SOC 302: Introduction to the Study of Society  
*Texas Common Number: SOCI 1301*

Sociology is the study of the interactions of individuals with each other and within groups. Sociology also investigates the effects of the behavior of individual and group on each other. In this course, students will explore:

- How the various groups within U.S. society influence each other,
- Which groups have the greatest power and what they do with this power,
- What motivates powerful groups,
- The results of the actions of powerful groups on other groups and individuals within the society, and
- What’s going on in the United States today? What will the shape of U.S. society be in the future?

**Prerequisites**

None.

**Course Organization**

This course is divided into four learning modules containing a total of ten lessons. Each lesson contains a statement of learning objectives and key concepts, a reading assignment, written instructor’s commentary, study questions, and a self-assessment exercise. All lessons within a learning module must be completed before moving onto the next module. An instructor is available via a message center to provide feedback and respond to questions regarding assignments.

Topics include:

- **Module 1**
  - Lesson 1: Roles, Norms, and Stratification
  - Lesson 2: Class and Inequality
  - Lesson 3: Poverty and Unemployment

- **Module 2**
  - Lesson 4: Race Relations
  - Lesson 5: Gender Roles

- **Module 3**
  - Lesson 6: Education and Health Care
  - Lesson 7: Crime and “Deviance” Problems
  - Lesson 8: The Workplace

- **Module 4**
  - Lesson 9: The Environment, Energy, and Military-Industrial Problems
  - Lesson 10: Solving Society’s Problems
Required Materials

The readings for this course come from the following texts:


Grading

The course consists of ten (10) computer-graded assignments (multiple choice questions), ten (10) instructor-graded assignments (short essay questions), a midterm exam, and a comprehensive final exam. Both exams must be taken in a proctored location, with arrangements to be made by the student.

Instructor-Graded Assignments 25%
Midterm Exam 25%
Final Exam 50%

Students must complete all coursework with an overall passing grade and earn score of at least 60% on the final exam in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

This course is independent study and is self-paced. Students have five (5) months upon registration in which to complete all coursework, plus an additional thirty days in which to take the final exam.

University Extension

For more information about University Extension courses and policies, please visit www.utextension.org. Questions may be directed to our office at (512) 471-2900 or uex@austin.utexas.edu. Office hours are M – F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CST.