



**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: SOC 203 – Introductory Sociology
(45 contact hours, 3 credits)**

This syllabus is informational in nature and is not an express or implied contract. It is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, as a result of any circumstance outside the University's control, or as other needs arise. If, in the University's sole discretion, public health conditions or any other matter affecting the health, safety, upkeep, or well-being of our campus community or operations requires the University to move to remote teaching, alternative assignments may be provided so that the learning objectives for the course, as determined by the faculty and the University, can still be met. The University does not guarantee specific in-person, on-campus classes, activities, opportunities, or services or any other particular format, timing, or location of education, classes, activities, or services.

Mask Policy

Please be advised that the mask policy in this class will follow Sant'Anna Institute requirements. When/if the University enacts a mask policy, all students are expected to adhere to the policy.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Develops students' sociological imagination to explore the complexity and diversity of social relations and explain how these and people shape each other. Critically applies theories, methods, and concepts of social science to understand: the personal and impersonal aspects of interactions in various groups, organizations and institutions in this society and others; cultural and historical variations in age, gender, class and race relations; and the living laboratory of everyday life.

Our focus on "sociological imagination" will help us unravel the visible and invisible relationship between social/collective contexts and private domains. Further, we will examine this relationship between social contexts and personal concerns as dynamic and rooted in historical processes, rather than being stagnant and unchanging. Specifically, we will focus on categories and processes shaped by social time and space. So for example, we will examine questions like: what is gender and how is this idea shaped by social processes? We will ask similar questions with respect to other socially created categories such as race, ethnicity, economic status, political identity etc. An underlying theme of our course will be to keep in mind the developments and challenges ushered in by new technologies and processes of globalization in the 21st century.

We will use a textbook that will cover several themes but we will leave out certain issues in the interest of time. You will need to do the reading before each class period to get the most of this course and from an exam point of view. The exams will draw heavily from our discussion of material discussed in class.

Reading and an active involvement in the course will make the material more interesting and engaging. In addition, your participation and input is an integral part of taking this course and contributes toward your final grade.

COURSE OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course the student will be able to do:

- Explain the elements and dynamics of contemporary global politics, in the context of a broad outline of world history.
- Identify the major actors, besides the state, in global politics; i.e. transnational corporations, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and ethnic and tribal groups.
- Discuss and apply several theoretical explanations of state behavior.
- Explain the role of the United States in the world and how it is analyzed from different perspectives.
- Critically analyze international issues and events from various perspectives.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the distinctive features of the history, institutions, economy, society, culture, etc., of one non-Western civilization.
- Use the library and the Internet to assemble information on international political issues and events.

FORMAT

- Students will engage in small group work and discussions.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Heather Griffiths and others, *Introduction to Sociology*, OpenStax, Rice University, 2015.

EXAMS and ASSIGNMENTS

- Midterm Exam: 20% (a mix of MCQ and open ended questions)
- Final Exam: 30% a mix of MCQ and open ended questions)
- Research paper: 30%

- Class attendance: 10%
- Participation: 10%

The research paper will be minimum 10 pages in length and will require you to critically analyze an argument or debate in a way that is accurate, clear, concise, and rationally persuasive. The paper must examine a theme in the history of sociology (a significant book chapter or a seminal article) and put the text in context. You cannot choose a text which has been read in class, and the text needs to be approved beforehand by the instructor. The paper must summarize the article or chapter; place it in the wider context of the work of the author; and in a wider historical and theoretical context. The paper must indicate what the importance is of this article or chapter – to which authors or texts does it refer, and why and how, and which sociologist have been influenced by this paper or article. Students can choose their own system of referencing, but they must remain consistent with this choice. It is essential that a good bibliography is provided. At least one academic article, published in a scientific journal, must be used for this assignment. Internet sources are acceptable, but they must be treated critically and quoted correctly.

GRADING SCALE

A	95%-100%
A-	90%-94%
B+	87%-89%
B	83%-86%
B-	80%-82%
C+	77%-79%
C	73%-76%
C-	70%-72%
D+	67%-69%
D	63%-66%
D-	60%-62%
F	< 60%

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

Unit 1 - An Introduction to Sociology

- What Is Sociology?
- The History of Sociology
- Theoretical Perspectives
- Why Study Sociology?

Unit 2 - Sociological Research

- Approaches to Sociological Research
- Research Methods
- Ethical Concerns

Unit 3 - Culture

- What Is Culture?
- Elements of Culture
- Pop Culture, Subculture, and Cultural Change
- Theoretical Perspectives on Culture

Unit 4 - Society and Social Interaction

- Types of Societies
- Theoretical Perspectives on Society
- Social Constructions of Reality

Unit 5 - Socialization

- Theories of Self-Development
- Why Socialization Matters
- Agents of Socialization
- Socialization Across the Life Course

Unit 6 - Groups and Organization

- Types of Groups

- Group Size and Structure
- Formal Organizations

Unit 7 - Deviance, Crime, and Social Control

- Deviance and Control
- Theoretical Perspectives on Deviance
- Crime and the Law

REVIEW AND MID TERM EXAM

Unit 8 - Media and Technology

- Technology Today
- Media and Technology in Society
- Global Implications of Media and Technology
- Theoretical Perspectives on Media and Technology

Unit 9 - Global Inequality

- Global Stratification and Classification
- Global Wealth and Poverty
- Theoretical Perspectives on Global Stratification

Unit 10 - Race and Ethnicity

- Racial, Ethnic, and Minority Groups
- Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination
- Theories of Race and Ethnicity
- Intergroup Relationships

Unit 11 - Gender, Sex, and Sexuality

- Sex and Gender
- Gender

- Sex and Sexuality
- Aging and the Elderly

Unit 12 - Religion

- The Sociological Approach to Religion
- World Religions
- Religion in the United States

Unit 13 - Government and Politics

- Power and Authority
- Forms of Government
- Theoretical Perspectives on Government and Power

RESEARCH PROJECT IS DUE

FINAL EXAM

CLASS POLICY

Attendance

You are allowed **ONE** unexcused absence. Documentation for any other absence **MUST** be produced and **APPROVED** by your faculty. For absences due to illness, please provide the faculty with a doctor's note upon returning to class as well as inform them and/or the Office the first day of illness.

Participation grants the student one point for each lesson they attend. Unjustified absences result in 0 points. Participation in **field-trips**, if any, awards 2 points, while non-participation results in a loss of 2 points.

Both by school policy and Italian law attendance at all classes is required of all students. (Yes, your student visa is dependent on perfect attendance.) Even so, I will reward students (round a borderline grade up) for perfect or very good attendance, but I am also forced by school policy to penalize students who accrue more than two unexcused absences, so please do your very best to be here and engaged when you are here. Students are expected to arrive at class on time, having completed the readings and written assignments due that day (see schedule below), in order to receive a passing (C or better) grade.

Since our texts are provided in electronic form, you will have a laptop in front of you during our class sessions, both the literary discussions and the workshops. Having lived for some years in a

world free of such devices, I can tell you from experience that your laptop is *not* your friend, that it has already damaged your ability to concentrate and made it far more difficult for you to stay focused and benefit from classroom education than those of us lucky enough to have studied before this very tempting distraction-machine was invented. Serious psychological studies have demonstrated again and again that the laptop (and the myth of “multitasking”) is seriously detrimental to human information retention, that taking notes on a computer is a far less effective memory jog than notes written on paper, and that the distractions that computers offer (social media, online shopping, games, etc.) are the greatest impediments to your education at the present moment. Please do your best to defeat these temptations and use the laptop only to refer to the text under discussion and, if you must, to take notes and jot down thoughts, interpretations, and possible paper topics. For 1.5 hours twice a week, please try your best to leave the buzz of the cyber world behind, to stay with us and live “in the moment.” This is your only hope.

Late submissions:

Assignments not submitted by the due date will receive a penalty of 10% for the first 24 hours, 20% for a 48-hour delay. No submissions will be accepted more than 3 days after the deadline, unless arrangements have been made with the instructor (for extensions under exceptional circumstances, apply to the course instructor).

Personal Technology:

Please turn cell phones off during class. You can use laptops to take notes, however social networking, e-mailing, surfing the Internet, playing games, etc. are forbidden during class. Any student caught using their laptop/cell phones inappropriately during class will be asked to turn them off. Repeated violations of this rule after the first warning will result in the student being marked absent for the day and permanently losing their laptop privileges. Please be respectful and limit your use of personal electronic devices during class to academic purposes.

Contesting a grade:

If students wish to contest a grade, they must make an appointment to do so in person. The student should contact the instructor with any concerns within ONE week of receiving the grade. The student must also demonstrate that they have read the comments accompanying the grade by presenting a brief written statement specifying why the grade does not reflect the quality of the work. It is at the discretion of the instructor to decide whether the work and the student’s request warrant any increase or decrease in the grade. Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments and feedback (in case of loss) and should also retain all of their marked assignments.

Recommended behavior:

- Class begins promptly at the beginning of the class period. It is advisable that you be in your seat and ready to start participating in class at that time.
- Always bring the required supplies and be ready to be actively engaged in the learning process. This communicates preparedness and interest.

- Turn your cell phone off or to vibrate mode before the start of class;
- It is fine to bring a drink or a snack to class, as long as it is not distracting. In conjunction with this, please pick up your trash when you leave the room.
- Your professor expects your full attention for the entire class period. If you know that you'll need to leave before the class is over, try to sit as close to the door as possible so as not to disrupt others. Similarly, if you arrive in class late, just slip in as quietly as possible and take the first available seat you come to.
- Do not sleep in class! Laying your head on the desk or sleeping in class is rude, and it is distracting to others. Turn in assignments on time.
- When you have a question or comment, please raise your hand first as a courtesy to your classmates and the professor. Remember, your questions are NOT an imposition – they are welcome. So, ask questions! You'll learn more, it makes the class more interesting, and you are helping others learn as well.
- If an emergency arises that requires an absence from a session, it is your responsibility to get the notes and all other information that was covered in class from a colleague you trust.

Secular and religious holidays:

Sant'Anna Institute recognizes that there are several secular and religious holidays - not included in the Italian calendar - that affect large numbers of its community members. In consideration of their significance for many students, no examinations may be given and no assigned work may be required on these days. Students who observe these holidays will be given an opportunity to make up missed work in both laboratories and lecture courses. If an examination is given on the first class day after one of these holidays, it must not cover material introduced in class on that holiday. Students who wish to observe such holidays must inform their instructors within the first two weeks of each semester of their intent to observe the holiday even when the exact date of the holiday will not be known until later so that alternative arrangements convenient to both students and faculty can be made at the earliest opportunity.

Students who make such arrangements will not be required to attend classes or take examinations on the designated days, and faculty must provide reasonable opportunities for such students to make up missed work and examinations. For this reason it is desirable that faculty inform students of all examination dates at the start of each semester.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

“Members of the Jacksonville University community are expected to foster and uphold the highest standards of honesty and integrity, which are foundations for the intellectual endeavors we engage in.

To underscore the importance of truth, honesty, and accountability, students and instructors should adhere to the following standard:

“On my honor as a student of Jacksonville University, I promise to uphold the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility in all my dealings with faculty, staff, and students.”

Academic misconduct occurs when a student engages in an action that is deceitful, fraudulent, or dishonest regarding any type of academic assignment that is intended to or results in an unfair academic advantage. In this context, the term “assignment” refers to any type of graded or ungraded work that is submitted for evaluation for any course. Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to cheating, collusion, falsification, misrepresentation, unauthorized collaboration on assignments, copying another student’s work, using or providing unauthorized notes or materials, turning in work not produced by the individual, attempting to get credit for a single instance of work submitted for more than one course, and plagiarism. Furthermore, providing deceitful, fraudulent, or dishonest information during discussions of an academic matter with faculty are also examples of academic misconduct.” (Jacksonville University Academic Integrity [Policy](#)).

Throughout this course we will be reading and reporting about the work of others. All information that is not original to the student must be appropriately attributed in both presentations and written work. All students are expected to do their own work and give appropriate credit for all sources used in the process of preparing papers, presentations, and homework assignments. Group assignments will be graded based on the product of the work, although some adjustment may be made for participation. [If you have a question about whether or not collaboration is allowed, or how to cite a reference, please ask. It is always better to check than to be accused of an unintended violation of the academic honesty policy]. Violations of the academic honesty policy will be dealt with in accordance to university policies

Course Level Penalties: A first offense may result in a failing grade for the assignment. Second offenses may result in failure in the course. Significantly egregious violations may result in expulsion from the university. When in doubt give credit for all information that did not come directly out of your head!

DISABILITY STATEMENT

Students with a documented disability requesting classroom accommodations or modifications, either permanent or temporary, resulting from the disability are encouraged to inform the faculty in the first week of the program.