

SOC 1101: Introduction to Sociology – Section C

Fall 2026

Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

East Architecture 123

Instructor: Kemal Budak

Office Hours: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a general survey of sociology while providing you with a framework to think critically about the social world and your place within it. Lectures, readings, and assignments focus on understanding basic social processes and applying them to real-life situations. Topics include—but are not limited to—the economy, religion, politics, immigration, culture, inequality, race, and gender.

CORE IMPACTS

This course is a Core IMPACTS course within the Social Sciences area, designed to provide students with essential knowledge in foundational academic disciplines. It aims to help students master course content while supporting their broader academic and career goals. The course is centered around the following guiding question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

By completing this course, students should achieve the following learning outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior and understand how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

The course content, activities, and exercises are designed to help students develop the following career-ready competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

Additional learning outcomes for this course:

- Identify, adopt, and apply a sociological approach.
- Become familiar with major sociological theories, issues, and findings.
- Understand how social contexts influence behavior and how sociological research

is conducted, including evidence types.

- Gather sociological evidence and construct arguments through written assignments.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Henslin, James. 2007. *Down to Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings*, 14th Edition. ISBN: 9781416536208. Available at GT Barnes & Noble and online. Readings with numbers in parentheses refer to this text. Other readings will be on Canvas.

COURSE POLICIES

- **Attendance Policy:** This is an asynchronous course. Students are expected to engage regularly with course materials and meet all deadlines. Failure to do so may impact course performance.
- **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.
- **Syllabus:** I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus.
- **Communication:** All readings (except the textbook) will be posted on Canvas. I respond to emails within 24 hours.
- **Class Preparation:** Complete readings before viewing the lectures. Not all readings will be discussed in detail, but all are essential and may appear on quizzes or the final. Lecture slides do not cover everything, note-taking is key.
- **Late Work and Make-up Exams:** Submit all assignments through Canvas (not by email). Late work will be penalized. Notify me in advance if you must miss an exam. Makeup requires an excused absence and documentation from the Dean.
- **Class Materials:** Lecture videos and PowerPoints will be available on Canvas.
- **Academic Conduct:** Adhere to the [Georgia Tech Honor Code](#). Violations may result in a failing grade for the assignment or course. Contact me early if you require accommodations and also reach out to the [Office of Disability Services](#).

- **Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools:** You may use generative AI programs, e.g. ChatGPT, to help generate ideas and brainstorm. You should be aware that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, biased or otherwise problematic. Also, using these tools may stifle your own independent thinking and creativity. Per GaTech's Honor Code, you may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own. If you include material generated by an AI program, it should be cited like any other reference material (with due consideration for the quality of the reference, which may be poor). When/if you use AI platforms in your assignments, please write a note to clarify where in your process you used AI, include the prompt used to generate the material, and which platform(s) you used. See this article for how to cite AI properly: How to cite ChatGPT: <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>. **AI use is strictly prohibited during midterms and finals.**
- **Extra Credit:** There is no extra credit. Your final grade will be based solely on the listed assignments and exams.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement (Conduct Statement)

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. The Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement articulates some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In this course, all participants are expected to engage respectfully, contribute thoughtfully, and maintain a professional learning environment. Disruptive, disrespectful, or inappropriate behavior, whether in discussion forums, communications, or course activities, will not be tolerated.

In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, all students are expected to uphold the standards of conduct outlined by Georgia Tech while participating in this course.

Grading Policy

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A 90-100%
 B 80-89%
 C 70-79%
 D 60-69%
 F 0-59%

Final grade is calculated as follows: Discussion Prompts (20%), Major Assignment (25%), Midterm (20%), Final Exam (35%).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

REQUIREMENTS

Successful completion of this course requires timely submission of assignments, engagement with course materials, and adherence to course policies.

Discussion Prompts (15%): Throughout the session, you are required to complete three out of eight discussion prompts listed in the syllabus. These prompts correspond to specific lectures and readings and are designed to encourage you to reflect critically and personally on key sociological concepts. You are free to select any three (3) prompts out of the total eight offered across the course schedule. You may not submit more than three responses, so choose the prompts that most resonate with you. Each response must be a minimum of one full page, 1.5-spaced. Avoid large margins or spacing tricks—submissions that fall short of this length will not receive full credit.

Each prompt response should include the following components:

Introduction to Key Concepts: Briefly identify and explain the major concepts from the reading or lecture that the prompt addresses.

Critical Engagement: Analyze the reading, drawing connections to other course materials, real-world examples, or current events. Go beyond summary—raise questions or critiques.

Personal Reflection: Explain how the content relates to your own experiences, beliefs, or background. What challenged you? What affirmed something you already thought?

Sociological Significance: Conclude by discussing the broader implications. Why do these ideas matter in sociology? What do they help us understand about society or social behavior?

Make sure to refer directly to the reading(s) or lecture(s) you're writing about. You may quote briefly but avoid excessive quotation. Show that you understand the ideas in your own words. Your writing should balance academic clarity with a personal voice. This is your chance to show both intellectual and personal engagement.

Submit your response as a separate file via Canvas. Make sure to include your name, date, and the prompt number at the top of each response. Deadlines for each response will align with the dates the corresponding prompts are listed on the syllabus. Late work will receive deductions as outlined in the syllabus policy.

Major Assignments (40%): You will be given two written assignments during the semester.

Assignment #1: Breaking a Social Norm – You will conduct a mini-experiment where you break a common social rule and observe the reactions of those around you. Afterward, you will write a reflection on your experience. Detailed instructions will be provided later in the semester.

Assignment #2: Ethnographic Visit Assignment – You will conduct a brief ethnographic observation of a social setting that is unfamiliar to you. This may include a religious institution, community organization, cultural event, workplace, or other organized social space approved by the instructor. During your visit, you will observe interactions, behaviors, routines, and norms, and, when appropriate, engage in informal conversations. You will then write a paper analyzing your observations using sociological concepts discussed in class. Additional guidelines and expectations will be provided later in the semester.

Midterm (15%): The midterm will consist of multiple-choice, short answer, true/false, and short essay questions based on daily readings and class materials.

Final Exam (30%): The take-home final exam will focus primarily on material from the second half of the course. It will include short answers, short and long essays.