# Course Syllabus

Utah Valley University

Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

## **SOC 1010G Introduction to Sociology**

2025

## **Instructor’s contact information:**

Instructor:

Office Location:

E-mail:

Office Hours:

Phone number:

## **Course Description:**

 This course introduces basic sociological concepts, including theories and research methods. It explores major sociological topics, such as culture, globalization, socialization, groups, organizations, social institutions, social change, and social inequality. This class challenges students to think critically about social issues on global and local scales and reflect on their life experiences from a sociological perspective.

This course fulfills the Social/Behavioral science requirement for students pursuing an Associate in Science/Arts Degree or a Bachelor of Science/Arts Degree. It is one of the G/I courses, as well as one of the required core courses for students majoring in Sociology.

## **Textbook:**

Conerly, T. R., Holmes, K., and Tamang, A. L. Introduction to Sociology. 3rd edition. <https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e>

(Note: This book, including the audio edition, is embedded in Canvas)

## **Course Objectives:**

Upon successful completion, students should be able to…

1. Analyze global or intercultural issues.

2. Recognize the complexity and variety of different cultural groups.

1. Evaluate how one's own cultural rules and biases compare and contrast with those from different cultures.
2. Interrelate respectfully with individuals representing cultures and perspectives other than one's own.
3. Investigate social issues from a sociological perspective.
4. Explain how social forces affect individuals' life chances and community-level outcomes.
5. Develop basic research skill sets to identify social problems and explore research

questions.

1. Apply sociological theories and concepts to real life experiences.

**Schedule**

| Date | Tests | Lessons |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week # 1 |  | Lesson 1. Understanding sociology |
| Week # 2 |  | Lesson 1. Understanding sociology |
| Week # 3 |  | Lesson 2. Sociological research |
| Week # 4 |  | Lesson 3. Culture |
| Week # 5 | Test # 1: Lesson 1-4 | Lesson 4. Socialization |
| Week # 6 |  | Lesson 5. Social groups |
| Week # 7 |  | Lesson 6. The mass media |
| Week # 8 |  | Lesson 7. Deviance |
| Week # 9 |  | Lesson 7. Deviance |
| Week # 10 |  | Spring break |
| Week # 11 | Test # 2:Lesson 5-8 | Lesson 8. Social stratification |
| Week # 12 |  | Lesson 9. Race and ethnicity |
| Week # 13 |  | Lesson 10. Gender and sexuality |
| Week # 14 |  | Lesson 11. The family |
| Week # 15 | Test # 3:Lesson 9-12 | Lesson 12. The religion |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week # 16 |  | Review of all lessons |
| Week # 17 |  | Final exam |

## **Chapter quizzes:**

There is a lesson quiz each week based on the readings, power point slides, and lecture videos. Each quiz consists of 10 multiple-choice questions. Students are discouraged from using any study aids. You may take each quiz twice, with the highest score being counted as your final score.

## **Tests:**

 There are a total of 3 tests in this class, each consisting of 75 multiple-choice questions randomly selected by canvas. All questions are based on the PowerPoint slides, the textbook, and lecture videos.

Each test is limited to 75 minutes. Students may take each test twice, with the highest score being counted as the final score. Each question is worth 2 points, and the maximum score for each test is 150 points. All tests must be completed online.

The tests require critical thinking based on the readings. It is important to study the textbook and power point slides thoroughly before taking the tests, as inadequate preparation may result in insufficient time or lower scores.

## **Final exam:**

The final exam covers everything you have learned in this class. Be sure to review the PowerPoint slides, lecture videos, and the textbook before taking the exam.

While you are allowed to use the textbook or study aids during the test, you should prepare as if you are not permitted to use them. Make sure you understand and remember all major concepts. If you forget some details during the test, you may refer to the book or study aids. However, keep in mind that each test has a time limit, and you might not have enough time to look up all the answers during the exam.

The final exam consists of 104 true/false or multiple-choice questions, totaling 208 points. The time limit for the exam is 110 minutes, and you may take it twice. The highest score will be counted.

## **Paper:**

Students are required to write a paper for this class. The paper must be original. Papers submitted in other classes cannot be reused in this class. Any paper with a plagiarism score higher than 10% will receive zero points. The description of the paper description is posted on the module.

## **Weekly activities:**

 The purpose of the weekly activities is to challenge students to think from various perspectives. Students are required to post logical arguments and respond to each other’s posts. Please respect others' perspectives and learn from different viewpoints. Disrespectful, aggressive, or attacking posts will receive zero points. The instructor and TA are open to diverse perspectives and will refrain from giving students final answers.

The main post must be grammatically correct, contain sociological insights, and be at least 200 words long. Extra credit will be awarded for excellent posts that include insightful comments and strong logical arguments. The instructor and TA(s) work as a team to grade the weekly activities.

The weekly activity will be locked after the deadline, and no points will be given for missed submissions. Please save a copy of your posts. Occasionally, when the system is not stable, some posts might be missing. To avoid this problem, post early and double-check to make sure that your submission appears on canvas. If you can't see your post, we can’t either; and no points can be awarded.

## **Extension**:

 With legitimate and documented reasons, quizzes and tests can be extended by up to 3 days (however, there is no make-up exam for the final). After 3 days, students will receive no credit. Therefore, students are encouraged to submit early.

**Grading:**

 Scores are posted online, and students are encouraged to check them regularly.

|   | Points Each | Frequency | Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Chapter quizzes |  10 | 12 |  120 |
| Tests | 150 |  3 |  450 |
| Activities |  10 | 12 |  120 |
| Paper | 100 |  1 |  100 |
| Final exam | 208 |  1 |  208 |
| Other |  |  |  2 |
| Total |  |  | 1000 |

## **Grading Scale:**

 A: 930-1000 A-: 900-929

B+: 870-899 B: 830-869 B-: 800-829

C+: 770-799 C: 730-769 C-: 700-729

D+: 670-699 D: 630-669 D-: 600-629

E: 599 and below

## **Request for Incomplete Grade:**

 An incomplete grade will only be given to students who have completed at least 80% of the coursework and have legitimate, documented reasons for missing the final part of the class requirements. Starting the class late or poor time management are not considered legitimate reasons. Please plan your schedule wisely to succeed in this class.

## **Drop & Withdraw Policy:**

The instructor will not withdraw students for any reason. Students may drop the class by the third week of the semester, and no record will appear on their transcript. Students may withdraw until the fourth week; however, a grade of "W" will appear on the transcript if the withdrawal occurs after the third week.

## **Academic Honesty:**

Each student is expected to maintain academic ethics and honesty in all forms, including but not limited to the following:

1. Cheating: as the act of using, attempting to use, or providing others with unauthorized information, materials, or study aids in academic work. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, passing examination answers to someone else, taking examinations for someone else, or preparing or copying others' academic work.
2. Plagiarism: as the act of using someone else's ideas or work (written, computerized, artistic, etc.) or portions thereof and presenting them as your own in any academic exercise or study.
3. Fabrication: as the act of using invented information or falsifying research or other findings, such as:

(1). Citing information not taken from the indicated source, including incorrect documentation of secondary sources.

(2) Listing sources in a bibliography that were not used in the academic exercise.

(3) Submitting fictitious data or evidence, or deliberately concealing or distorting the true nature, origin, or function of such data or evidence.

(4) Submitting academic work that is wholly or partly prepared by someone else as if it were your own.

No academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this course. The consequence for academic dishonesty is an F for the entire course.

**Plagiarism**

As outlined in UVU’s [Student Rights and Accountabilities](https://www.uvu.edu/studentconduct/students.html), all students are expected “to maintain absolute integrity and high standards of individual honesty in academic work, and to observe a high standard of conduct within the academic environment.” Plagiarism is considered a serious offense that is inconsistent with the university’s mission and values. Every student is expected to produce original work and to use outside sources in a manner that consistently gives proper credit through established academic conventions.

Plagiarism is considered to have occurred if you:

* Use the exact wording of another author or source in a way that makes it appear as your own, regardless of the form in which those words originally appeared (e.g., a book, article, lecture, website, speech, graphic, or AI text generator).
* Paraphrase another author’s wording in a manner where the language and/or syntax is too similar to the original passage without proper citation.
* Fail to clearly acknowledge the partial or full authorship of someone else in your submitted work.
* Fail to cite or quote textual resources properly, despite the instructor's efforts at educational intervention.
* Fabricate false information that is not supported by the actual research used in your writing project.
* Have someone else, paid or otherwise, write your paper or use a paper mill site with pre-written papers by other people.
* Generate and submit a paper using artificial intelligence, such as ChatGPT.

While the actions described above may be done with the intention to deceive, plagiarism can also occur accidentally due to careless use of sources, improper citation methods, or misunderstanding the conventions of the chosen style guide. Although distinguishing between intentional and accidental plagiarism is often a judgment call for the instructor, it is important to note that accidental plagiarism is still considered plagiarism. Addressing the incident is crucial regardless of intent. While the resulting consequences may vary based on the degree of intentionality, all forms of plagiarism will be treated with equal seriousness.

It's important to understand both the strengths and limitations of AI. AI has proven useful in brainstorming writing ideas, simplifying complex topics, and performing basic research. We believe AI can be a valuable tool for writers. However, AI also has significant drawbacks. It often exhibits accuracy problems while appearing confident in its incorrect responses. Additionally, it frequently generates fake citations and quotations and lacks the ability to understand the nuances and contexts of human communication. Finally, the way AI is trained on other texts poses several ethical questions about copyright and intellectual theft of property (along with uncritically inheriting the biases of the texts it's trained on).

To be clear, copying the exact wording from an AI chatbot is considered plagiarism, and students will be held accountable for violating academic integrity. While citation guides are beginning to provide methods for citing AI, we currently believe that citing AI does not align with academic writing standards, which emphasize knowing the exact author(s) or sources that informed your work.

If you are suspected of plagiarism, the first step will be a conversation with your instructor, through emails, Teams, or in person. If the infraction is minor or clearly unintentional, there may be no sanctions. However, possible outcomes could include a lowered grade and/or the opportunity to revise the paper. In more serious cases, the assignment may receive an automatic zero.

The most serious infractions may lead to your instructor filing an incident report with the Student Conduct office. You have the right to appeal this report to the department chair. Regardless of the chair’s decision, the incident report will remain a part of your permanent record. If you are dissatisfied with the chair’s ruling, you may further appeal to the Dean. The Dean’s decision will be final.

## **Accessibility Services:**

If you have a disability that may affect your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Accessibility Services Department (ASD) at the Orem Campus, located in BA 110. Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. The Accessibility Services Department coordinates services with both the student and instructor.

To schedule an appointment or speak with a counselor, call the ASD office at (801) 863-8747 or email asd@uvu.edu

For deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals, please text (385) 208-2677 or email dhhservices@uvu.edu

## **Religious Accommodations:**

      UVU values and acknowledges a wide range of faiths and religions within our student body and provides accommodations accordingly. Religious belief includes both the student’s faith or conscience and participation in organized activities related to their religious tradition or organization. Accommodations may involve reasonable absences from scheduled examinations or academic requirements if these create undue hardship for sincerely held religious beliefs. To request such accommodations, students must provide written notice to the course instructor before the event.

The UVU campus has a designated space for meditation, prayer, reflection, and other forms of individual religious expression. For more information, visit [UVU Reflection Center](https://www.uvu.edu/ethics/reflectioncenter/).

**Title IX**

      Title IX ensures that violence and harassment based on sex and gender, including sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, are treated as civil rights offenses. These are subject to the same accountability and support as offenses based on other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, disability status, veteran status, or genetic information.

If you or someone you know has experienced harassment or sexual assault, including dating and domestic violence, stalking, or sexual exploitation, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office for Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, located in BA-203, or by calling (801) 863-7999.

Please note that all faculty members and university employees are considered “Responsible Employees” and are required to report incidents of sexual misconduct and relationship violence, and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. For confidential resources, you can contact UVU Student Health Services at SC-221, (801) 863-8876. For more information, visit [UVU Equal Opportunity](https://www.uvu.edu/equalopportunity/).

## **Fair Use Disclaimer**

This course is for educational purposes only.

## **Fair Use**

Copyright Disclaimer under section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976, allowance is made for “fair use” for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, education and research.

Fair use is a use permitted by copyright statute that might otherwise be infringing.

## **Fair Use Definition**

Fair use is a doctrine in United States copyright law that allows limited use of copyrighted material without requiring permission from the rights holders, such as commentary, criticism, news reporting, research, teaching or scholarship. It provides for the legal, non-licensed citation or incorporation of copyrighted material in another author’s work under a four-factor balancing test.

## **Questions about this class**

 Since this is an online class, I encourage you to email me anytime you have questions or concerns. Feel free to reach out to me at chougr@uvu.edu and I'll be happy to help you succeed in this course.

**Technical Support:**

For 24/7 technical support, contact Instructure's Canvas Support via live chat or email to support@instructure.com. For more information, visit the website: <https://www.uvu.edu/canvas/students/>.