

# **SOCI. 2013: General Sociology**

January Intersession 2024

Syllabus and class materials are online at

<https://yangwang.hosted.uark.edu/soci2013/soci2013.htm>

CLASS INSTRUCTOR      Dr. Song Yang  
Office Hours: Friday 3:30 – 4:00 pm  
Office: 228 Old Main  
Email: [yangwang@uark.edu](mailto:yangwang@uark.edu)

## PLACE AND TIME FOR THE CLASS

Class time:      10:00 AM – 2:00 pm

Date:              Jan 2 (Tuesday) to Jan 12 (Friday), including Saturday Jan 6. 2024.

Location:        Old Main Classroom 0206

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

<https://yangwang.hosted.uark.edu/soci2013/soci2013.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 (ISBN 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%
Test		25%
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](http://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.

# COVID – 19 Protocols

The University of Arkansas has public health directives in place regarding return to campus safety and classroom management issues.

## U of A Health Guideline

<https://health.uark.edu/coronavirus/returning-to-campus/section-2-health-and-safety.php#3>

Some highlights from this guideline,

A) Basically, **Facemasks** are required for all in-door settings on U of Arkansas campus. That means everybody in the classrooms including instructors must wear facemask during the classes

B) **Covid-19 vaccine** are proven effective against this serious virus, and you are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated as soon as possible if you are not done so already. For details of getting the vaccination shots or any information of the vaccine, please contact the U of A Pat Walker Health Center <https://health.uark.edu/>

C) If you encounter the following **covid-19 symptoms**, please do not come to the class, contact your doctor and get the covid test.

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

## U of A Testing/Reporting/Quarantine Guideline

<https://health.uark.edu/coronavirus/returning-to-campus/section-3-testing-reporting-tracing-quarantine-and-vaccine.php>

There, you may find information pertaining exposure to or a positive Covid-Test, that all positive cases need to do 1) self-reporting, and 2) immediate isolation and quarantine.

D) Please do all you can to stay safe and healthy. Remember, if you are not healthy, you cannot accomplish any academic work.

**CLASS SCHEDULE: A Tabular View**

<b>January/day</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>2/Tuesday</b>	<p align="center"><b>Introduction</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Chapter 1: sociological perspective</b></p> <p>YouTube: What Is Sociology? Crash Course Sociology #1 (12 minutes)            YouTube: Major Sociological Paradigms: Crash Course Sociology #2 (12 minutes)</p>
<b>3/Wednesday</b>	<p align="center"><b>Chapter 2: sociological research methods</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Chapter 3: culture</b></p> <p>YouTube: Sociology &amp; the Scientific Method: Crash Course Sociology #3 (10 minutes)            YouTube: Sociology Research Methods: Crash Course Sociology #4 (10 minutes)</p> <p align="center"><b><u>Homework 1 is out, it covers chapters 1, 2 and 3</u></b></p>
<b>4/Thursday</b>	<p align="center"><b>Chapter 7: deviance and crime I</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Chapter 7: deviance and crime II</b></p> <p>YouTube Video: Deviance/Crash Course Sociology #18 (10 minutes)            YouTube Video: Crime/Crash Course Sociology #20 (11 minutes)</p> <p align="center"><b><u>Homework 2 is out; it covers chapter 7</u></b></p>
<b>5/Friday</b>	<p align="center"><b>Chapter 4: socialization</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Chapter 8: class and stratification in the United States</b></p> <p>Movie: 30 Days Minimum Wage (50 minutes)            Movie: Left behind America (60 minutes)</p> <p align="center"><b><u>Homework 3 is out: it covers chapters 4 and 8</u></b></p>
<b>6/Saturday</b>	<p align="center"><b>Class Reviews</b></p> <p>Netflix documentary: American Factory (120 minutes) (2019)</p>
<b>7/Sunday</b>	<b>No class</b>

**CLASS SCHEDULE: A Tabular View**

<b>January/day</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>8/Monday</b>	<p align="center"><b>Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity I</b> <b>Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity II</b></p> <p align="center">YouTube: The Immigration History of the United States (22 minutes) Amazon Prime Video: Chinese Exclusion Act (160 minutes)</p>
<b>9/Tuesday</b>	<p align="center"><b>Test (30 multiple choice questions)</b></p> <p align="center">If time allowed, we would watch youTube: Basic Instincts - Obedience Experiment Milgram Recreation (35 minutes) after the test</p>
<b>10/Wednesday</b>	<p><b>Special topic: sociological study of work (an overview)</b> Netflix documentary: Operation Varsity Blue (100 minutes) (2019)</p> <p align="center"><b><u>Homework 1 is due</u></b></p>
<b>11/Thursday</b>	<p><b>Special topic: sociological study of organization (an introduction)</b> Netflix documentary: Downfall (90 minutes) (2022)</p> <p align="center"><b><u>Homework 2 is due</u></b></p>
<b>12/Friday</b>	<p><b>Special topic: social network analysis (SNA and its popularity)</b> Netflix documentary: The Social Dilemma (94 minutes) (2020)</p> <p align="center"><b><u>Homework 3 is due and class ends</u></b></p>



## **Homework Policy for SOCI2013**

- 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

<https://yangwang.hosted.uark.edu/soci2013/classCalendar.pdf>

- 2) Submit your homework to Song Yang via email [yangwang@uark.edu](mailto:yangwang@uark.edu)  
When you make 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, Song Yang will start to grade the homework that he receives. 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](mailto: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](mailto:bbhelp@uark.edu)
- 5) Thank you for taking this class to start your journey with Sociology.