SOCI 1301 - Introductory Sociology SOCI 1301.401 Course Syllabus

Description
The scientific study of human society, including ways in which groups, social institutions, and individuals affect each other. Causes of social stability and social change are explored through the application of various theoretical perspectives, key concepts, and related research methods of sociology. Analysis of social issues in their institutional context may include topics such as social stratification, gender, race/ethnicity, and deviance.
Credits 3
Lecture Hours 3
Lab Hours 0
Extended Hours 0
Contact Hours 48
State Approval Code 45.1101.51 25
Instructor Name Mark Dickerson
Semester/Year Spring 2025

Meeting Time and Location
Online—students are expected to spend at least 3-4 hours per week reading, reviewing, and participating in assigned activities for successful completion of this course.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure
In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Panola College to move to altered operations. During this time, Panola College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to: online learning management system (CANVAS), online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor Panola College's website (www.panola.edu) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, CANVAS for each class for course-specific communication, and Panola College email for important general information.

Student Basic Needs
Unexpected circumstances may arise, but Panola College offers various resources to support students. If you need mental health services or are facing challenges with transportation, affording class materials and supplies, or accessing food regularly—issues that may impact your class performance—please visit panola.edu/resources.

Class Attendance
Regular and punctual attendance of classes and laboratories is required of all students. When a student has been ill or absent from class for approved extracurricular activities, he or she should be allowed, as far as possible, to make up for the missed work. If a student has not actively participated by the census date, they will be dropped by the instructor for non-attendance. This policy applies to courses that are in-person, online, hybrid, and hyflex.

Attendance in online courses is determined by submission of an assignment or participation in an activity. According to federal guidelines, simply logging into a distance learning course without participating in an

academic assignment does not constitute attendance. Distance learning is defined as when a majority (more than 50%) of instruction occurs when the instructor and students are in separate physical locations. Students must engage in an academic activity prior to the course census date.

When an instructor feels that a student has been absent to such a degree as to invalidate the learning experience, the instructor may recommend to the Vice President of Instruction that the student be withdrawn from the course. Instructors may seek to withdraw students for non-attendance after they have accumulated the following number of absences:

Fall or spring semesters:

3 or more class meeting times per week - 5 absences

2 class meeting times per week - 3 absences

1 class meeting per week - 2 absences

The student is responsible for seeing that he or she has been officially withdrawn from a class. A student who stops attendance in a class without officially withdrawing from that class will be given a failing grade; consequently, the student must follow official withdrawal procedures in the Admissions/Records Office.

Please note: Health Science and Cosmetology courses may require more stringent attendance policies based on their accreditation agencies. Please see the addendum and/or program handbook for further information concerning attendance.

Pregnant/Parenting Policy

Panola College welcomes pregnant and parenting students as a part of the student body. This institution is committed to providing support and adaptations for a successful educational experience for pregnant and parenting students. Students experiencing a need for accommodations related to pregnancy or parenting will find a Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations Request form in the Student Handbook or may request the form from the course instructor.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Course Policy
Broader use of Generative AI permitted within the course.

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for students who wish to use it. Students must cite AI-generated material that informs their work. Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution qualifies as academic dishonesty.

Student Learning Outcomes

Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and syntheses of information
- CT1: Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information

Communication Skills – to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- CS1: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication

Empirical and Quantitative Skills – to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- EQS1: Manipulate and analyze numerical data and arrive at an informed conclusion

Social Responsibility – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- SR3: Engage in regional, national, and global communities

Instructional Goals and Purposes
The purpose of this course is to:

1. Students are to examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures.
2. Students are to communicate various explanations for contemporary social issues.

3. Students are to differentiate and analyze historical evidence (documentary and statistical) and differing points of view.
4. Students are to understand the evolution and current role of the U.S. in the world.

Learning Outcomes

After studying all materials and resources presented in the course, the student will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast the basic theoretical perspectives of sociology.
2. Identify the various methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data in sociology.
3. Describe key concepts in sociology.
4. Describe the empirical findings of various subfields of sociology.
5. Explain the complex links between individual experiences and broader institutional forces.

Course Content

A general description of lecture/discussion topics included in this course are listed in the Learning Objectives section of this syllabus.

Students in all sections of this course will learn the following content:

1. Thinking Like a Sociologist
2. Culture
3. Socialization
4. Social Interaction in Everyday Life
5. Groups, Organizations, and Institutions
6. Deviance, Crime, and Social Control
7. Social Stratification: United States and Global
8. Gender and Sexuality
9. Race and Ethnicity
10. Families and Aging
11. Education and Religion

Methods of Instruction/Course Format/Delivery

This course is offered in face-to-face format, online format, and/or a Hybrid format. For the traditional classroom course, teaching approaches are expected to vary with individual instructors who should employ those techniques that work best for them and their students. Although lecture and reading assignments are the primary forms of delivery, other instructional methods may involve classroom discussion, student presentations and lectures, audio-visual instruction, invited speakers, critical thinking activities, in class writing exercises designed to stimulate critical thinking, and group activities.

Distance learning is also available for students who cannot attend lectures and who are capable of the amount of self-direction and discipline required to complete such a course. Reading the materials, communication via email, and on-line discussion are some of the methods used for distance learning.

Major Assignments/Assessments

The following items are assigned and assessed during the semester and used to calculate the student's final grade.

Assignments

Assignments: Faculty may assign both in and out of class assignments, essay projects, and exams to assess the student's knowledge and abilities. Faculty may also choose from the following assessment criteria:

1. Attendance

2. Class Preparedness and Participation Exams

3. Tests Quizzes

4. Internet Assignments Journal Assignments Library Assignments Readings

5. Research Papers Written Assignments

Assessments

Assessment(s):

1. Students must demonstrate their mastery of Critical Thinking Skills (CT1) by correctly answering any three of five embedded questions on Test 1.

2. Students must demonstrate their mastery of Empirical and Quantitative Skills (ESQ 2) by correctly answering any three of five embedded questions on Test 2.

3. Students must demonstrate their mastery of Social Responsibility Skills (SR 3) by correctly answering any three of five embedded questions on Test 3.

4. Students must demonstrate their mastery of Communication Skills (CS 1) by scoring a 70% or better on a written assignment.

Course Grade

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

- Test 1 – 20% (proctored)
- Test 2 – 20% (proctored)
- Test 3 – 20% (proctored)
- Chapter Quizzes – at the end of the semester, the chapter quiz average will substitute for Test 1, 2, or 3 grade provided the quiz average is higher than the lowest test 1, 2, or 3 grade. The quiz average constitutes all assigned quizzes, not just completed quizzes.
- Discussion Participation – Discussion Topics are a requirement of this course. Students may receive up to 5 points for Discussion, based on the subjective scoring of the Professor. The Discussion points will then be added back to the Quiz grade from the related chapter.
- Written Assignment – 15% (via Canvas or current LMS)
- Final Exam – 25% (proctored)

For shortened semesters, i.e. Winter Term, Summer 1, and/or Summer 2, when time and testing facility hours are modified, the grading scale is modified as follows:

Mid Term – 30% (proctored)

Final Exam – 30% (proctored)

Quiz Average – 25%

Written Assignment – 15%

Subjective grading – in circumstances where student grades are borderline and the issue of rounding the grade up comes into question, the professor may consider your classroom attendance record, your class participation level, and/or your perceived preparedness level for class in determining to round up or not. Discussion participation grading is also subjective.

Test Proctoring:

Face to Face Courses – Instructors have the following options:

1. Test their students during class using the testing labs or paper and pencil
2. Use the Testing Center for exams (students must be given at least two days)
3. Allow students to test online

Online Courses – Instructors will use proctoring service for at least two assignments/exams

Students must adhere to the following rules:

Dress appropriately – Students must follow the dress code outline in The Pathfinder. Instructors have the right not to review exams if a student is inappropriately dressed and can require the student to retake the exam in the testing center.

Take the exam at a desk or table location in a quiet area of the house – If a student does not have a location like this in the house, the student must contact the instructor prior to the exam.

Complete a correct room scan; an incomplete room scan can result in the instructor not reviewing the test and the student being required to retake the exam in a testing center. A proper scan requires a complete 360 degree view of the room and a view of the desk and surrounding area.

Instructors can require additional requirements at their discretion – which must be in the respective syllabus.

Texts Materials, and Supplies

Open Education Resources (OER) – course content is available online at no cost to the student via Openstax (https://openstax.org/details/introduction-sociology-2e)

Required Readings

- Open Education Resources (OER) – course content is available online at no cost to the student via Openstax (https://openstax.org/details/introduction-sociology-2e)
- Assigned materials provided within Canvas

Recommended Readings

Any local or national newspaper articles, magazine stories, and/or journals relevant to the issues covered

Other

- Courses conducted via video conferencing may be recorded and shared for instructional purposes by the instructor.
- For current texts and materials, use the following link to access bookstore listings: https://www.panolacollegestore.com.
- For testing services, use the following link: https://www.panola.edu/student-services/studentsupport/academic-testing-center.
- If any student in this class has special classroom or testing needs because of a physical learning or emotional condition, please contact the ADA Student Coordinator in Support Services located in the Charles C. Matthews Student Center or go to https://www.panola.edu/studentservices/student-support/disability-support-services for more information.
- Withdrawing from a course is the student's responsibility. Students who do not attend class and who do not withdraw will receive the grade earned for the course.
- Student Handbook: https://www.panola.edu/ (located on at the bottom under student)