

**Saint Leo University**  
**SOC 427**  
**Practicing Sociology**

**Course Description:**

This course serves as an introduction to the practice of sociology in a variety of settings. It is designed to expose students to the professional worlds of sociologists. Students will learn how sociological concepts, skills and tools may be used to analyze and change contemporary social behavior and issues. They will become familiar with the uses of the discipline through a review of sociology in practical affairs, simulations, case studies, and from professionals.

**Prerequisites:**

ENG 122

**Textbooks:**

Odell Korgen, Kathleen and Jonathan M. White. 2015. *The Engaged Sociologist: Connecting the Classroom to the Community*. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.  
ISBN: 978-1483359199

**Textbook information from the Saint Leo Bookstore ordering site:**

Odell Korgen, Kathleen and Jonathan M. White. 2015. *The Engaged Sociologist: Connecting the Classroom to the Community*. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.  
ISBN: 978-1483359199

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Analyze a variety of real-life social problems and issues from a sociological perspective.
2. Apply knowledge gained in the classroom by providing expertise to address real needs.
3. Evaluate practical alternatives for improving social problems through the use of sociological methodology.
4. Present solutions to “clients” in oral and written formats.
5. Develop a broad appreciation of the discipline of sociology.
6. Experience an enhanced sense of community and civic responsibility.

Upon completion of this sociology program students should be able to:

- Develop their sociological imagination through exposure to the major concepts and theories in the discipline
- Acquire the research skills needed for success in the 21st century workplace
- Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing according to the standards of the discipline
- Assess the consequences of diversity and inequality globally and locally

**Core Value:**

The core value of community will be emphasized in this course as students enhance their sense of civic responsibility.

**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:**

Exams	18%
Sociologists in Action Projects	18%
Think Tank Simulation	09%
Using Sociology Report	18%
Field Consultant Project	18%
Portfolio	10%
Discussion (8)	09%

**Grading Scale:**

**Grade Score (%)**

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

**Exams (18%)**

There will be a mid-term and a final exam during the semester. Exams will cover all materials from class and include essay questions, along with multiple choice, and short answer questions. Each examination is worth 9% of the total grade.

**Sociologists in Action Projects 18%**

In teams, students will choose 2-4 of the “Suggestions for Specific Actions” from the required textbook for implementation. Students should develop a written implementation plan for each chosen “Action” and present it to the class for feedback, before engaging in the “Action”. Instructors must review and approve implementation plans for all “Actions” before students may act on them.

Each team will write a report on its work, summarizing the planning and execution of each “Action”, noting the role of all team members, and any discernible impact of their activities. For reporting, students should document activities leading up to their “Actions” – as well as the “Actions” themselves. Documentation should include notes, but may also include photographs and videos. Students must adhere to privacy rules of organizations they work with and follow their guidelines as they create their reports. Students should seek authorization to take pictures, and should protect individuals’ privacy. Taking pictures of minors is discouraged. Documentation should not invade the privacy of others.

### **Think Tank Simulation 9%**

Each team will choose one of their Sociologists in Action Projects and create a Think Tank on that issue. The Think Tank will build on the project by presenting their work to relevant parties with expertise/authority/influence on the issue or to the class. If the Think Tank is presenting to an out-of-class entity, they might for example, address University Campus issues to other students, faculty or administrators. Some topics might be appropriately reviewed by community agencies.

### **Using Sociology Report 18%**

Sociological tools can be used in a variety of professions. For this assignment, describe the working life of a professional sociologist, of your choice. You may gather this information from the internet, books, videos, or in-person conversations, once approval has been granted by the instructor. Next, describe how you might use your sociological training in your own career. Submit a typed 5 page report, (double-spaced, including a title page and a reference page), and formatted in ASA style. The report will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

### **Field Consultant Project 18%**

Visit a professional individual and offer yourself as a "consultant" to the person. During your meeting you will present to them how sociology could provide insights, ideas, and relevance to their field of work. This person must be approved in advance by the instructor. Possibilities include educators, business persons, clergy and religious figures, urban planners, economists, and government/political leaders. These are merely suggestions. The point is to stress to this person how sociological knowledge can help them, and in turn, how the discipline of sociology could be enlightened by the types of work and activity he or she is involved in. (Readings will provide examples of applying sociology in a number of fields and settings.) Using Prezi or PowerPoint, all students will present a 10 minute report to the class about their experiences. In addition students will submit a typed 5 page report, (double-spaced, including a title page and a reference page), and formatted in ASA style. The report will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

Key to this activity is recognizing the translation from the discipline of sociology to the rest of society. For example (this is by no means a total list):

What we learn...

It's rough translation...

- Social Research Methods and Statistics
- Theory
- Demography
- Social Psychology
- Formal Organizations

- Market research
- Program Evaluation
- Total Quality Management or
- Control
- Data Analyst
- Strategic planning Forecaster

-County or urban planning

-Market analysis

-Human resources specialist

- Human resource development
- Organizational development

### **Portfolio 10%**

Over the course of the semester, students will connect their lives, the University, and possibility the wider community, to sociological knowledge about a number of social issues. Each student will produce a portfolio demonstrating his or her application of sociological tools in an effort to influence society by including revised versions of all reports (Using Sociology Report, Field Consultant Report, Sociologists in Action Report). In addition, students should add a one page

report on their Think Tank experience along with at least one page providing an overview of what the discipline of sociology has to offer.

Participation/Discussion Board 9%

To assess class participation, students may be asked to complete short reaction papers, discussion board posts or other activities.

**Course Schedule:**

**Module 1     The Sociological Perspective**

- Objectives**     When you complete this module, you should be able to:
- Explain the sociological perspective.
  - Explain a current even using the sociological perspective.

**Readings**             Textbook Chapter 1

**Assignments**

<b>Items to be Completed:</b>	<b>Due No Later Than:</b>
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

**Module 2     Sociological Methods and Culture**

- Objectives**     When you complete this module, you should be able to:
- As a team compare and contrast sociological approaches to two selected social issues through the lens of the SLU core value of community.
  - As a team, apply sociological knowledge of how society operates to address identified social problems/ issues.
  - Describe, in writing, the working life of a professional sociologist.
  - Define the sociological methodology.
  - Describe how society works with regard to culture.

**Readings**             Textbook Chapter 3 and 4

**Assignments**

<b>Items to be Completed:</b>	<b>Due No Later Than:</b>
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

**Module 3     Socialization and Deviant Behavior**

- Objectives**     When you complete this module, you should be able to:
- Explain the sociological perspective to a professional outside of the sociology field.

- Create and deliver an effective oral presentation on the consultation experience.
- Describe how society operates with regard to socialization and deviant behavior
- As a team, compare and contrast practical alternatives for addressing identified social problems/ issues.
- Evaluate the suitability of practical alternatives for addressing identified social problems/ issues

**Readings**                      Textbook Chapter 5 and 6

**Assignments**

<b>Items to be Completed:</b>	<b>Due No Later Than:</b>
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Using Sociology Report	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

**Module 4      Stratification and Social Class**

**Objectives**

- When you complete this module, you should be able to:
- As a team, implement practical alternatives for addressing the first identified social problems/ issue.
  - Describe how society operates with regard to social stratification and social class.

**Readings**                      Textbook Chapter 7

**Assignments**

<b>Items to be Completed:</b>	<b>Due No Later Than:</b>
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Mid-term Exam	

**Module 5      Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Gender, and Power**

**Objectives**

- When you complete this module, you should be able to:
- As a team, demonstrate service to community skills by authoring a written report.
  - Critique sociological approaches to various social issues/ problems.

**Readings**                      Textbook Chapter 8 and 9

**Assignments**

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Field Consultant Project Report Due	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

## Module 6 Family and Economy

### Objectives

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

- As a team, implement practical alternatives for addressing the second identified social problem/ issues.
- As a team, demonstrate service to community skills by authoring a written report.
- Critique sociological approaches to various social issues/ problems.
- Describe how society operates with regard to family and economy.

### Readings

Textbook Chapter 10

### Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

## Module 7 Social Institutions Continued; Education, Government, and Religion

### Objectives

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

- As a team, create and deliver an effective Think Tank Simulation oral presentation.
- Describe how society operates with regard to education, government, and religion.

### Readings

Textbook Chapter 11

### Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

## Module 8 Putting it all together

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

- Organize course submissions into a portfolio.
- Reflect on one's experience in the course.

**Readings** None

### Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Portfolio	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Final Exam	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT