

SOC250 Sociology

Syllabus Overview

This syllabus contains all relevant information about the course: its objectives and outcomes, the grading criteria, the texts and other materials of instruction, and weekly topics, outcomes, assignments, and due dates. Consider this your roadmap for the course. Please read through the syllabus carefully and ask questions if you would like anything clarified. Please print a copy of this syllabus for reference.

Course Description

3 Credits

Prerequisite: ENG201 English Composition II

This course is designed to give students a basic introduction to the academic discipline of sociology. This course presents students with a broad overview of key components of sociological theory in selected subfields. This course focuses on how social structures create norms and values that are shaped by an individual's historical and biographical narrative. As you are well aware, a variety of social perspectives inform how we participate in social structures. You are encouraged to critically examine how norms and values shape this participation. The weekly discussions allow students to engage with people from a variety of viewpoints and help each other identify the principles that underpin different sociological theories. The weekly assignments allow students to engage in each week's topic with more detail and receive feedback on how well the material is integrated in the answer to the assignment question.

Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the history of sociology and how it developed in the United States;
- Identify important factors that influence where people live;
- Define residential segregation and how it harms low-income blacks in the United States;
- Understand how social networks transfer information;
- Understand the importance of social capital to address social issues;
- Articulate both economic and social motivations causing international migration;
- Identify social factors that influence immigrant incorporation in the United States;
- Understand how collective efficacy can reduce crime;
- Articulate how exposure to long-term stress is related to the rise in chronic diseases;
- Identify how social structures can influence economic outcomes.

Communication with Your Instructor

You will receive a welcome email from your instructor prior to the start of class. This email will contain your instructor's contact information. Your instructor will also be communicating with you via several methods in the course, including:

- **Announcements** – This communication tool, located on the navigation menu within your course in Canvas, contains important updates. Be sure to check for new announcements from your instructor each time you access your course.
- **Q&A** – Use this discussion board, located on the Home screen in your course, to communicate with your instructor and classmates regarding general course questions (i.e. missing links, assignment clarification, etc.).
- **Inbox** – Use the Inbox, located in the top right corner of Canvas, to send a message to your instructor or classmates.

Materials and Resources

There is no text book for this course. All materials are available on line and can be accessed through links posted each week. The readings are listed in week-by-week schedule below.

Bookstore Information

The bookstore can be located in the left-hand navigation of any Canvas course.

Library Services

Detailed information about the eLibrary can be found in the Student Resource Center. This is a course that all students have access to during their academic career.

Canvas Help Desk and Technical Questions

If you experience technical issues in your course, please contact the Canvas Help Desk by clicking the Help link (top right corner within Canvas). There are 3 ways to contact them:

- Phone (888-628-2749)
- Live chat
- Report a problem (submit a ticket)

Be sure to notify your instructor of any technical difficulties you are experiencing.

Additional resources are available in the Student Resource Center and the Canvas Guides website:

<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-4121>

Weekly Schedule

Week 1	Introduction to Sociology
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how sociology developed as a discipline over the last 100 years. • Explain how the Chicago School rose to prominence in developing sociological theory. • Describe the importance of historical context in the development of social structures. • Describe the problems that develop when there is a lack of clear social norms.
Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An introduction to the Chicago School of Sociology • The anomie tradition: Explaining rates of deviant behavior • The promise of sociological imagination
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor's Intro: Sociology 101 • Sociology 101 - Weber, Durkheim, Marx & Mills • The three minute sociologist: Soc imagination and perspective - tools across cultures?
Progress Monitor	Complete the weekly progress monitor to review your understanding of this week's material.
Discussion	Social norms
Assignments	Social structures

Week 2	Urban Sociology
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the importance of temperature for population growth of cities. • Describe how international migration is important for population growth of cities. • Identify how population density shapes socioeconomic outcomes. • Explain how the automobile is important for the growth of cities.
Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City growth and the 2000 census: Which places grew and why • Urban sociology: The contributions and limits of political economy
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor's Intro: Urban Sociology • Urban sociology Population Density
Progress Monitor	Complete the weekly progress monitor to review your understanding of this week's material.
Discussion	Population growth

Assignments	Community Influence
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Week 3 Residential Segregation and Race	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how residential segregation is associated with negative socioeconomic outcomes. • List some possible reasons why residential segregation has declined since 1980. • Describe how different ethno-racial populations experience residential segregation. • Identify the importance of role models to promote positive social behaviors.
Readings	<p>Are ghettos good or bad?</p> <p>Segregation of minorities in the metropolis: Two decades of change</p> <p>Urban diversity and economic growth</p>
Lectures	Professor's Intro: Residential Segregation and Race
Multimedia	Barack Obama: 'A More Perfect Union'
Progress Monitor	Complete the weekly progress monitor to review your understanding of this week's material.
Discussion	Residential segregation
Assignments	Residential segregation & socioeconomic status

Week 4 Social Networks and Social Capital	
Outcomes	<p>Describe why weak ties are important for social network relationships.</p> <p>List some reasons why social capital is in decline across the United States.</p> <p>Explain how social capital is formed.</p> <p>Identify some possible negative outcomes resulting from social capital</p>
Readings	<p>The strength of weak ties</p> <p>Social capital: Its origins and applications in modern sociology</p> <p>Determinants of social capital: New evidence on religion, diversity and structural change</p> <p>An economic approach to social capital</p>
Lectures	Professor's Introduction: Social Capital
Multimedia	A core competency of advocacy: Building social capital, part I

	Community participation and involvement Facebook and social capital
Progress Monitor	Complete the weekly progress monitor to review your understanding of this week’s material.
Discussion	Social capital
Assignments	Solving problems with Social Capital
Midterm	Refer to your course

Week 5 International Migration	
Outcomes	List social and economic reasons that motivate international migration. Describe major characteristics of the migrant population in the United States. Explain how different migrant populations integrate into the social fabric of the United States. Describe how migrant settlement patterns have changed over the last fifty years.
Readings	Theories of international migration: A review and appraisal The rise of new immigrant gateways from Brookings Segmented assimilation: Issues, controversies, and recent research on the new second generation
Lectures	Professor’s Introduction: International Migration
Multimedia	GOOD: Immigration Law professor busts myths about US immigration policies
Progress Monitor	Complete the weekly progress monitor to review your understanding of this week’s material.
Discussion	Causes and results of international migration
Assignments	Social and economic patterns

Week 6 Sociology of Health	
Outcomes	Identify how social networks are related to health outcomes. Explain how neighborhood characteristics are related to health outcomes. Describe how stress is related to health outcomes. Recognize that different ethno-racial populations have different health outcomes

Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protective and damaging mediators of stress • The spread of obesity in a large social network over 32 years • Racial residential segregation: A fundamental cause of racial disparities in health • Physical and mental health characteristics of U.S.-and foreign-born adults: United States, 1998–2003
Lectures	Professor’s Introduction: Social Components to Individual Health Behaviors and Outcomes
Multimedia	Weight gain across social networks The hidden influence of social networks
Progress Monitor	Complete the weekly progress monitor to review your understanding of this week’s material.
Discussion	Social mechanisms that influence health behaviors and outcomes
Assignments	Long-term health outcomes

Week 7	Crime
Outcomes	Explain why crime rates have declined since the early 1990s in the United States. Identify the theoretical reasons why most crime is located in urban areas. Compare competing theoretical reasons why crime rates have dropped in the United States. Describe how collective efficacy is related to crime rates.
Readings	Neighborhoods and violent crime: A multilevel study of collective efficacy Disorder in urban neighborhoods—Does it lead to crime
Lectures	Professor’s Introduction: Crime and Collective Efficacy to Stop it
Multimedia	Community policing Broken windows How “broken windows” affect you
Progress Monitor	Complete the weekly progress monitor to review your understanding of this week’s material.
Discussion	Collective efficacy and crime
Assignments	How social systems influence individual behaviors

Week 8	Economic Sociology
Outcomes	Describe how non-monetary embedded social structures influence the price of goods. Explain how social networks influence the job search process. Describe how trust helps facilitate difficult economic negotiations. Explain how social structures influence innovation.
Readings	The impact of social structures on economic outcomes
Lectures	Professor's Introduction: Social Structures and Economic Outcomes
Multimedia	Income inequality and the middle class Social media marketing done right at Boloco Burrito
Progress Monitor	Complete the weekly progress monitor to review your understanding of this week's material.
Discussion	Social structures and economic outcomes
Final Exam	Refer to your course

Grading and Evaluation

Your grades will reflect the way in which you present and support your topics and positions in the various learning activities used in this course. The grades will be based on the quality and quantity of your comments and responses in the various activities.

Be sure to review the discussion and assignment rubrics in the course for specific grading criteria.

The various graded activities are weighted as follows:

Course Element	% of Final Grade
Discussions	40%
Assignments	40%
Final Paper	10%
Midterm	5%
Final Exam	5%
Total	100%

Students will be expected to meet all the deadlines of the class as indicated throughout the course and in the syllabus. This is primarily so we don't get behind in the course. In addition, discussions cannot overlap from one week to the next. This is to ensure that all discussions and submissions take place within the week they are scheduled in order to be of value to the entire class as well as to help you not get behind. If there are extenuating circumstances, you will need to communicate that to the instructor and make arrangements accordingly, if appropriate.

Late Assignments: Exceptions are to be determined by the instructor on a case-by-case basis. There will be no opportunities for extra credit.

Learner Success Guidelines

These guidelines are provided to help you succeed in your coursework:

- Participate in the class introduction activity on the first day of class.
- Submit ALL assignments by the posted due dates and times.
- Check your emails daily.
- Contact Portal Help for logon problems or Canvas Help for technical issues with Canvas.
- Participate fully in all threaded discussions.
- Contact your instructor if you have questions about an assignment or need additional help completing your work successfully.

Academic dishonesty is grounds for dismissal from the program.

Academic Policies

The following Academic Polices can be found in the [Student Resource Center](#).

- Grading Criteria
- Reasonable Accommodations Policy
- Student Attendance Policy
- Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy
- Student Engagement and the Granting of Academic Credit
- Copyright Policy

Caveat

The above schedule, content, and procedures in this course are subject to change. All policies are superseded by the latest College Catalog available on our website:

<https://www.cambridgecollege.edu/student-rights-complaints-grievances/student-code-conduct>