



Soc 1301.01W
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
Summer 2012
(Online)

Professor: William E. Thompson, Ph.D.
Office Location: Ferguson Social Science 229
Office Hours: M,T,W,R 10:00-11:30 a.m. and by appointment
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook Required: *Society in Focus: An Introduction to Sociology (7th Ed.)* by William E. Thompson and Joseph V. Hickey, Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2011, ISBN: 0-205-66574-8. The book is available in the university bookstore and online. An on-line website and study guide to accompany the text is available at www.mysoclab.com for those who need additional help in understanding the reading assignments.

Course Description: Overview of major concepts and principles of sociology, including socialization, social control, social order, social stratification, ethnicity, social deviance, and social change.

Student Learning Outcomes/Course Objectives: This introductory course can be counted for University Studies credit in Social and Behavioral Sciences and is a required prerequisite for nearly all other course in sociology, and has the following major objectives:

1. Help students develop a sociological perspective based on critical thinking skills in order to better understand the social world in which they live and interact on a daily basis.
2. Introduce students to basic sociological terms and concepts that will help them better understand their social world and to lay a solid academic foundation for future courses in sociology and/or related fields.
3. Introduce the scientific method and specific sociological research methods to illustrate how sociologists collect and analyze data to develop sociological theories on human social behavior.
4. Familiarize students with the major theoretical perspectives and/or paradigms within sociology and to compare/contrast them to theoretical approaches in related fields such as anthropology, history, psychology, and other social and behavioral sciences.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

CLASS FORMAT: Every effort will be made to provide the best possible learning experience by blending PowerPoint presentations with discussions, reading assignments, and other materials.

Because we will be dealing with controversial contemporary social issues, an open mind and a mature attitude are important requirements for this course. Students are expected to be polite and courteous and conform to online etiquette at all times. For detailed rules on “netiquette” go to the website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html> A summary of netiquette rules are provided below.

- [Rule 1: Remember the Human](#)
- [Rule 2: Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life](#)
- [Rule 3: Know where you are in cyberspace](#)
- [Rule 4: Respect other people's time and bandwidth](#)
- [Rule 5: Make yourself look good online](#)
- [Rule 6: Share expert knowledge](#)
- [Rule 7: Help keep flame wars under control](#)
- [Rule 8: Respect other people's privacy](#)
- [Rule 9: Don't abuse your power](#)
- [Rule 10: Be forgiving of other people's mistakes](#)

EXAMS: There will be five exams (worth 100-pts. ea.)—one every Thursday. Check the course schedule for dates. If a student misses an exam the only way to make it up is to come to campus on a date and time established by the professor. So mark these dates on your calendars now, otherwise, if you miss an exam you will probably find it necessary to drop the course. There is a 24-hour window on Thursday to take the exam, but once the exam is started, you have only 1 hour to complete it. If you log off for any reason, the exam is over, and you cannot log back in. You are expected to take exams without the aid of your textbook, notes, or any other type of help or aid from anything or any other person. You are on the honor system to take the exams just as if you were taking them in a classroom with the professor present.

DISCUSSIONS/PARTICIPATION: Reading all assignments and participating in all online discussions is essential for doing well in this course. Discussions will open at 12:01 a.m. on Monday and close at 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday of each week. If you miss the “window” for participating in any online discussion, there is no way to make it up. I expect you to post more than 1 response as you should read your classmates posts and engage in discussion with them.

NOTE: Online discussions should not be viewed as similar to a discussion around the dinner table with friends or family where everybody expresses their views, opinions, and beliefs on some topic often which they know absolutely nothing about. This is an academic course and your discussion topics are directly linked to the Power Points and reading assignments in your textbook. Consequently, your posts should reflect a certain amount of knowledge on the topic based on research, facts, and data. It is fine to critique, interpret, and *occasionally* interject an opinion or two, but for the most part, this should be an academic and intellectual discussion of the topic at hand.

Grading

Final grades will be based on the five exams worth 100 pts. each (500 pts) and 5 online discussions worth 10pts. each (50 pts).

5 Exams @ 100 pts. ea. =	500 pts.	Scale:	A= 90 – 100 % (495 - 550 pts.)
Discussions =	50		B= 80 – 89 % (440 - 494 pts.)
Total Points =	550 pts.		C= 70 – 79 % (385 - 439 pts.)
			D= 69 – 60 % (330 - 384 pts.)
			F= less than 60 % (< 330 pts.)

EXTRA CREDIT: Don't ask, there won't be any. Two types of students usually want to do extra credit work: those who would like to make an even "higher" A; and those who are failing the course. In either case, extra credit makes no sense. Put in the time, energy, and effort on the "regular" work and you will not need any "extra" credit.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- Students need to have ready access to a broadband connection to the internet such as Cable, DSL, or the TAMU-C campus network. (Dial-up, satellite, or other non-broadband internet connections will not function sufficiently with eCollege.)
- A computer with a 2.0Ghz or better processor and 1 GB of RAM. MAC computers with similar configurations will also work.
- Windows XP, Vista, or 7 operating system. MAC with the OS 9 or X operating system.
- Microsoft Office or similar package with a word processor, Power Point type presentation application, and a spreadsheet application. (OpenOffice is a free, open source application that is very similar to the Microsoft Office applications and is available for download at www.openoffice.org)

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

The publisher of the textbook provides an online site to accompany the textbook. The web address is on the back cover of the textbook.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR: The professor will be in the office (SS 229) between 10:00 and 11:30 a.m. Mondays through Thursdays if students would like to have a face-to-face visit, and may be available at other times by appointment. The best way to contact the professor will be through campus e-mail. Every effort will be made to reply to inquiries made Monday thru Wednesday within a 24-hour period. E-mails received on Thursday, Friday, or over the weekend may not receive a response until the following Monday. *The professor absolutely will **NOT** be available on Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays.*

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION: I will communicate with the class through e-college and/or MyLeo e-mail. Consequently, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check your e-mail regularly for messages from me. I will attempt to respond to any e-mail you send to me within 24 hours

of receiving it unless the e-mail is received after noon on Wednesday. If that is the case, it more than likely will be the following Monday before you receive a response.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

CHEATING & PLAGIARISM: All exams are expected to be taken closed-book with no outside help from book(s), notes, or other people. It should go without saying that every student is expected to do his/her own work. Departmental policy provides that anyone caught cheating in any form or fashion will receive an "F" for the course and may be subjected to further disciplinary action by the university. Plagiarism (the use of other's words, phrases, and ideas in your writing without giving credit to the original author) is a form of cheating and not only violates academic ethical standards, but is against the law. Don't do it!

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

POLICIES ON ENROLLMENT, "X," "DP," "DF," AND WITHDRAWAL: All university policies regarding last day of enrollment, use of "X," "DP," and "DF," and withdrawal from class will be rigidly adhered to in this course. Students should check the university catalog, current semester schedule, and other official sources for specific deadlines, policies, etc. IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to see that all university procedures are properly followed.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TOPIC:</u>	<u>READING ASSIGNMENTS:</u>
Day 1: M, 9 July	Discovering Sociology/Critical Thinking	Ch. 1
Day 2: T, 10 July	Discovering Sociology/Doing Sociology	Ch. 1,2
Day 3: W, 11 July	Doing Sociology	Ch. 2
Day 4: R, 12 July	Video: VHS 1726 "Social Thinking and Research" EXAM 1	Ch. 1,2
Day 5: M, 16 July	Culture and Society	Ch. 3
Day 6: T, 17 July	Culture & Society/Socialization	Ch.3,4
Day 7: W, 18 July	Socialization	Ch. 4
Day 8: R, 19 July	EXAM 2	Ch. 3,4
Day 9: M, 23 July	Social Interaction in Everyday Life	Ch. 5
Day 10: T, 24 July	Soc. Int. in Everyday Life/Groups	Ch. 5,6
Day 11: W, 25 July	Social Groups & Organizations	Ch. 6
Day 12: R, 26 July	EXAM 3	Ch. 5,6
Day 13: M, 30 July	Deviance & Conformity	Ch. 7
Day 14: T, 31 July	Deviance & Conformity/Soc. Strat. & Class	Ch. 7,8
Day 15: W, 1 August	Social Stratification & Social Class	Ch. 8
Day 16: R, 2 August	EXAM 4	Ch. 7,8
Day 17: M, 6 August	Sex & Gender	Ch. 11
Day 18: T, 7 August	Sex & Gender/Age & Elderly	Ch. 11,12
Day 19: W, 8 August	Age & Elderly	Ch. 12
Day 20: R, 9 August	EXAM 5	Ch. 11,12