



Course Name	Course Code	Academic Semester	Theory + Practice (hours per week)	Credits	ECTS
Introduction to Sociology	SOC103	Fall	3+0	3	5



Instructor	Mehmet ÖNDER, Ph.D.
Department	Political Science and International Relations Department
Prerequisites	N/A
Type & Level of Course Unit	Required, Undergraduate
Language of Instruction	English

Academic Year and Semester	2026-2027, Fall Semester
Meeting Time & Place	Wednesdays (8:40 AM – 11:30 AM), FEAS 003
Course Objectives	• Gaining insights about the nature of human behaviors, interactions, etc. • Understanding reasons for social changes • Being able to investigate social groups
Course Description	• This course introduces the major concepts and approaches in the field of sociology. • I will consider the involvement of other students from different majors; thus, I will make it applicable to the social sciences field in general. • We will examine topics, such as sociological research, culture, society and social interaction, socialization, groups and organization, media and technology, social stratification in the United States, global inequality, and Race and Ethnicity.
Learning Outcomes	• Understanding basic concepts of discipline • Understanding the concept of social class • Understanding how race, ethnicity, gender and social class intersect
Rules and Regulations	1. I will frequently send e-mail to the class using the e-mail list the University provides for me. With that said, I recommend you report your <u>HKU email</u> accounts to me within the first and second session at the latest. Also, please create a <u>Slack account</u> for you before the end of the first week. You can check the Slack section of this syllabus for more information. Note that if you do not read the email sent to your university account, you need to have your email forwarded to your alternative email address since you are responsible for all the information I will be distributing to the class via email. The preferred way to reach me is <u>through email</u>. Also, please <u>use the course code in the subject line</u> when emailing. You can typically expect a response within 24 hours, and please show me the same courtesy. As a rule, please be advised that I generally do not respond to emails between 9 PM and 8 AM. Additionally, I reserve the right not to respond to your email <u>if it is poorly or improperly addressed</u>. Please make sure to follow email etiquette and include the name of the course in the topic section of your email. 2. <u>Office hours</u> meetings need to be scheduled by email at least 24 hours before the meeting. Your emails should include the topic of the meeting. This will help me to prepare for the meeting beforehand and save time for other students. As a reply to your office hour request email, if we decide to meet online, I will send a unique Zoom link for the meeting if we decide to meet online. Otherwise, we will meet at my office during my office hours as shown in the syllabus.

3. You are responsible for any updates concerning class assignments that may be made throughout the semester. In extraordinary circumstances (such as medical documentation and serious health problems), you might be allowed to make up the requirement(s) and, if necessary, get an extension on the assignment(s). As much as possible, please notify me in advance that you will be unable to meet the deadline.

4. Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance shall be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent. Such notice must be given by the drop/add deadline of the given term. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments will be offered an opportunity to make up the work, without penalty, unless it can be demonstrated that a make-up opportunity would interfere unreasonably with the delivery of the course. Absence from classes or examinations for religious reasons does not relieve students of responsibility for any part of the coursework required during the period of absence.

5. When students representing Hasan Kalyoncu University miss the class due to being involved in the performing arts, scientific and/or artistic endeavors, or intercollegiate athletics, they will not be regarded as absent. These students will be offered an opportunity to make up the work related to the course, as well. However, absence from classes while representing the University does not relieve students of responsibility for any part of the course missed during the period of absence.

6. If you believe a grade, you have received is unfair or in error, you will need to do the follow university policy guidelines. If it does not contradict, I expect you to follow these steps: (1) wait 24 hours after receiving the grade; (2) schedule an appointment with me within the six days after you received the grade; (3) provide an explanation in writing for why the grade you received was unfair or in error. (4) If you believe the response fails to address your claim of unfairness or error, you may submit your written appeal to the department within the first week of classes following the completion of the course.

7. This is an accommodation friendly class. If you have a documented disability that requires accommodation, you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodation. Please make sure to register no later than by the end of the first week of classes. Once you have your accommodation in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs.

8. Please note that the last date to drop and/or withdraw from was mentioned in the academic calendar. However, I recommend you get in touch with your academic advisor and Student Services Office to determine exact dates.

Students who wish to drop and/or withdraw from their current semester must complete the legal processes first.

9. You can only get an “I” in this course when you demonstrate that extraordinary circumstances exist, and you only have a small amount of outstanding work to complete the course.

10. A failure to credit other people’s ideas properly and/or cheating on exams constitute serious cases of academic misconduct and will result in a failing grade for this course and, possibly, suspension or expulsion from the university. Plagiarism includes reporting others’ ideas verbatim as your own as well as paraphrasing others’ ideas without attributing them properly – this includes ideas you may acquire from the Web—like ChatGPT— and from your course readings. If you are quoting directly, you need to enclose the quote in citation marks and specify the source of the citation (author’s name and title of the book/article), including the page number. If you are paraphrasing somebody else’s thoughts, you need only to specify the source. If you are unclear as to what does and what does not constitute plagiarism, make sure to talk to me. Submitting a paper written for another class, borrowing a paper from a friend, or downloading a paper from the web are other examples of academic misconduct. All cases of suspected plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures established in the Student Code of Conduct.

Planned Learning Activities and Teaching Methods	1. This class is planned to be held in-person format. Please make sure to read all the assigned readings and be prepared before coming to the class. However, we should be ready to turn it into an online format whenever necessary. 2. While we meet in the classroom, please do not use any cell phones. Also, there is no Facebook, email, chat, twitter, surfing, texting, googling in class. 3. Sometimes, we can discuss sensitive issues when learning methods classes, and I had emotional environments when my students mentioned that they felt overwhelmed because of the topics covered in the class. This is not an easy class because we will be focusing on obtaining skills in how to conduct research. So, I strongly recommend attending all class sessions. Also, this is a cumulative class, meaning that missed sessions might be too costly for you. 4. By the way, recordings of any sort without my approval are not allowed. 5. You are expected to read the relevant textbook sections, articles, and videos and prepare for the class beforehand. Most lectures will be supported by a PowerPoint presentation, and I will share PPT files. 6. <u>Workload</u>: The course is planned for a 15-week semester analyzing eleven distinct topics related to the introduction of research methods for undergraduate students. In general, the reading load is expected to be around 60-70 pp. per week, including other online posted readings via Slack system, and a student should plan on spending at least 5-6 hours a week dedicated to the course preparation.
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INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Lecturer(s)	Dr. Mehmet Önder
Office Information	302 (second floor, across elevator)
Office Hours	Tuesdays, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM (Please schedule it via email at least 24 hours before)
E-mail	mehmet.onder@hku.edu.tr
Phone	0(342) 211 8080 (HKU Help Desk Phone Number)

READINGS

Required Readings:

Introduction to Sociology – 3rd Edition (2024). Tonja R. Conerly et al.

It is free and available online via Rice University OpenStax system.

Here is the access link: <https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e/>

Recommended Readings:

Textbooks:

Thompson, W. E., Hickey, J. V., & Thompson, M. L. (2016). *Society in focus: An introduction to sociology*. Rowman & Littlefield.

Articles:

Callero, P. L. (2003). The sociology of the self. *Annual review of sociology*, 29(1), 115-133.

Dowling, P. (2009). Sociology as method. In *Sociology as Method* (pp. 227-251). Brill.

Jenkins, R. (2002). Foundations of sociology. In *Foundations of sociology* (pp. 1-14). Palgrave, London.

Please Note

Assigned readings, other than the required textbook, will be made available through hyperlinks or through downloads on this course's Slack webpage.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Weeks	Topics	Subtopics, Tasks, assignments, pages, etc.	Learning outcomes
	1 Course basics, expectations, syllabus, organization, logistics, and the like.	No assigned readings	CLO1
	2 Fundamentals of Political Sociology	Ch. 1 of <i>Fundamentals of Political Sociology</i> (see the link below) https://ia803202.us.archive.org/16/items/in.ernet.dli.2015.130141/2015.130141.Fundamentals-Of-Political-Sociology.pdf	CLO2 CLO3
	3 Introduction to Sociology	Introduction What Is Sociology? The History of Sociology Theoretical Perspectives in Sociology Why Study Sociology? Conerly et al. (2024) Ch. 1	CLO1 CLO2 CLO3
	4 Sociological Research	Introduction Approaches to Sociological Research Research Methods Ethical Concerns Conerly et al. (2024) Ch. 2	CLO1 CLO2
	5 Culture – Part I <i>Quiz #1</i>	Introduction What Is Culture? Elements of Culture Conerly et al. (2024) Ch. 3	CLO2 CLO3
	6 Culture – Part II	High, Low, Pop, Sub, Counter-culture and Cultural Change 80 Theoretical Perspectives on Culture	CLO3 CLO4

		Conerly et al. (2024) Ch. 3	
7	Society and Social Interaction – Part I	Introduction Types of Societies Conerly et al. (2024) Ch. 4	CLO2 CLO3 CLO4
8	Midterm Exam Week	N/A	N/A
9	Society and Social Interaction – Part II	Theoretical Perspectives on Society Social Constructions of Reality Conerly et al. (2024) Ch. 4	CLO2 CLO3 CLO4
10	Socialization – Part I	Theories of Self-Development Why Socialization Matters Conerly et al. (2024) Ch. 5	CLO2 CLO4 CLO6
11	Socialization – Part II	Agents of Socialization Socialization Across the Life Course Conerly et al. (2024) Ch. 5	CLO2 CLO3 CLO4
12	Groups and Organization – Part I Quiz #2	Introduction Types of Groups Conerly et al. (2024) Ch. 6	CLO2 CLO6 CLO7
13	Groups and Organization – Part II	Group Size and Structure Formal Organizations Conerly et al. (2024) Ch. 6	CLO1 CLO5 CLO7

	14	What Is Social Stratification? Social Stratification and Mobility in the United States Global Stratification and Inequality Theoretical Perspectives on Social Stratification Conerly et al. (2024) Ch. 9	CLO4 CLO5 CLO6 CLO7 CLO8
Final Exam			

GRADING

Requirements	Amount	Contribution to the Overall Grade
Quizzes	4	30%
Midterm Exam – Multiple Choice	1	30%
Final Exam – Open-ended	1	40%
Total	8	100

MISCELLANEOUS

- To help yourselves get started on your paper projects, please consult Gary King's extremely illuminating guide on how to write a publishable class paper—"Publication, Publication," from this link: <https://gking.harvard.edu/files/paperspub.pdf>
- With regard to the need to keep a consistent citation style for writing, I generally recommend using bibliographic software such as Endnote or its equivalents (Procite, Refman, etc.) that do this for you automatically.
- Information about APA guidelines: <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines>

OTHER NOTES

Please also note that this syllabus is comprised of 13 pages, and it is subject to change based on the needs of the class. In addition to the articulated course-specific policies and expectations, students are responsible for understanding all applicable University guidelines, policies, procedures, and the student handbook. These are primary resources to ensure that students have information and are cognizant of their roles and responsibilities. The following page is allocated for the students to take notes about this syllabus whenever necessary.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (PLO) AND COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLO)

Please note that a learning outcome should reflect at least one of the program qualifications.

Also specify the strength of the relation between the Course Outcome and Program Learning Outcome as follows:

1= Very Slightly Related

2= Slightly Related

3= Related

4=Strongly Related

5=Very Strongly Related

	PLO1	PLO2	PLO3	PLO4	PLO5	PLO6	PLO7	PLO8	PLO9	PLO10
CLO1	2	4	2			2	4			
CLO2			3		2				2	
CLO3	1	2	1		1	3	2	2		
CLO4	2		1	2	3		1	2		1
CLO5	3						2	1	3	

CLO6	1	2	2	3	1	2				2
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