

Introduction to Sociology

SOC 0013

3 Credits

Instructors

Shamus Khan, Ph.D.	Princeton University
Rashawn Ray, Ph.D.	University of Maryland
Alicia Simmons, Ph.D.	Colgate University
Mary J. Osirim, Ph.D.	Bryn Mawr College
Karen Barkey, Ph.D.	Bard College
Anindya Kundu, Ph.D.	Florida International University
Joslyn Brenton, Ph.D.	Ithaca College
Dana Fisher, Ph.D.	University of Maryland

Course Description

An introduction to the discipline of sociology. Topics covered include the sociological imagination; theoretical perspectives; research methods and ethical concerns; socialization; culture; groups and organizations; stratification; social control and deviance; race; gender, sex, and sexuality; family; religion; education; health, medicine, and the body; the environment; media; technology; social movements; social change.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Examine and explain social situations using the sociological imagination.
- Explain how sociology is distinct from other social sciences.
- Distinguish between the use of various research methods.
- Compare the major theoretical perspectives in sociology.
- Explain the various forms of social stratification in society.
- Explain how individual choices are shaped by culture, social structure, and groups.

Course Materials

This is an online course. All course materials (including lecture videos, interactive textbook, and practice exercises) are provided by Outlier.org through its course website, sociology.ext.outlier.org. Additional tools will be made available, incorporated into, or linked to from Outlier.org.

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Class Policies

1. **Attendance & Attention to Course Materials** – As an online course, attendance is asynchronous and is tracked by students viewing the required lectures, engaging with interactive online materials, and completing practice exercises. Each student will also have the option to spend as much time as needed learning and practicing with additional materials and practice questions; the level of their understanding will be demonstrated by their performance on a set of mastery assessments in the form of quizzes, exams, writing assignments, and a cumulative final exam.
2. **Access to Online Course Platform** – All course materials will be accessed through the course website sociology.ext.outlier.org. Course progress, lectures, active learning, practice exercises, and quizzes will be tracked and saved once you log in. The Course Homepage allows students to view graded assignments and course progress.
3. **Assessment Completion & Late Work** – This course's assessments include quizzes, exams, writing assignments, and a cumulative final exam. Exams and writing assignments must be completed by their due date within their scheduled windows (as indicated on Outlier.org). The writing assignments are eligible to receive a 24-hour extension of the scheduled due date. Extensions can be requested by submitting a short request form directly on the Outlier.org site, available within 24 hours of the assessment deadline. Extensions for exams must be requested via your school's Outlier administrator. Without an approved extension, late work will not be accepted. Failure to complete an assessment by the indicated due date will result in a grade of 0 for that assessment.
4. **Quizzes** – Each chapter provides multiple opportunities to complete quizzes. Only the highest grade of any completed instance of that quiz will count towards the student's final grade. Students may not use any kind of notes, websites, books, or any other type of aid on course quizzes. Unlike other assessments, quizzes can be completed at any time once their corresponding chapter has been unlocked. Make sure to complete at least one quiz per chapter before the final exam.
5. **Exams** – Depending on if you are an in-classroom learner or a remote learner, you will experience exams differently. If you are unsure which type of learner are, ask your school's Outlier administrator.
 - a. **For in-classroom learners:** In order to maintain high standards of academic integrity, exams are proctored by your school's Outlier administrator in the classroom. Exams should only be taken in the classroom on the predetermined exam dates and must be completed in a single contiguous sitting, while proctored by your school's Outlier administrator. Refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#) for more information.
 - b. **For remote learners:** In order to maintain high standards of academic integrity, we use online technology to proctor exams. Students will be asked to confirm their identity with a photo ID, and students will be required to grant access to their computer, including its webcam, screen, and microphone, for the duration of the exam. Each exam can be taken anytime during the

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exam open period but must be completed in a single contiguous sitting. Refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#) for more information.

6. **Exam Materials** – Students may not use any notes, websites, books, cell phones/tablets, or any other type of aid on course exams. [This article](#) includes a full list of exam requirements for both in-classroom and remote learners. Reach out to your school's Outlier administrator if you are unsure which type of learner you are.
7. **Academic Integrity** – Students in this course will be expected to agree to and comply with the [Outlier.org Academic Integrity Policy](#). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process as outlined in the [Outlier.org Academic Integrity Policy](#). Graded assessments such as quizzes, writing assignments, or exams are to be completed independently and should contain students' own work.
8. **Content Questions & Requesting Assistance** – Your learning will happen within the Outlier course. Use the button in the bottom right corner to submit feedback or if you have a question(s) about any of the content in the lectures, active learning, or practice exercises. You can also reach a Support Specialist through the [Student Success request form](#) or by engaging in the academic discussion community. One of our subject matter experts will review your question and provide a response. You can expect a response within 2 to 3 hours during Outlier.org business hours.
9. **Course Participation** – You will join Outlier's academic discussion community and participate in weekly conversations with the course facilitators and your peers to earn the participation portion of your grade. Course participation could include responding to the discussion questions posed by facilitators, sharing an interesting article you read that pertains to the chapters you're working on, or asking a question of your fellow classmates to try to solve a difficult problem. You can also answer your peers' questions by starting a thread under their posts. Derogatory and sarcastic comments and jokes that marginalize anyone are fundamentally unacceptable, especially in the classroom. Offensive language—or language that could be construed as offensive—should be avoided (see the [Outlier.org Academic Integrity Policy](#)). Only participation points earned before the course closes will count toward your final grade.
10. **Administrative Drops** – Students who do not meaningfully participate by the eleventh week of the term will be administratively dropped from the course. Meaningful course participation includes regularly logging into the course, completing quizzes, engaging in the academic discussion community, and responding to Student Success outreach.
11. **Withdrawals** – If a student decides to exit from a course AFTER the drop deadline and BEFORE the withdrawal deadline, it is defined as a withdrawal. This is different from having dropped the course, as a grade of W will appear on your transcript. Withdrawals do not affect your GPA and do not count toward the number of credits attempted. Students will still have access to the lectures and active learning, but progress in the course will not be saved. Students who Withdraw are not eligible for a refund.

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- 12. Disability Accommodations** – Requests for reasonable disability accommodations must be made through your school's Outlier administrator. Please include specifics regarding the accommodation you are seeking along with relevant documentation from your school, doctor, or healthcare provider. Outlier is committed to ensuring that learners with accessibility needs have equal opportunity to succeed in our courses and will work with your school's Outlier administrator to provide reasonable accommodations.
- 13. Religious observances** – Outlier will make a reasonable attempt to accommodate student needs in the case of serious incompatibility between a student's religious creed and a scheduled test or examination. Requests for accommodations must be requested via your school's Outlier administrator during the first two weeks of an academic term.
- 14. Transfer Credit** – University of Pittsburgh grades and credits earned in this course appear on an official University of Pittsburgh transcript, and the course credits are likely to be eligible for transfer to other colleges and universities. College credit is earned with a passing grade (59.5 or higher). Individual colleges and universities may have additional policies regarding grade requirements for transfer credits. Students are encouraged to contact potential colleges and universities in advance to ensure their credits would be accepted. If students decide to attend any University of Pittsburgh campus, the University of Pittsburgh grade earned in the course will count toward the student grade point average at the University, and the earned credits will count towards the overall credits required for graduation. At the University of Pittsburgh, the grade from this course supersedes any equivalent AP credit.

Grading Criteria

A student's grade in this course will be comprised of the following elements:

- 30% Chapter quizzes (fourteen quizzes, ~2.14% each)
- 25% Final exam (cumulative, presented in two parts)
- 20% Exam (four exams, 5% each)
- 20% Seeing Sociology Writing Assignments (six 200–300 word writing assignments, ~3.33% each)
- 5% Participation in academic discussion community

At the end of each chapter, each student is required to complete a quiz designed to assess their mastery of the material covered in that chapter. Each student will be able to attempt five (5) versions of each chapter's quiz:

- Three (3) versions will be made available to the student at the end of each chapter
- One (1) version will become available to the student when the exam covering the material of that chapter is presented
- One (1) version will become available to the student when the two-part, cumulative final is presented

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Each student is required to attempt and complete at least one version of each chapter's quiz. Failing to do so will result in a grade of 0% for that chapter. If a student completes more than one quiz for a chapter, only the highest grade achieved will be counted for that chapter. As such, the student is encouraged to use these multiple quiz attempts as opportunities to identify areas that are in need of further practice. This diligent effort will allow the student to improve their understanding, mastery of the material, and grade in the course.

Writing Assignments & Grading

You will have six 200–300 word writing assignments due throughout the course. The purpose of these writing assignments is to examine and explain social situations using the sociological imagination. In each assignment, you will be presented with an image and asked to apply concepts from your coursework to analyze that image. There is one assignment based on concepts from each of the following chapters: 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 13.

Together, these assignments are worth 20% of your grade in this course. You are required to complete all six assignments. Assignments will be graded as Full Credit (10 points), Half Credit (5 points), or No Credit (0 points) according to the assignment rubric viewable on each assignment page.

All written assignments will be graded by evaluators holding at least a bachelor's degree in the field of Sociology.

Grades

An official grade will appear on the University of Pittsburgh transcript for any student who continues their enrollment beyond the official drop date for the course. Outlier.org will publicize the official drop date for each semester.

Grading Scale

A: 92.5 -100%
A-: 89.5 – 92.49%
B+: 86.5-89.49%
B: 82.5 – 86.49%
B-: 79.5 – 82.49%
C+: 76.5 – 79.49%
C: 72.5 – 76.49%
C-: 69.5 – 72.49%
D: 59.5 – 69.49%
F: 0 – 59.49%

Course Materials & Assessments

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Chapter Assignments and Assessments subject to change, and will be announced through Outlier.org as applicable within a reasonable time frame. Exams and writing assignments are the only scheduled coursework. Academic discussion community participation points accrue throughout the course duration until the scheduled course end date. Students should aim to keep up with weekly responses to prompts and comments on classmates' posts. Quizzes can be completed at any time, once their corresponding chapter has been unlocked. All other active learning, exercises, and lectures are provided for your learning and practice and are not time-sensitive or graded.

Week	Chapter	Topics	Assessments
Week 1 (9/18-9/20)	1 - The Sociological Imagination	What Is Sociology?	
Week 2 (9/23-9/27)		Where Did Sociology Come From?	
Week 3 (9/30-10/4)		- Sociological Perspectives - Why Study Sociology?	Chapter 1 Quiz Chapter 1 Seeing Sociology Writing Assignment due 10/7 at 12pm (noon) ET
Week 4 (10/7-10/11)	2 - Research Methods	- Why Do We Need Methods? - How Do We Use Methods?	
Week 5 (10/14-10/18)		Approaches to Sociological Research	Chapter 2 Quiz
Week 6 (10/21-10/25)	1 - 2	Exam 1 opens 10/21 Exam 1 closes 10/24	Exam 1, Retake Chapter 1 - 2 Quizzes as needed
Week 7 (10/28-11/1)	3 - Culture	- What Is Culture? - Elements of Culture: Symbols, Values, and Toolkits	

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Week 8 (11/4-11/8)		- Material Culture and Cultural Change - Culture and Inequality	Chapter 3 Quiz
Week 9 (11/11-11/15)	4 - Socialization and the Self	- Socialization - Agents of Socialization	
Week 10 (11/18-11/22)	4 - Socialization and the Self (cont.)	- Socialization Across the Life Course - Perspectives on Self-Development	Chapter 4 Quiz Chapter 4 Seeing Sociology Writing Assignment due 12/2 at 12pm (noon) ET
Week 11 (11/25 - 11/29)	Thanksgiving Break		Discussion community participation point earning period 1 ends Monday, 11/25 at 11:59PM ET
Week 12 (12/2-12/6)	5 - Groups and Organizations	- Types of Groups - Group Size and Structure	
Week 13 (12/9 - 12/13)		Formal Organizations	Chapter 5 Quiz
Week 14 (12/16-12/20)	3 - 5	Exam 2 opens 12/16 Exam 2 Closes 12/19	Exam 2 Retake Chapter 3 - 5 Quizzes as needed
Week 15 (12/23-12/27)	Winter Break		
Week 16 (12/30-1/3)			

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Week 17 (1/6- 1/10)	6 - Social Stratification	- What Is Stratification? - Social Mobility	
Week 18 (1/13-1/17)		Poverty	Chapter 6 Quiz
Week 19 (1/20-1/24)	7 - Race and Ethnicity	- Defining Race and Ethnicity - Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination	
Week 20 (1/27-1/31)		Intergroup Relationships	Chapter 7 Quiz Chapter 7 Seeing Sociology Writing Assignment due 2/3 at 12pm (noon) ET
Week 21 (2/3-2/7)	6 - 7	Exam 3 opens 2/3 Exam 3 closes 2/6	Exam 3, Retake Chapter 6 - 7 Quizzes as needed Discussion community participation point earning period 2 ends Monday, 2/3 at 11:59PM ET
Week 22 (2/10-2/14)	8 - Gender, Sex, and Sexuality	- The Social Construction of Sex and Gender - Gender	
Week 23 (2/17-2/21)	February Break		
Week 24 (2/24-2/28)	8 - Gender, Sex, and Sexuality (cont)	Sexuality	Chapter 8 Quiz

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Week 25 (3/3-3/7)		- Deviance and Control - Theoretical Perspectives on Deviance	
Week 26 (3/10-3/14)	9 - Social Control and Deviance	Crime and the Law	Chapter 9 Quiz Chapter 9 Seeing Sociology Writing Assignment due 3/17 at 12pm (noon) ET
Week 27 (3/17-3/21)	8 - 9	Exam 4 opens 3/17 Exam 4 closes 3/20	Exam 4, Retake Chapter 8 - 9 Quizzes as needed
Week 28 (3/24-3/28)	10 - Family + Religion	- What Is a Family? - Challenges in Family Life	
Week 29 (3/31 - 4/4)		- The Sociological Approach to Religion - Religion Today - Religion in the United States	Chapter 10 Quiz
Week 30 (4/7 - 4/11)	11 - Education	- What Is Education? - Educational Outcomes and the Opportunity Gap	
Week 31 (4/14 - 4/18)	<i>Spring Break</i>		Discussion community participation point earning period 3 ends Monday, 4/14 at 11:59PM ET
Week 32 (4/21 - 4/25)	11 - Education (cont.)	Structure vs. Agency and Forms of Capital	Chapter 11 Quiz

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			Chapter 11 Seeing Sociology Writing Assignment due 4/28 at 12pm (noon) ET
Week 33 (4/28 - 5/2)	12 - Health, Medicine, and the Body	- The Sociology of Health and Illness - Theoretical Perspectives on Health and Illness	
Week 34 (5/5 - 5/9)		- Health Disparities - The Body and Disability - Comparative Healthcare Systems	Chapter 12 Quiz
Week 35 (5/12-5/16)	13 - The Environment	- The Environment and Society - Theoretical Perspectives on the Environment and Society	
Week 36 (5/19 - 5/23)		- Climate Change - How Do Everyday Citizens Respond to Environmental Problems?	Chapter 13 Quiz Chapter 13 Seeing Sociology Writing Assignment due Tuesday, 5/27 at 12pm (noon) ET
Week 37 (5/26 - 5/30)	14 - Social Movements + Media and Technology	What Are Social Movements?	
Week 38 (6/2 - 6/6)		- Studying Social Movements Today - Media and Movements Cumulative final exam parts 1 and 2 open 6/2	Chapter 14 Quiz
Week 39 (6/9 - 6/13)	1-14	Cumulative final exam parts 1 and 2 close 6/12	Discussion community participation point earning

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			period 4 ends on Monday, 6/16 at 12pm (noon) ET Final Exams, Retake Chapter 1–14 Quizzes as Needed
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