



# SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY – SHREVEPORT, LA

## *SU College Connect Program*

**FALL 2020 – SPRING 2021**

Revised: July 23, 2020

### **Course Syllabus Introduction to Sociology SSOC - 201S**

<b>Term / Year:</b>	<b>FALL 2020 – SPRING 2021</b>
Reference Number:	
Classroom:	
Instructor:	
Office Area:	
Virtual Office Hours:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Web Page:	

#### **IMPORTANT COLLEGE DATES:**

<b>Course Start Date:</b>	<b>FALL – AUGUST 12, 2020 / SPRING: TBD</b>
Final Day to Pay Fees:	September 1, 2020 / SPRING: TBD
SUSLA Census Date / Purge Date:	September 3, 2020 / SPRING: TBD
Withdraw with “W” grade:	October 22, 2020 / SPRING: TBD
Semester End Date:	December 11, 2020 / SPRING: TBD

#### **SUSLA MISSION STATEMENT:**

Southern University at Shreveport, a unit of the Southern University and A & M College System, a historically black comprehensive community college serving Northwest Louisiana and beyond, is committed to teaching and preparing traditional and non-traditional students for degree attainment, transfer, workforce, continuous learning and self-improvement. This preparation is available through multiple delivery methods and instructional sites for students seeking certificates, technical diplomas and associate degrees.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to introduce you to a range of basic sociological principles so that you can develop your own sociological imagination. You will learn about the origins of sociology as a discipline and be introduced to major sociological theories and methods of research. You will also explore such topics as sex and gender, deviance, and racism.

## **COURSE INTRODUCTION:**

Sociology is the scientific study of society. As such, it closely examines human interactions and cultural phenomena, including topics like inequality and urbanization and the effects of these on groups and individuals. To do their work, sociologists rely on a philosophy of science called positivism, which you will study in Unit 1. The philosophy of positivism asserts that authentic knowledge, or truth, can only be gained through empirical observations. In other words, we need to be able to experience our observations or use scientific measurement with a form of sensory experience, as opposed to using faith-based or emotional experiences. Another central concept to sociology is that of the sociological imagination. The sociological imagination allows sociologists to make connections between personal experiences and larger social issues. For example, did you know the U.S. has the highest rate of teen pregnancy in the industrialized world? In order to understand this trend, sociologists use scientific methods to make concrete connections between social issues like sex [education](#) in schools, sexualization in the media, and poverty and the personal issue of teenage sexual activity and pregnancy. This course is designed to introduce you to a range of basic sociological principles so that you can develop your own sociological imagination. You will learn about the origins of sociology as a discipline and be introduced to major sociological theories and methods of research. You will also explore such topics as sex and gender, deviance, and racism. As you move through the course, try to develop your sociological imagination by relating the topics and theories you read about to your own life experiences.

### **This course is comprised of the following units:**

- Unit 1: Introduction to Sociology
- Unit 2: [Culture](#), the Socialized Self, and the Individual in Society
- Unit 3: Social Inequality
- Unit 4: Institutions
- Unit 5: Social Change and Social Issues

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

### **Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:**

- define sociology and its purpose;
- define and discuss sociological imagination;
- use the sociological perspective or imagination to interpret or describe social phenomena, such as racism, sexism, and deviance;
- describe and critically discuss major theoretical perspectives, such as conflict theory, structural functionalism, and symbolic interactionism; and
- apply sociological concepts to observable events and social issues.

Throughout this course, you'll also see related learning outcomes identified in each unit. You can use the learning outcomes to help organize your learning and gauge your progress.

## **COURSE MATERIALS:**

The primary learning materials for this course are readings, lectures, video tutorials, and other resources.

All course materials are [free to access](#), and can be found through the links provided in each unit and subunit of the course. Pay close attention to the notes that accompany these course materials, as they will instruct you as to what specifically to read or watch at a given point in the course, and help you to understand how these individual materials fit into the course as a whole. You can also access a list all of the materials used in this course by clicking on [Resources](#) in the course's "Activities" menu.

### **EARNING COLLEGE CREDIT:**

This course is eligible for college credit via Saylor's [Direct Credit Program](#). **If you are seeking to earn college credit, you must opt to take and pass the Saylor Direct Credit final exam. That exam will be password protected and require the presence of a proctor.** Upon passing that final exam you will receive a Proctor Verified Course Certificate, and will be eligible to earn an [Official Transcript](#). For more information about applying for college credit review the "[Guide: College Credit Opportunities](#)". Be sure to check the [section on proctoring](#) for details (fees, technical requirements, etc.)

### **TIPS FOR SUCCESS:**

Introduction to Sociology is NOT a **self-paced course**. While learning styles can vary considerably and any particular student will take more or less time to learn or read. We recommend that you work through the course at a pace that is comfortable for you and allows you to make regular (daily, or at least weekly) progress. It is CRITICAL to keep up ALL class lectures, class assignments, class quizzes, class discussions, and tests. There will be SPECIFIC dates that assignments will be due. When work is submitted late, extra points WILL BE DEDUCTED from the work. It's a good idea to also schedule your study time in advance and try as best as you can to stick to that schedule.

Learning new material can be challenging, so below we've compiled a few suggested study strategies to help you succeed:

- Pay special attention to Unit 1, as it will lay the groundwork for understanding the more advanced, explanatory material presented in the latter units.
- Take notes on the various terms, practices, and theories as you read. This can help you differentiate and contextualize concepts and later provide you with a refresher as you study.
- As you progress through the materials, take time to test yourself on what you have retained and how well you understand the concepts. The process of reflection is important for creating a memory of the materials you learn; it will increase the probability that you ultimately retain the information.
- Although you may work through this course completely independently, you may find it helpful to connect with other students through the discussion forums.

## **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

This course is delivered fully online. You will be required to have access to a computer or web-capable mobile device and have consistent access to the internet to either view or download the necessary course resources and to attempt any auto-graded course assessments and the final exam.

- Occasionally, **Flash** may be required to run certain multimedia and/or interactive applications in the course. Should you be prompted to enable Flash, click the option to allow or follow [these instructions](#) for enabling Flash on your computer or laptop.

## **Southern University at Shreveport Notice of Non-Discrimination:**

In compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and other federal, state, and local laws, Southern University at Shreveport forbids discriminating or harassing conduct that is based on an individual's race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, national origin or ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, veteran or military status, membership in Uniformed Services, and all other categories protected by applicable state and federal laws. This commitment applies but is not limited to decisions made with respect to hiring and promotion, the administration educational programs and policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic or other College administered programs. Discriminatory acts of any kind are strictly forbidden.

Any member of the Southern University and A&M College community has the right to raise concerns or make a complaint regarding discrimination without fear of retaliation. Any and all inquiries regarding the application of this statement and related policies may be referred to Dr. Tuesday W. Mahoney, Title IX Coordinator, at (318) 670-9210. Complaints may also be made via email at [titleix@susla.edu](mailto:titleix@susla.edu) or by visiting [www.susla.edu/titleix](http://www.susla.edu/titleix).

As set forth in our policies, individuals may also file complaints with administrative agencies such as the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. The contact information for the local office of OCR is (214) 661-9600 is at Office for Civil Rights, Dallas Office, U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810. The email address for OCR is [OCR.Dallas@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Dallas@ed.gov).

***NOTE: Please see the Connect Coordinator on either the SUBR or SUNO campus for assistance with speaking with the Title IX Coordinator on your respective campus should the need arise.***

## **SUSLA Policy on Americans With Disabilities Act:**

In accordance with applicable law and university policies, Southern University at Shreveport ensures equal opportunity for all qualified students with disabilities, without regard to disability in programs and services provided by the University. This commitment is in accordance with Federal and Civil Rights Legislation, including Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.