



**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Course Syllabus**

**Semester:** Summer      **Year:** 2026

**Course Prefix and Number:** SOCI 101 (CRN 50202)      **Section:** 21

**Course Name:** Introduction to Sociology

**Course Location (Bldg./Room):** Asynchronous Online

**Class Days:** Class starts July 1, and the last day to turn in assignments is July 30.

**Credit Hours:** 3

## Instructor Information:

<b>Name:</b>	<u>Dr. James Fraser, Associate Professor of Sociology</u>
<b>Office Location:</b>	<u>1217 Academic Commons</u>
<b>Office Phone:</b>	<u>804-524-6835 (Please email me first)</u>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<u>Online (By Appointment)</u>
<b>Email:</b>	<u>jfraser@vsu.edu</u>

**This course may satisfy a General Education requirement.** Students should obtain a copy of their degree curriculum sheet and consult their academic advisor to help them select General Education courses.

**General Education Program:** The Virginia State University (VSU) General Education Program is founded on principles of academic excellence and personal growth and comprises the core curriculum for all baccalaureate degrees offered by the institution. The liberal arts emphasis of VSU's General Education Program is designed to foster dispositions that value lifelong learning, personal responsibility, integrity, creative expression, and service ethics.

The VSU Faculty Senate has approved this course to meet the following requirements: Primary General Education Designation: **Social Science.**

**Course Catalog Description:** Students are taught the fundamental concepts and principles of sociology. Emphasis is on the empirical and theoretical bases of sociology, social structure, the variety of influences and pressures that shape individuals' participation in society, the nature of social research, and the use of the sociological perspective in understanding social interaction. This course is required for all sociology majors.

**Course Materials:** Everything you need is on Canvas. (Norton: The Real World)

## Institutional Level Student Learning Outcomes (ILSLOs)

### Quantitative Reasoning

ILSLO 1: **Identify** quantitative information encountered in daily life or within the discipline to make informed decisions.

ILSLO 2: **Explain** numerical information orally or through written communication.

ILSLO 3: **Interpret** equations, graphs, diagrams, tables, figures, and/or words to draw relevant conclusions and make predictions.

ILSLO 4: **Use** technological tools to create graphs, tables, figures, and equations from numerical information.

ILSLO 5: **Calculate** basic mathematical operations in problem-solving, such as arithmetic, algebra, and basic statistics.

#### Scientific Literacy

ILSLO 1: **Identify** the credibility and reliability of scientific sources by distinguishing among peer-reviewed articles, popular media, and pseudoscience.

ILSLO 2: **Compare** different scientific methods of analysis and investigate their use in evaluating empirical information.

ILSLO 3: **Discuss** ethical, legal, economic, social, cultural, and environmental implications of scientific research and practices.

ILSLO 4: **Apply** scientific reasoning skills to analyze and solve problems, interpret scientific data, draw conclusions, and make evidence-based decisions.

#### **Program Level Student Learning Outcomes (PLSLOS)**

PLSLO 1: Students will be able to explain cultural differences and the viewpoints that emerge from them to create a "just" society.

PLSLO 2: Students will be able to apply basic theoretical paradigms to address societal issues and problems.

#### **Course Level Student Learning Outcomes (CLSLOS)**

CLSLO 1: Students will be able to utilize theoretical paradigms to address issues and societal problems, and to cognize, describe, and explain social institutions, structures, and processes, as well as the complexities of a global culture and diverse society.

CLSLO 3: Think critically about how individuals are influenced by political, geographic, economic, cultural, and family institutions in their own and other diverse cultures and explain how one's beliefs may differ.

CLSLO 4: Explore the relationship between the individual and society as it affects the personal behavior, social development, and quality of life of the individual, the family, and the community.

CLSLO 5: Use the most appropriate principles, methods, and technologies to perceptively and objectively gather, analyze, and present social and behavioral science research data, draw logical conclusions, and apply those conclusions to life and society.

CLSLO 6: Analyze and communicate the values and processes used to formulate theories regarding the social context of individual human behavior.

## Course Assignments

You have 10 modules to complete, each consisting of 2 items. **First, read the module titled "Learning Objectives."** **Second, each module contains a component titled "Norton Illumine Ebook: The Real World."** You need to click that link and complete all the activities included.

**Course Policy:** Please plan. Late assignments will not be accepted.

### Due by July 15

Module 1 Sociology and the Real World

Module 2 Studying Social Life: Sociological Research Methods

Module 3 Culture

Module 4 Socialization, Interaction, and the Self

Module 5: Separate and Together: Life in Groups

### Due by July 30

Module 7: The Structure of Inequality

Module 8 Race and Ethnicity as Lived Experience

Module 9: Constructing Gender and Sexuality

Module 11 The Economy and Work

Module 16 Social Change

## Evaluation of Learning

No.	Assignment	Weight	CLSLO
1	Module Completion	100% (10 Modules)	All CLSLOs

## Grading System and Scale

Undergraduate Grading Scale		
Grade	Score	
A	90% and above	
B	80.0-89.9%	
C	70.0-79.9%	
D	60.0-69.9%	
F	Below 60%	

## **Relevant Policies**

### Academic Misconduct

Intellectual freedoms are safeguarded through the application of principles of academic honesty. Violations of academic honesty constitute a serious breach of the Virginia State University honor code and may constitute grounds for disciplinary action. Scholastic dishonesty includes (a) plagiarism and (b) cheating—giving, aiding, or seeking improper assistance while taking a test or examination. Plagiarism refers to submitting someone else's work as your own or using words or ideas not yours in formal writing without proper citation. It is a severe University offense that, when caught in this class, will result in the cancellation of your work and the assignment of an automatic F as a final grade. You may be referred to the University for further disciplinary action or expulsion. Follow the VSU honor code to avoid plagiarism.

### Grading System

Undergraduate Grading System		
Grade	Definition	Quality Points
A	Excellent	4.0
B	Good	3.0
C	Average	2.0
D	Below average	1.0
F	Failure	0

### Late/Make-Up Work Policy

Only assignments submitted on time will be accepted.

### Stress Management

Students may experience situations or challenges that can interfere with learning and interpersonal functioning, including stress, anxiety, depression, alcohol and other drug use, concern for a friend or family member, loss, sleep difficulties, feeling hopeless, or relationship problems. There are campus resources available to students, including University Counseling Services at (804)524-5939, which provides Short-term therapy, and Student Health at (804)524-5711. 24-hour emergency mental health support is available by calling the National Suicide Hotline at 988 or Campus Police at (804)524-5411.