

SOCI. 10103: General Sociology

May Intersession 2025

Syllabus and class materials are online at

<https://yangwang.hosted.uark.edu/soci10103/soci10103.htm>

CLASS INSTRUCTOR Dr. Song Yang

Office Hours: Wednesday 4:00 – 4:30 pm

Office: 228 Old Main

Email: yangwang@uark.edu

PLACE AND TIME FOR THE CLASS

Class time: 12:00 pm – 3:45 pm

Date: May 12 (Monday) to May 22 (Thursday), including Saturday May 17, 2025.

Location: Old Main Classroom 0423

Noted that class materials, such as ppt slides, homework, and announcement will be posted on the course website

<https://yangwang.hosted.uark.edu/soci10103/soci10103.htm>

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This general sociology course exposes you to the fundamental issues of sociology, such as general topics in sociology and sociological research methods used to analyze those topics. This is a service course that draws audiences from broad spectrum of majors and backgrounds. We will be traversing intriguing subjects, such as culture, groups, social interactions, crime/control, stratifications, and if we have time, educations, occupation, and organizations. We will not offer in-depth analysis of each subject; but rather, we stay at the superficial levels of those knowledge fields, hoping to draw you into the more systematic study with Sociology (that means declare majors in sociology). If not, having some sociology knowledge should be valuable addition to your own curriculum in this academic environment that is increasingly interdisciplinary.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Kendall, Diana, 2022, Sociology in Our Time, 12th edition (ESPN 13: 978-0357659465), Books should be available through UARK bookstore or online sources (amazon).

GRADING

The class contains 3 homework and a test, with each accounting for 25 percent. The following table shows the score distribution.

Homework 1:	25%
Homework 2:	25%
Homework 3:	25%
<u>Test:</u>	<u>25%</u>
Total:	100%

The following chart reflects the translation from raw score to letter grade – note that this class uses absolute score rather than competitive curve.

A: 90 –100
B: 80 –89
C: 70 –79
D: 60 –69
F*: below 60

Notice that we do not have “+” or “-” in the grading system. The decimal values will be rounded off according to the 4/5 rule. For example, 89.5 will be considered as 90, whereas 89.4 will be considered as 89.

* To receive an F for this course, you not only need to be at the bottom 10% of the class grade, but also need to receive total raw score less than 60 out of 100. If you rank at the bottom 10% but reach score above 60 or your raw score is lower than 60 but your ranking is higher than the 10%, you will be upgraded to D level.

POLICIES

Incomplete will NOT be granted except for prior agreement with the instructor for some extreme situations.

Late Assignment will NOT be accepted except for prior consent from the instructors for some extreme cases.

Attendance is extremely crucial for this course. However, I shall remind you that Good Classroom Conduct is indispensable to your completion of this course. Disruptive behaviors, such as constant interruptions that interfere with classroom lecturing or presentations made by the instructor or other students, confrontational behaviors toward the instructor should be avoided by all means. I will be sending out warning note to those students exhibiting disruptive behaviors, inviting them for a personal meeting between me and the students for a solution to their disruptive behaviors. If the students refuse to participate in the meeting or after the meeting the behaviors are not corrected immediately, I will be deducting 10 points from their total grade

and produce written document for such decision. The 10-point deduction could be exercised multiple times for those who repeatedly commit disruptive behaviors.

Academic Integrity is essential to completing your courses. Violations carry severe consequences; please consult the University of Arkansas webpage for the details (<http://provost.uark.edu/245.php>)

Exam Makeup will NOT be granted unless with prior consent from the instructor for some very rare situations. Students missing the test and are given the opportunity to makeup for the test need to take the test ASAP. Maximumly, students have one week to make-up for the test.

Email is the best way to contact me. I check my email many times a day, and normally respond your email within a couple of days.

Students with CEA request must request a meeting with me. The meeting is to discuss how to accommodate your needs. You can request such meeting any time during the semester. However, keep in mind that we must have such meeting before we can provide any CEA accommodations.

Being late to the class should be avoided by all means. I strongly recommend you NOT to come in to the class if you are more than 10 minutes late for the class. Repeated offenses to this are considered disruptive behaviors, and maybe subject to the point deduction (see the attendance policy).

I will determine the inclement weather and send you a group-email before 7:30 am if I decide to cancel classes due to the inclement weather condition. If U of A issues an inclement weather in effect, our class is automatically cancelled.

Grade Disputes should be addressed directly to the instructor, Song Yang.

(N/A)

We will try to synchronize our hand-back of your homework and the exams, so you would have the homework assignments that correlate with the exams before you take the exam. However, this is much easier said than done. Homework grading may not complete before the test takes place. If you wish to make use of the homework for your tests, one foolproof method is to make a personal copy of your homework assignments before you turn them in and keep your copies for your preparation for the exams. In case you have questions about the homework that may affect your preparation of the exam, contact the instructor for help.

Grade release/notification is taking place at the classroom only during the class sessions. If you miss the classes when we hand back your homework or exams, you can stop by my office. Such policy applies during the semester and after the semester. As we will be having no classes after the semester, any inquiries about your grades will be handled through your personal visit to my office (228 Old Main). No need for scheduling an appointment, but we will NOT be responding to your email or phone inquiries of your grades during and after the semester.

Good faith effort is expected, especially when students are called upon to resolve the disruptive behaviors. Those good faith efforts include, but not limited to, respectful behaviors to the instructor, responsible act by students to correct those disruptive behaviors or other issues that impede class lecturing and instructor's efforts to manage students. Violations to good faith efforts exemplify in rude/disrespectful treatment to the instructor, repeatedly dispute on the issues that were clarified by the instructor, excessive demand placed to the instructor to elucidate the issues that were clearly communicated with the students. Students exhibiting those "bad faith acts" after they receive the "disruptive behavior notice" are subject to 10-point deduction to their total grade.

N/A

The decision to hire a tutor or not is totally at your own personal discretion. The lab instructor and myself cannot be served as tutor, and we do NOT have anybody to recommend you as tutor. Tutor and instructor are very different: instructor completes the lecture and address specific questions raised by students. Tutors are held accountable for those who hired them. Things that tutor can do, but instructors will NOT are 1) students missing several weeks of classes and need a repeat of the class materials, and 2) students who do not understand the materials and need repeat lectures.

Emotional control is to be expected at the classroom and in the faculty office, during the lectures, tests, and office visits. Classrooms and faculty offices are professional settings and we expect professional conducts from students. Previously we experienced outright crying during the exams, outburst of angers, frustration/aggression during lectures, office visits to faculty's office, or even in email communications. Those incidents are rare occasions, but they did occur in the past. Students who have difficulty containing their personal feeling should consult professionals for help. When we see such issues with lack of emotional controls, we may refer you to U of A Pat Walker Health Center, in particular CAPS at UARK for professional helps. Noted that CEA office may prescribe you with class accommodations, but they are NOT trained professionals who can help you to deal with those issues.

Students/general audiences not enrolled in this class but wishing to audit the class need to contact the instructor to obtain permission prior to coming to the class. Facing major shortages in teaching resources, we reserve our right to reject attendance by individuals who are not enrolled in the class.

The instructor holds the right to interpret those policy terms

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for specific emergencies such as severe weather, active shooter, or fire can be found at emergency.uark.edu.

Severe Weather (Tornado Warning):

- Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel Seek shelter in the basement or interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside
- If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building
- Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors

Violence/Active Shooter (CADD):

- CALL – 9-1-1
- AVOID-If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
- DENY-Barricade the door with desk, chairs, bookcases or any items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it's safe.
- DEFEND-Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

CLASS SCHEDULE: A Tabular View

May/day	Contents
12/Monday	<p style="text-align: center;">Introduction Chapter 1: sociological perspective</p> <p>YouTube: What Is Sociology? Crash Course Sociology #1 (12 minutes) YouTube: Major Sociological Paradigms: Crash Course Sociology #2 (12 minutes)</p>
13/Tuesday	<p style="text-align: center;">Chapter 2: sociological research methods Chapter 3: culture</p> <p>YouTube: Sociology & the Scientific Method: Crash Course Sociology #3 (10 minutes) YouTube: Sociology Research Methods: Crash Course Sociology #4 (10 minutes)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Homework 1 is out, it covers chapters 1, 2 and 3</u></p>
14/Wednesday	<p style="text-align: center;">Chapter 7: deviance and crime I Chapter 7: deviance and crime II</p> <p>YouTube Video: Deviance/Crash Course Sociology #18 (10 minutes) YouTube Video: Crime/Crash Course Sociology #20 (11 minutes)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Homework 2 is out; it covers chapter 7</u></p>
15/Thursday	<p style="text-align: center;">Chapter 4: socialization Chapter 8: class and stratification in the United States</p> <p>YouTube: Basic Instincts - Obedience Experiment Milgram Recreation (35 minutes)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Homework 3 is out: it covers chapters 4 and 8</u></p>
16/Friday	<p style="text-align: center;">Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity I Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity II</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Special topic: interracial marriages</u></p>
17/Saturday	<p style="text-align: center;">Test (30 multiple choice questions)</p>

CLASS SCHEDULE: A Tabular View continues

May/day	Contents
19/Monday	Special topic: sociological study of work (an overview) Netflix documentary: American Factory (120 minutes) (2019) <u>Homework 1 is due</u>
20/Tuesday	Special topic: sociological study of organization (an introduction) Netflix documentary: Downfall (90 minutes) (2022) <u>Homework 2 is due</u>
21/Wednesday	Special topic: social network analysis (an introduction) Netflix documentary: Dumb Money (104 minutes) (2023) <u>Homework 3 is due</u>
22/Thursday	Test makeup, Q and A session, Coffee time <u>class ends</u>

Homework Policy for SOCI10103

- 1) Schedule of homework due are strictly followed, we do not accept late homework, please watch the due date of each homework. Details of homework availability and due dates are on the class webpage
- 2) We accept homework in email submissions. You can send your homework via email to Abigail Bellocchio akbelloc@uark.edu and me yangwang@uark.edu in the submission.

When you make e-submission, please use your official UARK email account. In the subject line, please indicate your homework number (e.g. homework 1, 2, 3... etc). Please type in your homework, save it into MS Word or PDF format, and submit using email attachment of your homework.

- 3) As soon as the due day is reached, we will start to grade the homework that we receive. After the grading, we will post your homework grade to the blackboard where you can go check on your homework grades.
- 4) In case of questions, comments, and concerns, please contact Song Yang via email (yangwang@uark.edu). In case of tech support with the blackboard, contact the UARK tech support line 479-575-2905 or email bbhelp@uark.edu
- 5) Thank you for taking this class to start your journey with Sociology.