

**Saint Leo University**  
**SOC 121**  
**Introduction to Sociology**

**Course Description:**

A survey of the major issues and ideas in sociology, including basic concepts and theories, as well as an examination of major social institutions, the dynamics and processes of social interaction, and the structure and organization of social groups.

**Prerequisite:**

None

**Textbook:**

Henslin, J. M. (2019). *Essentials of Sociology (Revel Access)*. 13th ed. NJ: Pearson.  
ISBN#: 9780134799612

This is an interactive eBook that can be accessed via the **SOC 121 eBook** link under **Start Here**.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:

1. Understand what is meant by the “sociological perspective,” basic familiarity with fundamental sociological principles and concepts, and to differentiate between sociology and other social science disciplines;
2. Identify, examine, and discuss the different social processes and institutions that exist within American society and the dynamics of their operation;
3. Critically examine the different theoretical approaches within the discipline of sociology, and how these different theoretical perspectives view the structure and organization of society and social processes from macro- and micro-orientations;
4. Critically analyze the consequences of inequality, a stratified society, and social justice issues.

**Core Value:**

*Community:* Saint Leo University develops hospitable Christian learning communities everywhere we serve. We foster a spirit of belonging, unity, and interdependence based on mutual trust and respect to create socially responsible environments that challenge all of us to listen, to learn, to change, and to serve.

**Evaluation:**

Item	Points	Weight
Exam 1	80	15%
Exam 2	100	15%
Final Exam	100	25%
Writing Assignments (2)	200	30%
Discussions (8)	80	15%
Total	<b>560</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Revel Registration:**

All quizzes, which are embedded within the assigned textbook chapters, can be completed in your interactive Revel eBook, which is accessed via the **SOC 121 eBook** link under **Start Here**. These quizzes are for practice and are designed to help you succeed in your course.

Before students can access the resources, they must register the Revel eBook. To complete enrollment, students will need to enter the access code that is included with your electronic textbook purchase. See the **eBook Student Registration Instructions** under **Start Here** for registration information.

**Exams:**

There will be three exams given during the course of the term or semester. Exams will be a combination of multiple-choice, true/false, matching, definitions, short-answer questions, and essays. The first two exams will be non-cumulative; the third will be a cumulative final exam.

**Writing Assignments:**

Students will complete two typed written assignments, of a minimum of seven (7) pages in length, and **include** a title page and a reference page, using a standard 12-point font. Your title page and reference page will not count toward the seven-page minimum requirement. You may use additional resources, provided they are appropriately cited.

You are required to use the American Sociological Association (ASA) formatting style to format your paper and sources. Information on ASA is available via the **Writing Format and Style Guides** in the Resources section. Complete instructions and scoring rubrics are provided in the modules and under Start Here.

**Discussions:**

In each module, you will participate in a graded discussion. You will be asked to submit an original post, and to respond to at least two (2) of the posts submitted by your classmates. Of course, you are encouraged to post more; it will only make the discussion more informative. You are also responsible for reading what your classmates are posting. Detailed instructions and a rubric are provided under Course Home in the course menu.

**Grading Scale:**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>A</b>	94% to 100%
<b>A-</b>	90% to 93%
<b>B+</b>	87% to 89%
<b>B</b>	84% to 86%
<b>B-</b>	80% to 83%
<b>C+</b>	77% to 79%
<b>C</b>	74% to 76%
<b>C-</b>	70% to 73%
<b>D+</b>	67% to 69%
<b>D</b>	60% to 66%
<b>F</b>	Below 60%

## Course Schedule

### Module 1                      The Discipline of Sociology

#### Objectives

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Define sociology.
- Differentiate sociology from other social science disciplines.
- Apply the sociological imagination to your own life.
- Describe the three main theoretical perspectives in sociology.
- Compare the main methods of sociological research.

#### Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post introduction to the class	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Read the assigned materials	
Complete chapter quizzes for practice	
Post initial response to discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Begin working on Writing Assignment 1	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT of Module 4

### Module 2                      Learning the Ropes: Culture, Socialization, Deviance, and Social Control

#### Objectives

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Define culture and its elements.
- Evaluate cultural practices while avoiding ethnocentric bias.
- Identify the stages of child development.
- Explain the process and impact of socialization throughout the lifespan.
- Analyze instances of deviance using sociological theories of deviance.
- Assess the efficacy of the way American society addresses deviance and crime.

#### Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
Complete chapter quizzes for practice	
Complete Subculture or Counterculture activity	
View BP and Corporate Crime presentation	
Post initial response to discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Socialization Activity	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

**Module 3****Getting Together: Social Groups and Social Interaction****Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Identify statuses and roles in your everyday life.
- Analyze everyday interactions from the perspective of dramaturgy and ethnomethodology.
- Describe the evolution of human societies.
- Discuss the characteristics of bureaucracy.
- Explain the main features of group dynamics.
- Identify the various types of social groups.

**Assignments**

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
Complete Test Your Hollywood Knowledge exercise	
Complete chapter quizzes for practice	
Complete Statuses and Roles exercise	
Post initial response to discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Exam 1	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

**Module 4****The Challenge of Social Justice in an Unequal World: Social Class, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Age****Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Define the main concepts associated with the study of social stratification.
- Explain the consequences of social inequality using sociological theories.
- Examine the role of class, race, gender, and age in your everyday life.
- Criticize current policies addressing inequality from the perspective of social justice.

**Assignments**

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
Review assigned website content	
Complete chapter quizzes for practice	
Post initial response to discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Writing Assignment 1	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

**Module 5****Making Society Work, Part 1: Politics, the Economy, and Education****Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Identify the functions of the institutions of politics, the economy, and education.
- Define the main types of leadership and government.
- Contrast the economic systems of capitalism and socialism.
- Analyze education from the structural functionalist, conflict, and symbolic interactionist perspective.
- Explain the transformation of economic systems over time and place.
- Describe the US political system.

**Assignments**

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
Explored Pew Research Center website	
Complete chapter quizzes for practice	
Post initial response to discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Begin working on Writing Assignment 2	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT of Module 7

**Module 6****Making Society Work, Part 2: Marriage, the Family, and Religion****Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Analyze family and religion using the three sociological perspectives.
- Describe the recent evolution of American families.
- Define the main terms used to classify family types.
- Apply Durkheim's definition of religion to various areas of society.
- Identify various types of religious groups.

**Assignments**

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
Complete chapter quizzes for practice	
Post initial response to discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Exam 2	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

**Module 7****Society Evolving: Demography, Urbanization, and the Environment****Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Interpret basic population data.
- Explain patterns of population growth around the world.
- Identify different types of urban development.
- Explain the problems of current patterns of urbanization.
- Evaluate the sources of environmental problems in industrialized and less industrialized countries.

**Assignments**

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
Complete chapter quizzes for practice	
Post initial response to discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Writing Assignment 2	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Begin reviewing for Final Exam	

**Module 8****Can I Make a Difference? The Challenges of Social Change****Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Explain the various theories of social change.
- Identify various types of social movements.
- Discuss the role of technology in social change.
- Recognize propaganda in mass communication messages.

**Assignments**

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
Complete chapter quizzes for practice	
Post initial response to discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Final Exam	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT