Sociology 1301.004
Introduction to Sociology
Fall 2012

Instructor: Amanda Grant, Graduate Teaching Assistant
Class Times: MWF 1:00 – 1:50 p.m.
Class Location: 312
Office Location: Ferguson/Social Sciences 206
Office Hours: MW (2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.) or by appointment
Office Phone: 903-886-5323
Email Address: agrant@leomail.tamuc.edu

Course Information:

Required Textbooks:
2. Readings posted on e-College

Course Description:
This course is designed to introduce the student to the discipline of sociology and will serve as a foundation for future courses in the subject. The social world in which we live is complicated. This course will help the student better understand this world by providing an overview of major concepts and principles of sociology, including culture, socialization, social order, social control, social stratification, sex and gender, race and ethnicity, social deviance, social institutions and social change.

Learning Outcomes:
1. Students will develop and demonstrate the ability to use critical thinking, particularly the sociological imagination, in order to better comprehend the social world in which we live.
2. Students will make evident their understanding of the many sociological concepts, theories and methods learned throughout the semester by in class examinations.
3. By investigating different cultures, sub-cultures and belief systems other than their own, students will demonstrate their embrace and toleration of diversity.
more so than prior to taking this course, through completion of written assignments.

Course Format:
This class is primarily in lecture format, but the student is encouraged to actively participate in class discussions. The textbook will be used to cover the major sociological concepts and ideas, with supplemental readings to help the student develop critical thinking skills. PowerPoints will be used in class and will be available at any time online through eCollege. Students may find the power points to be particularly useful when studying for exams. In-class attendance is still imperative for the successful completion of this course, so please do not think that simply going online in lieu of attending class or reading the assigned readings will suffice. There will be important information discussed in class, and in the readings, that will not be available in the PowerPoints provided for you online.

Course Requirements:

Grades will consist of three types of assignments: in-class exams; written assignments; and attendance/participation.

I. EXAMS: Will achieve learning outcomes 1 & 2
There will be four exams in this course, the last of which will be the non-comprehensive final exam. Please make sure to take the necessary time to study and prepare, as all tests will be counted toward your final grade.

The class will be broken up into groups to collaboratively answer questions and solve problems on the class day before the exams are conducted. This is a learning exercise that will be designed to help the student prepare for the exam. There will be one recorder in the group who will put all student names on the paper. After completion it will be handed in and will count for 2 bonus points on your exam. Make sure and take advantage of this easy 2 points, which could make the difference of a letter grade! If I see that there is someone who isn’t contributing, it’s really simple; that person will not get points.

A study guide will not be provided for the student. If you are reading the assigned readings, attending class regularly, taking class notes and viewing PowerPoints online, this will be adequate, and a separate study guide will not be necessary. Please do not ask me to drop or raise a test score, as that will not happen. There are also no alternative exams or extra credit available to improve a grade. You have only four test opportunities to shine, so study adequately and make every grade an important priority.

Grades for individual tests will be assigned according to the following scale:
Individual Tests

A = 90 – 100%
B = 80 – 89%
C = 70 – 79%
D = 60 – 60%
F = 59 and below

Exam Format: The format of these tests will consist of multiple choice, true/false and short answer. Test questions will come from in-class lectures, discussions and assigned readings.

Makeup Exams: Unless the student has a documented emergency, there will be no makeup exams given in this course. Please make sure to be in attendance on test days, as only extreme emergencies will constitute a makeup. The instructor will make the decision and schedule the exam at her convenience. It is important to note that the makeup exam will be different than the one given in class.

Final Exam: The final exam will be held Friday, December 14th, from 10:30AM-12:30PM. The final exam will NOT be comprehensive. The format of the final exam will be similar to the three exams given earlier in the semester, and will also be worth 100 points. There is a possibility that the final exam will be given online through eCollege during finals week.

***If you make below a ‘C’ on a test, you must make an appointment to speak with me.

II. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: Will achieve learning outcomes 1 & 3. (In order to achieve learning outcome #3, the student must make every effort to keep an open mind.)

There will be a total of THREE written assignments in this course that will be over videos/films viewed in class. The student may also be asked to incorporate assigned readings into their answers. If you happen to miss the class when the video was viewed, it is your responsibility to obtain and view the video on your own. You may not consult with other classmates on these assignments. Please do your best to use your own acquired skills to critically think about and answer the questions posed. Each assignment is worth a total of 50 points, and each question in the assignment is worth 10 points. To get full points for each question, make sure to answer every question posed and/or discuss as explained. Make sure to use proper grammar and cite appropriately if you are referencing the book or any other source.

Directions for the assignment will be handed out in class about a week prior to the due date and before viewing the video or film. This is so the student can begin to think about the questions. Students have the option of either printing out their assignment and
submitting it at the **beginning of class** on the due date or submitting via the course website in the appropriate drop box **before class commences** on the day it is due.

I will make certain that you have at least a full week to work on each assignment, so there will be **no late papers accepted** unless something extreme has happened. I understand that emergencies do come up, so procrastination is not a wise decision on your part. If something major has happened in your life that has prevented you from completing these assignments, send me an email and make an arrangement to speak with me personally about your situation. My goal is to keep students on track with coursework, and allowing late assignments to be handed in only sets the student back from completing current readings. Any decision to accept a late assignment will be made on a case by case basis. Please note that there will be a 10% deduction in points if a late assignment is accepted.

### III. CLASS ATTENDANCE (Will be taken regularly) & PARTICIPATION

Class attendance is crucial to understanding the material covered in this course. By knowing this the student should understand that by missing class they are lowering their own grade. Coming to class regularly and participating is congruent with making a better grade. On top of this, it is also worth something to attend class, as it counts for **50 points** toward your final grade.

The student may miss 3 class days without any penalty. Beyond that you will begin losing points for each class missed. If you are an athlete, make sure to submit dates that you will miss class for events. There are also many other legitimate reasons for missing class. If you miss class, document the reason somehow and submit it to the instructor for credit. **Remember that you only need to do this if you have missed MORE than THREE classes.**

If a student is experiencing major problems that are preventing them from attending class, it is best to take this course another time. Not only will you lose attendance points, but your grades will suffer from poor attendance.

**Tardiness:** Being late to class is disruptive to the students and instructor! Please be courteous and make it to all class meetings on time. If you are habitually late and interrupt our class, your attendance will be affected.

### Grading Procedures:

A total of 600 points are attainable in this course and they are broken down as follows:

- Four Tests @ 100 points each = 400 points
- Three Written Assignments @ 50 points each = 150 points
- Attendance/Participation = 50 points
Total of 600 points

This translates into the approximate point totals for each final grade:
A = 540 + points
B = 480-539 points
C = 420-479 points
D = 360 – 419 points
F = 359 and fewer points

Dropping this course is the student’s responsibility! I will not take it upon myself to drop a student from this course. You will need to take the appropriate steps to remove yourself according to university policy.

Grades of Incomplete: I also do not assign grades of incomplete. From the very first day of class, you are earning points toward your final grade. All of these points will count, and if those points add up to equal a letter grade of “D”, that is what you have earned.

Final Grades: Your final grade is not negotiable! As stated above it will be based on the amount of points you have earned. Your grade will not be rounded up to one that is more of your liking. Make your best effort on all coursework throughout the entire semester, and you will not need extra points.

Extra Credit and Curving: Do not ask. There are no opportunities for extra credit and I also do not curve grades. The syllabus provided makes expectations regarding the number of assignments and possible total points clear. It is the responsibility of the student to attend class on a regular basis and take lecture notes. It is not a wise decision to rely on another student to take notes for you, as notes other than your own can be difficult to fully comprehend. It is also not my job to lecture a student on what they missed. Know this from the beginning-- it is the job of the student to read assigned readings, listen to in-class lectures and comprehend what is presented in class. If you are having a problem, despite your best effort to understand, please either contact me via email or stay after class so I can elaborate on material that may have been confusing.

Course & University Procedures/Policies:

I. University Policies

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

II. Course Specific Policies

Student Expectations:
The student is expected to be in class on time with cellular phones and other electronic devices either turned off or silenced (no vibrate, as it is not literally silent). During testing the student will not be permitted to use any electronics. The student is also responsible for taking care of restroom breaks and other needs before the test commences, as you will not be allowed to leave and then re-enter. You may bring a laptop to class for note-taking. If you feel you might be tempted to surf the web or spend the class on social networking sites, it would be wise to refrain from bringing a laptop in favor of taking hand-written notes. Paying attention, offering your insights during class discussion and taking notes are crucial to your overall comprehension of the course material.

Classroom Declaration:
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 at all times. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

Attendance:
I will pass a sign-in sheet around the room so that everyone may sign in for attendance points. If you are late, it is your responsibility to make sure you get your name on the attendance sheet. Please do not sign in for another student under any circumstances, as there will be serious consequences if you are found out. It is a dishonest act that will not
be tolerated. I will check periodically for consistencies in signatures, so pick a signature and stick with it.

Academic Honesty:
Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must work to provide an environment in which each student has the opportunity to be evaluated fairly on the basis of his/her own performance. University regulations regarding academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. At a minimum, any student found to be in violation of university rules will receive a failing grade on the exam or assignment involved. ALL instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department Head, who may decide punishment independent of this professor's actions. In short, cheating, plagiarizing and engaging in unethical student behavior carries a high price for such short term rewards—don’t do it!!

Technology Requirements:

The format of our course is primarily face-to-face with a lecture-style of delivery. Internet access is necessary so that the student may download readings posted on eCollege. Our eCollege class site will also have PowerPoints used in lectures, course information as well as access to your grades. Here is a list of technology requirements for our course:

- Internet Connection (preferably high speed)
- Microsoft Word
- Ability to open documents in Word, Adobe, and PowerPoint

If you don’t have the requirements listed above, you can definitely make do by using the many computers in the library. Having this at home isn’t necessary, but please remember to check your email regularly. Course updates, along with any changes that come about unexpectedly, will be announced via course email.

Access & Navigation on eCollege:

To log-in to our course website, go to www.tamu-commerce.edu and then click on myLeo and sign in using your CWID and password. Then, click on eCollege and then on the tab My Courses. In the middle of the page, you will see our course.

If you forget your CWID or password, please contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu.
The best way to contact me is via email, as I check it multiple times throughout the day (M-F) and at my convenience during weekends. I will also be available to you during my office hours posted on the front page of this syllabus and by other arrangements made. If you email me, make sure to include your name.

**Course Outline/Calendar:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic &amp; Reading Assignments:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/27/12</td>
<td>Course Introduction/Review of Syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/29/12</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Discovering Sociology (Pgs. 1-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/31/12</td>
<td>Chapter 1 Cont. (Pgs. 13-24)</td>
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<td>9/3/12</td>
<td>Labor Day – <strong>No class</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/5/12</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Doing Sociology (Pgs. 27-36)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Hand out Instructions for Assignment #1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/7/12</td>
<td>Chapter 2 Cont. (Pgs. 37-50)</td>
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<td>“Would You Hire an Ex-Convict?” by Pager (Experimental Research Design Example)</td>
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<td>***Can be found on eCollege</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/10/12</td>
<td>Chapter 3: Society and Culture (Pgs. 53-68)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/12/12</td>
<td>Chapter 3 Cont. (Pgs. 69-82)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/14/12</td>
<td>“The Sounds of Silence” by Hall and Hall</td>
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<td>***Can be found on eCollege</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment #1 DUE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/17/12</td>
<td>Study Groups in Class for Test 1</td>
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9/19/13 TEST ONE

9/21/12 Hand back and discuss Test One

Chapter 4: Socialization (Pgs. 84-100)

9/24/12 Chapter 4 Cont. (Pgs. 101-112)

9/26/12 “On Becoming Male: Reflections of a Sociologist on
Childhood and Early Socialization” by Henslin and “On
Becoming Female: Lessons Learned in School” by Eder
***Both articles can be found on eCollege

10/1/12 Chapter 5: Social Interaction in Everyday Life (Pgs. 114-124)

10/3/12 Chapter 5 Cont. (Pgs. 125-138)

10/5/12 Chapter 6: Social Groups and Organizations (Pgs. 140-156)

10/8/12 Study Groups in Class for Test 2

10/10/12 TEST TWO

10/12/12 Hand back and discuss Test 2

Hand out Instructions for Assignment #2

Chapter 7: Deviance and Conformity (Pgs. 164-180)

10/15/12 Chapter 7 Cont. (Pgs. 181-197)

10/17/12 “The Pathology of Imprisonment” by Zimbardo
“On Being Sane in Insane Places” by Rosenhan
***Both articles can be found on eCollege

10/19/12 Chapter 8: Social Stratification (Pgs. 198-211)

10/22/12 Chapter 8 Cont. (Pgs. 212-226)

Assignment #2 Due

10/24/12 Chapter 9: Global Stratification (Pgs. 228-245)

10/26/12 Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity (Pgs. 256-275)

Hand out Instructions for Assignment #3
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<tr>
<td>10/29/12</td>
<td>Chapter 10 Cont. (Pgs. 276-287)</td>
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<td>Movie: Crash - Part One</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/31/12</td>
<td>Movie: Crash - Part Two</td>
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<td>11/2/12</td>
<td>Movie: Crash – Part Three</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/5/12</td>
<td>Study Groups in Class for Test 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/7/12</td>
<td><strong>TEST THREE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/9/12</td>
<td>Hand back and discuss Test 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/12/12</td>
<td>Chapter 11: Sex and Gender (Pgs. 289-310)</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment #3 Due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/14/12</td>
<td>Chapter 11 Cont. (Pgs. 311-324)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“But What Do You Mean? Women and Men in Conversation” by Tannen <em><strong>Can be found on eCollege</strong></em></td>
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<td>11/16/12</td>
<td>Chapter 12: Age and the Elderly (Pgs. 326-338)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/19/12</td>
<td>Chapter 12 Cont. (Pgs. 339-355)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/21/12</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break – <strong>No class</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/23/12</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break – <strong>No class</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/26/12</td>
<td>Chapter 13: Families (Pgs. 356-371)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/28/12</td>
<td>Chapter 13 Cont. (Pgs. 372-385)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/30/12</td>
<td>Chapter 14: Education (Pgs. 387-403)</td>
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<td>12/3/12</td>
<td>Chapter 14 Cont. (Pgs. 403-418)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/5/12</td>
<td>Study Groups in Class for Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/7/12</td>
<td>No Class – Study for Final</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/10/12</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This syllabus is subject to change with advanced notice by the instructor.
Syllabus Acknowledgment and Receipt

I have received a copy of the course syllabus for this class. I have read it and understand the course content, class procedures, and what is expected of me to earn credit with a specific grade in this class. I also understand that the course calendar could change with advanced notification.

_________________________________________  __________________________
Printed Name                                  Date

_________________________________________
Signature

***Make sure to turn in this signed form by Wednesday, September 5\textsuperscript{th}, or you will lose 10 points on your first written assignment.***