GR 3.606

Office Hour: (Tuesday 3: 45 – 4:30 PM), GR ____

Instructor: Gurmessa Jiru (PhD), Term: Spring 2026

Email: Gurmessa.jiru@utdallas.edu *Email is the preferred most preferred**

➤ **Course Descriptions**

- ❖ The course, In *Introduction to Sociology*, students will explore the systematic study of human society, social interaction, and the forces that shape social life. The course introduces foundational sociological concepts, historical development of discipline, and key theoretical perspectives such as functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism. Students will learn how social scientists collect and interpret data to understand patterns of behavior, group dynamics, and institutional processes.
- ❖ The course examines topics including culture, socialization, deviance, inequality, and the organization of major social institutions such as family, education, religion, and economy. Students will analyze how social class, race, gender, and globalization influence everyday experiences and opportunities. Emphasis is placed on developing the sociological imagination, the ability to connect individual experiences to broader social structures—and applying it to understand contemporary social issues and promote informed civic engagement.

➤ **Course Pre-requisites: there is no prerequisite course**

The course objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a. Explain what sociology is and what sets it apart from other social sciences like psychology, anthropology, and economics.
- b. Use the sociological imagination to see how personal experiences connect to broader social and historical forces.
- c. Understand the three major theoretical perspectives in sociology—functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism—and apply them to real-world situations.
- d. Recognize how culture, socialization, and social institutions shape the way people think, act, and relate to one another.
- e. Identify patterns of social inequality across class, race, gender, and global contexts, and discuss their causes and consequences.
- f. Understand how sociologists study society, including core research methods and ethical considerations in social research.
- g. Analyze contemporary issues—such as crime, family dynamics, media influence, and the changing nature of work—through a sociological lens.
- h. Think critically by moving beyond individual explanations to recognize broader social patterns and structures.

Required Textbooks and Materials

✓ **Conerly, T. R., Holmes, K., & Tamang, A. L. (2021). *Introduction to sociology* (3rd ed.). OpenStax. <https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e> (Available in PDF and Online)**

✓ **Giddens, A., Duneier, M., Appelbaum, R. P., & Carr, D. (2021). *Essentials of sociology* (8th ed.). W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 978-0-393-53792-5**

- **Course Approach/ Teaching Learning Methods:** Active Teaching-Lecturing is the predominantly used teaching-learning in this course. Active participation has value too. Group discussions will also be used in the class to let students learn from one another.
- **Grading Policy:** Students will receive the grade earned through completed (or incomplete) coursework. Grades are not negotiable, and students do not receive grades based on self-assessment. This policy ensures that all students are held to the same standard.

➤ **Grade Distribution**

➤ **Grading is criteria-based rather than normative. The total points earned out of 500 points will be converted into 100% and graded:**

Percentage	Grade
Above 97	A+
93-97%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-

Activity	Points	Description	Mode of Deli.
Assignment 1	100	In class group discussion and participation	Group
Assignment 2	100	Discussion Board	Individual
Assignment 3	100	Critical Writing on one sociological issue	Group
Assignment 4	100	Replacement for any of other failed Grade	Optional
Mid-Term Exam	100	In class Exam	Individual
Final Exam	100	In class Exam	Individual
Total	500		

➤ **Course Expectations**

Class Attendance and Participation: Regular attendance is mandatory. Arrive on time, participate actively in discussions, and complete assigned readings before class. Notify the instructor in advance if you miss a class.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: Submit only your work. Plagiarism or any form of academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade. Properly cite all sources using APA & 7th edition format. In group assignments, contribute equally and understand all aspects of the work.

Assignment and submissions: Late submissions are not accepted. However, if circumstances beyond your control affect your ability to submit work on time, please consult with the instructor before the due date. The instructor understands that unforeseen situations can arise and is committed to working with you to find appropriate solutions when possible.

Communication and classroom conduct: It is mandatory to respect diverse perspectives, engage in constructive dialogue, and refrain from electronic recording unless instructed for course-related activities. **Moreover,** frequently check your university email and the course eLearning platform for updates. Utilize office hours or schedule appointments for additional support.

Academic Performance: Students are responsible for monitoring their academic performance throughout the semester. If your performance falls below satisfactory levels, The instructor strongly encourages you to seek assistance promptly. Resources available to you: include office hours with the instructor and other university resources.

➤ **Course Content and Time Frame**

week	Dates	contents
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1		Students' self-introduction and overview of the syllabus and the course will be given
2		Chapter 1. Definition and conceptualizing sociology and explaining the Subject matter, Historical foundation, basic sociological perspectives, Research Methods.....
3		Chapter 2. Culture and Society
4		Chapter 3: Socialization, life course and Aging
5		Chapter 4: Social Interactions in Everyday life and Group and Organizations
6		Mid Term Exam
7		Chapter 5: Family and Marriage
8		Chapter 6: Educational and Religious Institution
9		Chapter 7: Political and economic Institution
10		Chapter 8: Deviance, and social control
11		Chapter 8: Social stratification: aging, race and ethnicity, Gender, social class etc)
12		Chapter 9: Poverty and global inequality)
13		Chapter 10: Urbanization, population, Health and Social Change
14		Final Exam Week
15		Finalize all the Assignments

****Students will be promptly notified of any modifications to the syllabus.**

Other essential Policy UTD Policy: <https://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>