



SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology

Term: Fall 2026

Credits: 3.0

Meeting Times & Location: Multiple sections. Your section's days, time, room, and instructor are listed in AlkimiHub and on your Canvas course page.

Modality: In-Person

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Instructor Information

- **Course Coordinator:** Dr. Renée Baptiste (Associate Professor of Sociology)
- **Section Instructors:** Listed for each section in AlkimiHub. Your section instructor's office hours and office are posted in your Canvas course page.
- **Email:** rbaptiste@university.alkimi.ai
- **Office:** Lovell Hall 132
- **Coordinator Office Hours:**
 - Monday & Thursday: 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (In person, Lovell Hall 132)
 - Friday: 4:00–5:00 p.m. (Virtual via Zoom; link posted in Canvas)
 - Also available by appointment.

Course Description

The sociological perspective on culture, socialization, groups, deviance, social stratification, race and ethnicity, gender, family, religion, health, and social change, with an introduction to research methods. SOC 101 introduces students to the systematic, empirical study of human society, social structures, and collective behavior. Developing C. Wright Mills' sociological imagination, students examine how macro-level social forces shape micro-level individual biographies and life chances. The course investigates core sociological domains including culture, socialization, deviance, social stratification by race, class, and gender, institutional dynamics across family, education, and healthcare, and the mechanisms of collective action driving social change.

Prerequisites

None.

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of SOC 101, students will be able to:

1. **Apply the Sociological Imagination:** Connect individual personal troubles to broader historical and structural public issues using foundational sociological paradigms.
2. **Evaluate Sociological Research Methods:** Differentiate quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, evaluate sampling and measurement validity, and apply ethical research principles.
3. **Analyze Social Stratification and Inequality:** Examine the systemic creation and reproduction of social hierarchies based on socioeconomic class, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality.

4. **Examine Social Institutions:** Analyze the organizational structure, manifest and latent functions, and institutional inequities of education, family, religion, and healthcare.
5. **Conduct Empirical Sociological Observation:** Design and execute structured qualitative field observations and interpret empirical social patterns within established sociological frameworks.

Required Course Materials & Approximate Costs

1. **Heather Griffiths, Nathan Keirns, et al. *Introduction to Sociology 3e*. OpenStax, 2021.** Free digital edition at openstax.org; optional print copy approx. \$40.
2. **Alkimi Sociology Reader: Classic Articles and Empirical Fieldwork Exercises.** Free digital access provided via Canvas.
3. **Total estimated cost:** \$0 to \$40.

Generative AI Policy (AI Level 2: AI Permitted with Disclosure for Specified Tasks)

In accordance with Alkimi University Academic Policies (Student Handbook §5.8), SOC 101 operates under **AI Level 2**.

- **What is permitted:** You may use generative AI tools to explore public demographic datasets (such as US Census tables), brainstorm sociological interview questions, and check spelling and grammar on preliminary essay drafts.
- **What is prohibited:** You may not use generative AI to fabricate observational field notes, generate empirical survey data, compose essay bodies or arguments, or take quizzes and examinations.
- **Disclosure:** Any submitted observational paper or term project that utilizes AI assistance for brainstorming or proofreading must include an AI disclosure statement describing the tools and prompts utilized.

Grading Components and Weights

- **Sociological Observation Paper 1: Norms and Interaction:** 15% (Due Friday, September 25 at 11:59 p.m.)
- **Midterm Examination:** 20% (In class during week 8 (week of October 12))
- **Sociological Field Study Paper 2: Stratification and Institutions:** 15% (Due Friday, November 13 at 11:59 p.m.)
- **Weekly Sociological Imagination Reflections:** 15% (Weekly short analytical responses to readings and social phenomena submitted in Canvas on Mondays at 11:59 p.m.; lowest score dropped)
- **In-Class Workshops & Seminar Discussion:** 15% (Active participation in weekly sociological data workshops, breakout discussions, and peer debates)
- **Final Capstone Sociological Research Project:** 20% (Due Monday, December 14, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.)

Grading Scale (Alkimi University Standard)

- **A:** 93–100% | **A-:** 90–92%
- **B+:** 87–89% | **B:** 83–86% | **B-:** 80–82%
- **C+:** 77–79% | **C:** 73–76% | **C-:** 70–72%
- **D+:** 67–69% | **D:** 60–66% | **F:** Below 60%
- **Extra credit:** No extra credit assignments are offered in SOC 101. Final grades are based strictly on regular course deliverables, reflections, and examinations.

Course Schedule (Fall 2026)

All sections follow this common weekly schedule. Section meeting days vary, so dates are shown by week; your section instructor posts exact class dates in Canvas.

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
Week 1	Aug 26–Aug 28	The Sociological Perspective and Founding Theoretical Paradigms: What is sociology? The sociological imagination (C. Wright Mills), historical origins, and foundational theorists: Karl Marx, Émile Durkheim, and Max Weber. <i>Reading: Griffiths et al., Ch. 1</i>	<i>First day of classes: Wed Aug 26.</i>
Week 2	Aug 31–Sep 4	Sociological Research Methods and Ethics: Scientific sociological inquiry; quantitative surveys, qualitative interviews, ethnography, participant observation, experiments, and ethical research standards. <i>Reading: Griffiths et al., Ch. 2</i>	<i>Wed Sep 2: Add/section change deadline.</i>
Week 3	Sep 8–Sep 11	Culture, Values, and Normative Systems: Components of culture: values, beliefs, norms, folkways, mores, taboos, language (Sapir-Whorf hypothesis), subcultures, ethnocentrism, and cultural relativism. <i>Reading: Griffiths et al., Ch. 3</i>	<i>Mon Sep 7: Labor Day (no classes). Wed Sep 9: Census date (last day to drop without a W).</i>
Week 4	Sep 14–Sep 18	Socialization and the Construction of Identity: Socialization across the life course; nature vs. nurture; agents of socialization (family, peers, media, school); theories of self (Mead, Cooley, Freud). <i>Reading: Griffiths et al., Ch. 5</i>	—
Week 5	Sep 21–Sep 25	Society, Social Interaction, and Dramaturgy: Social structure, status sets, role conflict and strain, social construction of reality, dramaturgy (Erving Goffman); Observation Paper 1 due Friday. <i>Reading: Griffiths et al., Ch. 4</i>	Sociological Observation Paper 1: Norms and Interaction due Fri Sep 25 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 6	Sep 28–Oct 2	Groups, Formal Organizations, and Bureaucracy: Primary vs. secondary groups, reference groups, in-groups and out-groups, groupthink, formal organizations, bureaucracy, and the McDonaldization of society. <i>Reading: Griffiths et al., Ch. 6</i>	—
Week 7	Oct 5–Oct 9	Deviance, Crime, and Social Control: Defining deviance; functionalist perspectives (Durkheim, Merton's strain theory), conflict theory, symbolic interactionism (labeling theory, differential association). <i>Reading: Griffiths et al., Ch. 7</i>	—
Week 8	Oct 14–Oct 16	Social Stratification and Class Inequality (Fall Break Week): Systems of stratification (caste vs. class), wealth vs. income inequality, social mobility, poverty lines; Midterm Examination in class (Fall Break week). <i>Reading: Griffiths et al., Ch. 9 and Review</i>	<i>Oct 12–Oct 13: Fall break (no classes). Fri Oct 16: Midterm grades due. Midterm Examination (in class this week).</i>
Week 9	Oct 19–Oct 23	Global Inequality and Transnational Systems: Global stratification, high/middle/low income nations, modernization theory vs. dependency theory, sweatshops, and multinational corporate exploitation. <i>Reading: Griffiths et al., Ch. 10</i>	—
Week 10	Oct 26–Oct 30	Race, Ethnicity, and Institutional Inequity: The social construction of race vs. ethnicity, prejudice, stereotyping, systemic and institutional racism, white privilege, and intersectionality. <i>Reading: Griffiths et al., Ch. 11</i>	—
Week 11	Nov 2–Nov 6	Gender, Sex, and Sexuality in Society: Sex vs. gender, gender socialization, patriarchal structures, the gender wage gap, motherhood penalty, sexual orientation, and queer sociology. <i>Reading: Griffiths et al., Ch. 12</i>	<i>Fri Nov 6: Last day to withdraw (W) or elect Pass/No Pass.</i>
Week 12	Nov 9–Nov 13	Aging, Health Disparities, and the Life Course: The graying of society, ageism, dependency ratios, healthcare disparities across the life course, and palliative care; Field Study Paper 2 due Friday. <i>Reading: Griffiths et al., Ch. 13</i>	Sociological Field Study Paper 2: Stratification and Institutions due Fri Nov 13 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 13	Nov 16–Nov 20	Social Institutions: Family and Education: Family diversity, marriage patterns, divorce rates, domestic labor; the sociology of education, tracking, the hidden curriculum, and educational inequality. <i>Reading: Griffiths et al., Ch. 14, 16</i>	—

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
Week 14	Nov 23–Nov 24	Social Institutions: Religion and Health (Thanksgiving Week): Sociology of religion (sacred vs. profane, secularization); sociology of health and illness, social determinants of health (Thanksgiving week). <i>Reading: Griffiths et al., Ch. 15, 19</i>	Nov 25–Nov 27: Thanksgiving break (no classes).
Week 15	Nov 30–Dec 4	Population, Urbanization, and Environmental Sociology: Demographic transitions, urbanization, urban ecology models, suburbanization, gentrification, environmental racism, and spatial justice. <i>Reading: Griffiths et al., Ch. 20</i>	—
Week 16	Dec 7–Dec 9	Social Movements, Collective Action, and Social Change: Collective behavior, social movement stages, resource mobilization theory, frame alignment, digital activism, and course synthesis. <i>Reading: Griffiths et al., Ch. 21 and Review</i>	Wed Dec 9: Last day of classes. Thu Dec 10: Reading Day.
Finals	Dec 14	Final Capstone Sociological Research Project due Monday, December 14, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.	No final examination.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Sociological analysis relies on active in-class deliberation, observational discussions, and collaborative data workshops. Regular attendance is required in all lecture and discussion sections. You are permitted two unexcused absences without penalty; subsequent absences will lower your final course grade by one-third of a letter grade. Missing more than five class sessions will result in a failing grade. Students who miss the first two class meetings without notifying the instructor may be dropped. Students may miss class for religious observance without penalty if they notify the instructor in writing within the first two weeks of the semester (by Wednesday, September 9, 2026). Absences for university-sponsored activities (athletics, performances, conferences) are excused with a letter from the sponsoring office at least one week in advance.

Late Work Policy

Observational papers and research project submissions lose 10% per calendar day overdue and will not be accepted after three days past the deadline. Weekly reading reflections must be submitted by Monday at 11:59 p.m. to be eligible for credit.

Final Exam Policy

SOC 101 has no final examination. The final capstone sociological research project takes its place. Nothing is due on Reading Day (Thursday, December 10, 2026).

Academic Integrity

Alkimi University is an academic community devoted to rigorous scholarship, open intellectual inquiry, and uncompromising ethical conduct. All students are subject to the regulations of the Alkimi University Academic Integrity Policy. Academic dishonesty—including plagiarism, cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication of empirical data, and unauthorized submission of academic work generated by artificial intelligence—undermines the integrity of the university and carries severe disciplinary sanctions. Sanctions range from a failing grade on an assignment or exam to an administrative course failure recorded as an 'XF' on the official transcript, academic suspension, or expulsion. Suspected violations are formally investigated and resolved through the Office of Academic Integrity in accordance with Faculty Handbook §6. For detailed information, consult the Office of Academic Integrity, Lovell Hall 315, (555) 555-0163, integrity@university.alkimi.ai.

Accessibility Services

Alkimi University is committed to providing equitable educational access and reasonable accommodations for all students with documented disabilities, including physical, sensory, psychological, learning, and chronic health conditions. Students requesting academic accommodations must formally register with the Office of Accessibility Services, Harlan Hall 204, (555) 555-0155, access@university.alkimi.ai. Once approved, students will receive an official Faculty Accommodation Letter detailing approved accommodations. Students should present this letter to the instructor as early in the semester as possible, and at least one week prior to any exam or assignment requiring accommodation. Accommodations cannot be applied retroactively.

Student Wellness and Mental Health

Your physical health, psychological well-being, and mental health are essential to your academic success. If you experience heightened stress, anxiety, depressive symptoms, personal trauma, or academic burnout, free, confidential counseling and medical care are available through the Hollis Health & Counseling Center, located in the Hollis Center. Routine appointments are available Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. during the semester by calling (555) 555-0190 or emailing health@university.alkimi.ai. Urgent, 24/7 crisis psychological counseling is accessible immediately at (555) 555-0199.

Campus Student Support Services

- **Academic Advising Center:** Lovell Hall 101 | (555) 555-0158 | advising@university.alkimi.ai
- **Writing Center:** Whitcombe Library 3rd Floor | Free consultations on papers, reports, and research projects at any stage.
- **Whitcombe Library:** Whitcombe Library, Main Floor | (555) 555-0170 | askalibrarian@university.alkimi.ai
- **Hollis Health & Counseling Center:** Hollis Center | (555) 555-0190 | 24/7 Counseling Line: (555) 555-0199 | health@university.alkimi.ai
- **The Writing Center:** Whitcombe Library 3rd Floor | Consultations on observational paper formatting, sociological thesis development, and revision.