I. COURSE OVERVIEW

This 7.5-week, three credit course will introduce you to the concepts and theoretical perspectives that are the foundation of sociological thinking, and show you their applicability to everyday life and current events.

By the end of this course you will be able to:
- Discuss basic sociological concepts and perspectives
- Discuss current events with others in an informed way
- Apply sociological ideas to everyday life and current events
- Think critically about social issues

II. WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AND TIME COMMITMENT

Class preparation means completing the required readings, watching the required videos and completing any other assignments you are given each week. Attendance in an online course means logging into edX on a regular basis and participating in the activities posted.

To be successful in this course, you will need to spend approximately 18 hours per week engaged in the following activities:
- Completing the assigned reading and taking notes on what you read
- Watching the assigned videos and taking notes on them
- Completing the required graded discussion posts on the Yellowdig platform (see below)

Course Content
Some of the materials used in this course include content that is sexual, violent, or otherwise controversial in nature. I chose those materials not to titillate, but specifically to provide you with the clearest explanations or illustrations I could find, among available alternatives, of the sociological phenomena we will be covering.

**Videos**
- **Lectures** from your instructional team on specific topics, designed to help you learn key concepts
- **Interviews** with experts in the field
- **On-location** videos with people who are living the phenomena we are studying
- **Excerpts from educational videos** that illustrate or exemplify the phenomena we are studying

**Readings**
Our course makes use of open educational resources (OERs), no purchase necessary. You will find required readings related to the subject matter, in each week of your course.

**Graded Assignments**
Graded assignments are required and count toward the final grade for ID Verified students planning to earn credit. Students will submit all assignments via the edX platform, with the exception of graded discussion assignments in the Yellowdig platform.

**Quizzes:** You will take a total of **eight** quizzes: A Course Readiness Quiz on the course’s Academic Integrity policies and syllabus in the “Before the Course Begins” section, plus **seven** quizzes at the rate of one per week on the course material. Each quiz is open book/open notes, but must be completed by you (see the Academic Integrity section below and in your course), by the specified deadline. The quizzes consist of both multiple choice and true/false questions. Each quiz covers the week’s readings, lectures, and video materials. The quizzes count 20% toward your final grade.

**Midterm and Final Exams:** There are **two** required proctored exams, a midterm exam covering content from weeks one through three (25%), and a final exam
covering content from weeks four through seven (25%). These exams will have
the same style and content level as the quizzes.

All proctored exams are not open note. The following items must not be in your
testing area or used during the proctored exam:

- Notes from the course or study guides
- Phones and other digital devices
- Books
- Paper
- Pens
- Calculators
- Textbooks
- Notebooks

_ID verified students must take the midterm exam and the final exam in a
proctored environment in order to be eligible for ASU credit. (Please take the
Practice Proctored Exam in the “Before the Course Begins” section to familiarize
yourself with the process and ensure your computer meets technical
requirements.) A student earning an overall grade of a C or higher who fails
proctoring is not eligible for a certificate. If your proctored exam is marked
suspicious, you have up to 75 days from when you completed the exam to appeal
the decision. After that time, appeals will not be accepted or reviewed._

Content Mastery: There are seven interactive content mastery exercises, at the
rate of one per week, which will count for 20% of your total grade. You must
reach level 0.1 on each interactive content mastery exercise to receive credit.

Graded Discussion Assignments (Yellowdig): You will be required to submit one
post per week via our Yellowdig discussion board. (Yellowdig allows you to add
rich media, along with your text response, to express your ideas.) In these
instances, you will be discussing your views on various topics using the concepts
covered that week. You will receive specific instructions each week on what to
write about. Your posts will count for 10% of your total grade.

(We have included additional details about Yellowdig and general discussion
guidelines in your “Before Your Course Begins” section.)

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND COMMUNICATION
**Course Requirements**

**Recommended Prior Knowledge:** To be successful in this course, we recommend English language fluency and computer literacy.

**Course Communication**

All communication will take place in discussion boards, course updates, and on the course home page.

Each week, there will be a dedicated discussion board called “General Questions and Answers,” where you can post general questions and comments about the subject matter, as well as any direct inquiries for the instructor and course team. Please use this forum to ensure timely response.

**IV. STUDENT EVALUATION**

Here is the breakdown of your grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item (number)</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Proctored</th>
<th>Graded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (8)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam (Weeks 1-3)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Yes (ID Verified)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No (Audit Track)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Weeks 4-7)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Yes (ID Verified)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No (Audit Track)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content Mastery</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graded Discussion Assignments (Yellowdig)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final grades are based on the number of points you earn on the course activities listed above. A student earning an overall grade of a C or higher who fails proctoring is not eligible for a certificate. If your proctored exam is marked suspicious, you have up to 75 days from when you completed the exam to appeal the decision. After that time, appeals will not be accepted or reviewed. There is no extra credit available. You can see your percentage of the total points to date on your edX progress page. Final scores will be absolute as follows: 90% or better will receive an A, 80% or better a B, 70% or better a C, below 70% is a failing grade. There will be no + or - added to grades.
You must pass the course with a grade of C (70%) or higher, and be on the ID verified track, in order to be eligible for credit from Arizona State University.

Note: You have up to one year to purchase credit after you become eligible. Please see Section IX, below, “Taking this Course for ASU Credit or edX Verified Certificate,” for specifics on fees and deadlines.

V. GFA POLICIES

Assignment Deadlines: This is an online course. Your instructional team will provide all content and learning activities on our edX platform. All course interactions will use Internet technologies; it is your responsibility to review all content, fulfill all assignments on time, and ask any questions you have in our designated discussion area.

Late assignments will not be accepted at any point during the course. We recommend that you establish your time management schedule for this course during the first two days that the course is open to meet all course obligations. For time management tips, sign up for the GFA Orientation course and review the Time Management section.

Subject to Change Notice: All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change. It is your responsibility to read the course announcements regularly to be aware of any changes or updates in the course.

Academic Integrity: Academic honesty is expected of all students in all coursework and exams. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification, and dismissal. For more information, review ASU’s Academic Integrity Policy and edX’s Terms of Service.

VI. UTC TIME ZONE

To accommodate students from across the globe, all deadlines are posted in UTC time, the global standard. Please see “Deadlines the UTC Time Zone” located in
the “Review Your Syllabus, Schedule, and Topics” section of “Before the Course Begins” for a detailed explanation.

Remember, it is your responsibility to understand UTC and determine the due dates and times for your time zone. Make sure you address this, ideally before the first set of assignments is due, and definitely before the midterm, to avoid any unnecessary stress. **Deadline extensions will NOT be granted for misunderstanding UTC time.**

**VII. GENERAL AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

This course is best accessed by a reasonably modern browser on a laptop or desktop computer. Course videos can be accessed using the edX app for iPhone and Android. For more information about mobile, review [edX on the Go](https://www.edx.org).

Students who are interested in taking the course for credit will need additional computer requirements and skills to access the remote proctor service. Please see the [Software Secure](https://www.softwaresecure.com) site, which details Proctor Now’s requirements.

If you are not certain about your system, it is highly recommended that you complete the practice proctored exam in the “Before the Course Begins” section to confirm system compatibility.

**VIII. GENERAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

**Student Support:** Please access the [edX Help Center](https://www.edx.org) for solutions to common problems. Please also be sure to review our “Before the Course Begins” section for further information. If you are still experiencing issues, you can reach out to [gfa@edx.org](mailto:gfa@edx.org).

**Accessibility:** If you are a student with a disability, and you would like to request an accommodation, please send an email to [accessibility@edx.org](mailto:accessibility@edx.org).

**Proctoring:** For students taking the midterm and final exams proctored, please do the following to address any technical issues:

2. Send an email to edX at gfa@edx.org.

*Both Software Secure and edX must be informed of the issue to ensure resolution.*

Please put “Problem with proctored exam” in the subject line. Also, provide as much information as possible, including screenshots, error messages, and urgency due to upcoming deadlines.

**IX. TAKING THIS COURSE FOR ASU CREDIT OR edX VERIFIED CERTIFICATE**

Students wishing to take this course for ASU credit are required to ID verify by January 19, 06:59 UTC, opt in to proctoring for quizzes or exams that offer it, and, ultimately, pass the course with a C or better. (Cost of ID verification is $49 USD/course; cost of credit is $600 USD/course. Visit “Learn and Earn Credit” in our “Before the Course Begins” section for additional details.)

**ID Verification Status**
When you verify your identity for an edX course, that verification is effective for one year. Your dashboard provides the status of your ID verification.

You must be ID verified in order to complete proctored exams. Please check your verification status regularly.

It will take a few days for the ID verification process to be completed, so please plan accordingly. Deadlines will not be extended due to re-verification issues.

**Purchasing Credit**

*Important:* Provided you have met all requirements for this course, you can purchase credit ($600 USD) from ASU for **up to one year** after you become credit eligible. A student earning an overall grade of a C or higher who fails proctoring is not eligible for a certificate. If your proctored exam is marked suspicious, you have up to 75 days from when you completed the exam to appeal the decision. After that time, appeals will not be accepted or reviewed.

Your date of eligibility **may differ** from the course end date or the date certificates are issued. Please visit your course progress page, specifically the “Requirements for Course Credit” section, to see the status of your credit eligibility.
Please review “ASU Credit and Proctoring Requirements” in the “Learn and Earn Credit” section of “Before the Course Begins” for additional details.

**Note:** Potential limitations of internet connectivity by some countries may limit the ability of an ID Verified student residing in those countries to complete all the assessments, and therefore potentially impede the eligibility to earn college credit. Students impacted by such limitations should contact gfa@edx.org.