

SC1101E MAKING SENSE OF SOCIETY
AY2022-2023 Semester 2

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course follows a comparative approach in introducing the fundamentals of sociology. It juxtaposes studies from Asia with those from other countries in various parts of the world to shed light on the discipline's different theoretical traditions and methodological orientations. While emphasizing diversity, the focus on key themes such as sports, media, and travel ensures the accessibility and applicability of its various conceptual tools and analytical frameworks.

Making Sense of Society is designed for first-year social science majors as well as for more advanced students from other departments and faculties. The comparative approach fosters a broader and more reflexive take on how identities (race, gender, class), interactions (culture, organizations, deviance), institutions (family, religion, nation-state) and issues (pandemic, environmental degradation, armed conflict) develop across different social contexts. By focusing on the contrasting standpoints that sociologists employ in analyzing social issues, students will learn to have a more nuanced, balanced, and rooted understanding of sociology and its relevance to contemporary society and everyday life.

COURSE SCHEDULE

	LECTURES	TUTORIALS
Week 1	13 Jan – Introduction: Sociological Orienteering	
Week 2	20 Jan – Sociological Research	
Week 3	27 Jan – Race and Ethnicity	T1: Doing Sociology
Week 4	03 Feb – Gender and Sexualities	T1: Doing Sociology
Week 5	10 Feb – Class and Social Inequality	T2: Identities: Race, Gender, Class
Week 6	17 Feb – Culture	T2: Identities: Race, Gender, Class
RECESS WEEK		
	03 Mar – Midterm Essay DUE	
Week 7	03 Mar – Groups and Organizations	T3: Interactions: Culture, Org., Deviance
Week 8	10 Mar – Deviance and Social Control	T3: Interactions: Culture, Org., Deviance
Week 9	17 Mar – Family	T4: Institutions: Family, Religion, State
Week 10	24 Mar – Religion	T4: Institutions: Family, Religion, State
Week 11	31 Mar – The Nation-State	T5: Review: Sociological Orienteering
Week 12	07 Apr – NO LECTURE (Public Holiday, Good Friday)	T5: Review: Sociological Orienteering
Week 13	14 Apr – Conclusion: Social Change	
	Apr – Final Exam	

COURSE FORMAT

Lectures

The weekly in-person lecture is held every **Friday, 04:00-05:35 pm (Venue: LT10)**. Lectures will not be recorded or webcast, so students are strongly encouraged to attend all the scheduled classes. If you need help to catch up with a missed class (for whatever reason), you can set an appointment to meet me or your tutor online to discuss the lecture with you. This consultation arrangement offers a more useful learning experience than watching long video recordings.

Tutorials

Students are also required to attend five tutorial discussion sessions (in-person), which are held fortnightly from Week 3. You need to sign up for one of the tutorial groups during the first two weeks of the semester. The registration has to be done through NUS EduRec, the university's online module registration platform. Please do not email your lecturer or tutor regarding this matter.

Consultation

I am available for individual and group consultation **via Zoom**. Please email me in advance to set an appointment. Please check with your respective tutors for their consultation hours.

ASSIGNED READINGS

The textbook for this module is ***Other Societies: Introductory Sociology in Comparative Perspectives***, by Lou Antolihao. (Singapore: Cengage Learning Asia, 2022). This is available for purchase at the NUS Coop or from the Cengage Online shop. If purchasing online, use this code [**SGNUSAUG22**] during checkout to avail of the student discount. After the discount, the textbook costs S\$ 68.00 and comes with free local delivery. An ebook version of the textbook is also available from the Cengage online shop for S\$ 43.90 (12 months digital access). Part of the sales (author's royalty) will be donated to the Department of Sociology and Anthropology under "SC1101E Class" to help fund student scholarships. I will give an update on the donation as soon as it is given to the department.
<https://www.cengageasia.com/TitleDetails/isbn/9789815059502>

This textbook will be supplemented by short articles from *Contexts*, which students can download from Canvas (Files). *Contexts* is considered as "the public face of sociology." The quarterly magazine makes cutting-edge research accessible to the general public through thought provoking, concise, and jargon-free reporting of pressing issues in contemporary society.

Week 1 – Introduction: Sociological Orienteering

1. Antolihao, Lou. 2022. *Other Societies*, Chapter 1 (Sociological Orienteering).
2. Antolihao, Lou. 2022. *Other Societies*, Chapter 2 (Sociological Theories).

Week 2 – Sociological Research

1. Antolihao, *Other Societies*, Chapter 3 (Sociological Research).
2. Irvine, Janice M. 2014. "The Sex Lives of Sex Researchers." *Contexts*, Vol. 13, No. 4: 36-41.

Week 3 – Race and Ethnicity

1. Antolihao, *Other Societies*, Chapter 4 (Race and Ethnicity).
2. Buford May, Reuben A. 2015. "Discrimination and Dress Codes in Urban Nightlife." *Contexts*, Vol. 14, No. 1: 38-43.

Week 4 – Gender and Sexualities

1. Antolihao, *Other Societies*, Chapter 5 (Gender and Sexuality).
2. Charles, Maria. 2007. "What Gender is Science." *Contexts*, Vol. 10, No. 2: 22-28.

Week 5 – Social Class and Social Inequality

1. Antolihao, *Other Societies*, Chapter 6 (Social Class and Social Stratification).
2. Caldwell, Mark 2014. "The Rise of the Gourmet Hamburger." *Contexts*, Vol. 13, No. 3: 72-74.

Week 6 – Culture

1. Antolihao, *Other Societies*, Chapter 7 (Culture).
2. McCabe, Janice. 2016. "Friends with Academic Benefits." *Contexts*, Vol. 15, No. 3: 22-29.

Week 7 – Groups and Organizations

1. Antolihao, *Other Societies*, Chapter 8 (Groups and Organizations)
2. Cole, Nicki Lisa and Keith Brown. 2014. "The Problem with Fair Trade Coffee." *Contexts*, Vol. 13, No. 1: 50-55.

Week 8 – Deviance and Social Control

1. Antolihao, *Other Societies*, Chapter 9 (Deviance and Social Control).
2. Rios, Victor M. 2012. "Stealing a Bag of Potato Chips and Other Crimes of Resistance." *Contexts*, Vol. 11, No. 1: 48-53.

Week 9 – Family

1. Antolihao, *Other Societies*, Chapter 10 (Family).
2. Bowen, Sarah, Sinikka Elliott, and Joslyn Brenton. 2014. "The Joy of Cooking." *Contexts*, Vol. 13, No. 3: 20-25.

Week 10 – Religion

1. Antolihao, *Other Societies*, Chapter 11 (Religion).
2. Cadge, Wendy and Courtney Bender. 2003. "Yoga and Rebirth in America: Asian Religions are Here to Stay." *Contexts*, Vol. 3, No. 1: 45-51.

Week 11 – The Nation-State

1. Antolihao, *Other Societies*, Chapter 12 (Nation-State).

2. Chi, Janice. 2014. "Consuming Rice, Branding the Nation." *Contexts*, Vol. 13, No. 3: 50-55.

Week 12 – No Lecture, Public Holiday

Week 13 – Conclusion

1. Antolihao, *Other Societies*, Chapter 13 (Pandemics and Social Change).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

1) Class Participation (15%)

Tutorials are an important part of the learning process. They are not intended to be a summary of lectures or readings, but a forum for discussion and debate. Do come prepared with your notes and your answers to the discussion questions. **Tutorial attendance is compulsory.** If a student needs to attend a make-up tutorial (a valid reason and proof should be provided) it is advisable to attend another DG led by your tutor. You may choose to attend a DG led by another Tutor, but you will not receive class participation points.

2) Tutorial Group Report (15%)

Starting from Tutorial 2, a group (3-5 students) will be assigned to report on the scheduled tutorial topics (check the schedule above). The objective of the group report is to encourage students to use the key concepts from the readings in analysing current issues in Singapore or in another country that the group is interested to study. The simplest way of organizing the reports is to respond to the discussion guide questions (see Canvas Files, Tutorials) prepared for each tutorial session. However, students are free to organize the report according to the preference of its members.

The presentation should not go beyond 30 minutes to allow time for class discussion. The group should divide the task (workload) and time (presentation) evenly to give each member enough opportunity to contribute. The report will be graded based on the following criteria: content (10%) and clarity (5%).

3) Midterm Essay: Sociological Orienteering (30%)

This assignment helps students develop critical thinking skills by using the concept of "sociological orienteering" in understanding the fundamental connection between self, culture, and society. Visit a library to find a copy of The Straits Times or any national daily that was published on your **DATE OF BIRTH** (not on your birthday). Although a local broadsheet can be an insightful source of information, foreign and exchange students are allowed to use an accessible newspaper from their home country. Select an article from any section of the newspaper (front page, sports, obituaries, etc.) that you find most interesting and would be a good piece to analyze. After choosing your article, you must:

1. Include a snapshot of the article that has the title, author, and date of publication. Do not submit a photo of the entire article.
2. To make your analysis more objective, use the article to discuss with your parents or anybody knowledgeable about the economic, political, and social circumstances at the time of your birth to explore how they shaped your experience growing up.

3. Use the concept of “sociological orienteering” (Antolihao 2022: 4-7) as an analytical framework to write an essay about the article’s relevance to your own life story.

Your essay should be submitted as a Word Document comprising between 1200-1500 words. **The word count does not include the list of references.** The penalty for excessive word length is ONE MARK deducted for each additional 20 words over the limit. Use ASA or APA format in arranging your references. Check this link to access the newspaper collection in the library.
<https://libportal.nus.edu.sg/frontend/enewspaper-viewall?cid=252046>

Please submit a soft copy via Canvas, which will generate an originality report to guard against plagiarism. Plagiarism is taken seriously at the University and anyone caught violating this rule will be subject to strict disciplinary action. The deadline for submission is on **03 March 2023 (Friday) before 5:00 pm**. Late submissions will incur a 5-point penalty (if submitted within 24 hours after the deadline) and an additional 2-point deduction for each succeeding day.

Your essay will be assessed using the module’s p.o.i.n.t. criteria.

- p - probing: the amount of useful research that was undertaken.
- o - opinion: the incisive analysis of relevant social issues.
- i - insight: the formulation of creative ideas or a compelling argument.
- n - narrative: good composition skills and careful editing.
- t - texts: theory, effective use of the concept of “sociological orienteering”

4) Final Exam (40%)

The final essay is a comprehensive assessment designed to test your understanding of the course materials from Week 1 to Week 12. Details of this final assessment will be given soon.