

American University of Beirut
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences
SBHS 201, Introduction to the Study of Society

1. **Course Learning Outcomes:** This introductory course provides a general view of the main sociological perspectives concerning the study of society. We will focus on what sociologists do, both describing the substantive areas on which their research is frequently done, and interpreting the theories and methods used to produce sociological explanation. Students will become more aware of the influence of society on their everyday life, and will learn how to critically analyze frequently encountered social situations.

2. **Resources Available to Students:**

Textbook : Giddens, Anthony, *Sociology*, Fourth Edition, Cambridge Polity Press, 2001.

The course format will generally consist of lectures and class discussions. However, the lectures are not restricted by the text's order, format, or subject, and **several additional readings will be placed on reserve in Jafet Library**. A list of the additional readings will be available to students on their first day of classes.

3. **Grading Criteria:**

Evaluation will be based on:

Attendance and Participation	10 %
Mid-term Exam	30 %
Field Research Assignment	15 %
Final	<u>45 %</u>
Total	100%

Exams will consist of objective questions (true/false or multiple choice), terms to identify, short answer and essay questions. Guiding details for the field research assignment will be outlined on separate handouts and discussed in class according to the course plan.

4. **Schedule:**

With several instructors teaching this course, it has been agreed that each instructor will cover the following topics:

- What is Sociology?
- Culture and Society
- Gender and Sexuality
- Crime and Deviance
- Race, Ethnicity and Migration
- Class, Stratification and Inequality

- Work and Economic Life
- Families
- Religion
- Sociological Research Methods
- Theoretical Thinking in Sociology

In addition, four more themes will be chosen from the following areas:

- A Changing World
- Social Interaction and Everyday Life
- Sociology of the Body: Health, Illness and Ageing
- Poverty, Welfare and Social Exclusion
- Modern Organizations
- Government and Politics
- Mass Media and Communications
- Education
- Cities and Urban Spaces
- Population Growth and Ecological Crisis

Each instructor will structure the themes in a fifteen-week schedule that will be made available to students along with dates of assignments and exams on the first day of instructions.

5. Course Policy:

- Your thoughts and experiences are crucial to the course, therefore, attendance is mandatory. More than 7 unexcused absences may result in a lower grade (-10%) or being dropped from the course by the course withdrawal deadline. To excuse an absence, please bring an AUB infirmary or physician's note.
- Unexcused tardiness will be treated as an absence.
- Cellular phones must be turned off during class.
- **Students who cheat or plagiarize** will receive a grade of 0%, and will be subject to further disciplinary action. There will be no tolerance for academic dishonesty.