

Course Title	Introduction to Sociology LAS 105		Instructor	Dr Fabio BOLZONAR
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Class Style	Lecture		Office Hours	To be determined Or by appointment (please send an email to request an appointment)
Track			Mode of Instruction	Solo
Credits	2		Allocated Year	Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> year
Active Learning	Category 2: 3 Category 3: 2, 3, 4 Category 4: 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10		Compulsory or Elective	
Course Overview	<p>This course is designed to introduce students to the major theories, concepts, and pieces of research in classical sociology. What is society? How did the early social scientists understand the dramatic transformations provoked by capitalism? How did they conceive the organization of the increasingly complex modern societies? The course considers these questions and discusses other related topics. The course is composed of two modules. The first module presents the 'classical' sociological theories, notably those elaborated by the 'founding fathers' of sociology, (i.e., Comte, de Tocqueville, Marx, Weber, and Durkheim). The second module focuses on several issues and controversies (i.e., social stratification, social mobility, gender and sexuality, and race) that had great salience in the works of the early sociologists and have an enduring importance for understanding contemporary societies. The course instructor explains theoretical and empirical works, reviews social research methods and, through an active learning approach, stimulates students to think critically about social problems.</p>			
Course Objectives	<p>The intended learning outcomes of this course are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding the major classical sociological theories;</li> <li>• Reading, comprehending, and interpreting academic publications;</li> <li>• Strengthening research skills;</li> <li>• Enhancing communication skills in English;</li> <li>• Applying sociological theories to interpret social reality;</li> <li>• Improving the ability to think analytically and critically.</li> </ul>			
Prerequisite	This introductory course is open to all students and does not have any prerequisites.			
Course Schedule	No	Contents		Homework
	1	<p><b>Introduction to the Course</b> <i>What is Sociology?</i></p> <p>The first part of this lecture explains the course structure, the work expected by each student, and the grading system. The second part discusses what sociology is and what 'thinking sociologically' means.</p>		Reading for the next class.
	2	<p><b>Module 1: Theoretical Perspectives</b> <i>Karl Marx (first part)</i></p>		Critical reading of class material. Preparing questions to raise in class.

3	<i>Karl Marx (second part)</i>	Critical reading of class material. Preparing questions to raise in class.
4	<i>Émile Durkheim: A Functionalist Theory of Society</i>	Critical reading of class material. Preparing questions to raise in class.
5	<i>Max Weber (first part)</i>	Critical reading of class material. Preparing questions to raise in class.
6	<i>Max Weber (second part)</i>	Critical reading of class material. Preparing questions to raise in class.
7	<i>Revision of Marx, Durkheim, and Web</i>	Studying for the exam.
8	<i>Mid-term Exam</i>	
9	<b>Module 2: Issues, Controversies, and Debates</b> <i>Class and Social Stratification (first part)</i>	Critical reading of class material. Preparing questions to raise in class.
10	<i>Class and Social Stratification (second part)</i>	Critical reading of class material. Preparing questions to raise in class.
11	<i>Gender, Sex, and Sexuality</i>	Critical reading of class material. Preparing questions to raise in class.
12	<i>LGBTQ Rights</i>	Critical reading of class material. Preparing questions to raise in class.
13	<i>The Family</i>	Critical reading of class material. Preparing questions to raise in class.
14	<i>Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism</i>	Critical reading of class material. Preparing questions to raise in class.
15	<b>Conclusion</b> <i>Wrap Up</i> This class reviews what we have learnt from 'thinking sociologically' in this course. Students will also have the opportunity to raise further questions about the class material and the course instructor will provide some advice for the final assignment.	Debate and course overview.
	<i>Final Exam</i>	Studying for the final exam.

Grading	<p>Class Participation: 30 %</p> <p>Students are expected to engage in discussions. Participation will be evaluated on the basis of the contribution to collective learning. If a student does not feel comfortable speaking in class, she/he is encouraged to contact the course instructor to arrange an alternative way to participate in discussions. The course instructor would do his best to accommodate students' requests. Student presentations will be counted as extra participation.</p> <p>Midterm exam: 30%</p> <p>There will be a midterm exam related to the course material discussed in Module 1. This exam will be composed of several multiple choice and true/false quizzes and one open questions. Grades will be based on the understanding of the course material and the answers given by each student.</p> <p>Final exam: 40%</p> <p>There will be a final exam related to the course material discussed in Module 2. This exam will be composed of several multiple choice and true/false quizzes and three open questions. Grades will be based on the understanding of the course material and the answers given by each student.</p>
Textbooks	A detailed list of readings will be provided by the instructor on Moodle.
References	<p>A detailed list of references will be provided on Moodle.</p> <p><b>PODCASTS FOR REVIEWING RESEARCH METHODS</b></p> <p>Melissa Wilde on Conducting Comparative Historical Research, <a href="https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/give-methods-a/melissa-wilde-on-conducting-C0IXrSVeH71/">https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/give-methods-a/melissa-wilde-on-conducting-C0IXrSVeH71/</a></p> <p>Cheri Pascoe on Ethnographic Research, <a href="https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/give-methods-a/cj-pascoe-on-ethnographic-GHRyE6XoNu3/">https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/give-methods-a/cj-pascoe-on-ethnographic-GHRyE6XoNu3/</a></p> <p>Vinnie Roscigno on Mixed Methods, <a href="https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/give-methods-a/shamus-khan-on-historical-data-epKf-61bRCT/">https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/give-methods-a/shamus-khan-on-historical-data-epKf-61bRCT/</a></p> <p><b>MASS MEDIA AND NEWSPAPERS</b></p> <p><i>BBC</i> (Society and Culture), <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01hp4k7">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01hp4k7</a></p> <p><i>The Financial Times</i> (Japanese Society), <a href="https://www.ft.com/japanese-society">https://www.ft.com/japanese-society</a></p> <p><i>The Guardian</i> (Society), <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/society">https://www.theguardian.com/society</a></p> <p><i>The Japan Times</i> (Society), <a href="https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/japan/society/">https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/japan/society/</a></p> <p><i>The New York Times</i> (Society), <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/topic/subject/society">https://www.nytimes.com/topic/subject/society</a></p> <p><i>El País</i> (Society), <a href="https://english.elpais.com/society/">https://english.elpais.com/society/</a></p>
NOTES	<p>During the course each student will be required to write short reflections (max 150 words) which are due two days before each class at the latest. If a student does not submit the short reflection their grade will be reduced by 10%.</p> <p>Students with special needs (including stress and anxiety problems) should talk to the course instructor to discuss arrangements to let them attend the course properly. Confidentiality will be granted to all students. Artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT and Google Gemini) for learning purposes should be used cautiously. Even though AI tools can explain complex concepts, organize workload efficiently, and enhance writing skills, they can also provide inaccurate information, lead to unintended plagiarism, and undermine the enhancement of critical thinking. If students wish to use AI tools, they are strongly encouraged to discuss this topic with the course instructor.</p>