SOC 1301.001
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
Spring 2013
(web-enhanced)

<u>Assignment #1:</u> You are required to read this syllabus, print out a copy, print your name on it, sign it, and turn it in to the professor *<u>no later than beginning of class time January</u>* 23, 2013. You will receive 20 pts. for doing so. Failure to do so will earn 0 pts. No late syllabi will be accepted. There is no partial credit.

Professor: William E. Thompson, Ph.D.
Office Location: Ferguson Social Science 229
Office Hours: M,W 3:15-4:15 p.m., T.W,R 9:30-11:00 a.m.; other times 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 should be available in the university bookstore. 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. It is a very good idea to bring the textbook to class as the professor will periodically refer to page numbers, boxes, text, and graphics during classroom presentations.

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

CLASS FORMAT: Every effort will be made to provide the best possible learning experience by blending brief lectures with Power Point slides, discussions, videos, group work, writing assignments, reading assignments, and other materials. This course is web-enhanced. Students can login to e-college to check grades and to review power point presentations. There also will be 5 on-line discussions in which students are expected to participate.

POWER POINTS ONLINE: The Power Points used in class will be posted online through e-college. Although they do not contain all of the material covered or discussed in class, they do provide a general outline of topics, concepts, theories, etc., covered in class, so it may be helpful to review them before coming to class and prior to exams. If you miss class for any reason, it would be a good idea to view the Power Point for that class and look up the information related to them in your textbook. Viewing Power Point slides online is **NOT** a substitute for reading and coming to class!

ONLINE DISCUSSIONS: There will be 5 online discussions during this semester. They will be worth 10 pts. each for a total of 50 points. Discussions will open when we begin a new unit of study and they will close at 11:59 p.m. on the day prior to the examination that covers that unit material.

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**

Grading Rubric for Online Discussions:

Student responded to initial issue with at least a paragraph that addresses each of the questions or issues raised in the discussion topic	(6 pts)
Student responded to other students' posts	(1 pt)
Student asks questions and engages other students in discussion	(2 pts)
Student's posts are error free, grammatically correct, and stay on topic	(1 pt)

As you can see, one post to the discussion topic is the minimum expectation and will get the minimum points (6). To get the full 10 pts, you cannot wait until near the end of the discussion and make a post or two. To earn the full 10 points you must post an initial response to the issue/questions posed, and then post at least 3 additional times to respond to your classmates' posts. You need to post early and post often. This is a *discussion*, which means you need to interact with your classmates, asking and answering questions.

EXAMINATIONS: There will be five major exams (worth 100-pts. ea.) Check the course schedule for dates of all exams. If a student misses an exam for ***an excused reason***, he/she will be given a make-up exam immediately following the final exam. If a student misses more than one scheduled exam, he/she should drop the course. If you know ahead of time that you must miss an exam for a

university-related excused reason, please let the professor know **in advance,** as it **may** be possible to take the exam early.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION: Good attendance and participation are essential for doing well in this course. While a student can borrow someone else's notes, there is no way to gain the information from questions, discussions, group work, etc., when a class period is missed. If you miss an online discussion, it cannot be made up. **Attendance will be taken each class period and 1 point will be earned for each day of class attended; miss class (regardless of the reason) and you do not earn the point.** Realistically if you anticipate missing the equivalent of two week's worth of classes or more (4 or more class sessions) you should probably drop the course. Your participation in the online discussions is also important and can earn you up to 50 possible points.

TARDINESS: Please come to class on time! The classroom door locks automatically, and will not be opened after class has started. Lateness communicates a "don't care" attitude, and also is extremely disruptive. Tardiness is not an option and will not be tolerated. If you cannot come to class on time, please drop the course!

Grading

Final grades will be based on the five exams worth 100 pts. each, the signed syllabus worth 20 pts. attendance/participation worth 30pts, and online discussions worth 50 points.

			Scale:
5 Exams @ 100 pts. ea.	=	500 pts.	A= 90 – 100 % (540-600 pts.)
Signed Syllabus	=	20 pts	B= 80 – 89 % (480-539 pts.)
Attendance	=	30 pts.	C= 70 – 79 % (420-479 pts.)
Online Discussions	=	50 pts.	
Total Points	=	600 pts.	D= 69 – 60 % (360-419 pts.)
			F= less than 60 % (< 360 pts.)

Your grades will be posted online through e-college as soon as they are available

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

This course is taught as a face-to-face class but is web-enhanced. Students need access to a computer (there are computer labs all over campus) in order to check e-mails and to check grades on e-college.

- 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

This course is taught face-to-face and is web-enhanced. The publisher of the textbook provides an online site to accompany the textbook. The web address is on the back cover of the textbook. Any technological difficulties with e-college should be reported to the e-college help desk.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:
The most effective way to communicate with the professor will be to come to class. The professor will be in his office during posted office hours and by appointment. The best way to make an appointment is to communicate directly with the professor immediately prior to or after class. Appointments can also be made via e-mail.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION: I will communicate with the class through e-college and MyLeo e-mail. I will send out reminders about assignments, changes in syllabus, etc., to the entire class through e-mail using your official "My Leo" university e-mail address. Consequently, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check your e-mail regularly for messages from me. *If you contact me via e-mail, please tell me your name and the course in which you are enrolled as part of your e-mail.*

If you send me an e-mail, I will always read it and respond within a *reasonable* amount of time. Generally, if you send me an e-mail any time between Monday 8:00 a.m. and noon Friday, I will respond within 24 hours or sooner if possible. If, however, you e-mail me after noon on Friday, it will be Monday at the earliest before I respond. Fortunately, I am not a brain surgeon or cardiologist and none of the issues or assignments in this class are life or death matters. If you have a class-related problem or issue, DO NOT PANIC. Any problem that is class-related that occurs over the weekend can wait until the following Monday to be addressed.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

THIS CLASSROOM IS A "SAFE SPACE"

All persons who enter this classroom will be treated with dignity and respect regardless of age, race, sex, social class, religion, politics, sexual orientation , and/or lifestyle. There will be "Zero Tolerance" in this classroom for any form of ageism, racism, sexism, sexual harassment, or any other form of prejudice, discrimination, or bigotry.

CLASSROOM DECORUM:

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 of any kind will not be tolerated.

Class time should be focused on the topic at hand. **Please do not bring food or drink into the classroom.** Eat your meals and snacks before or after class.

Please silence all electronic devices that might in anyway disrupt or disturb others.

CHEATING & PLAGIARISM: 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:

Students with Disabilities:

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
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

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

M, 14 Jan.	Introduction, Course Syllabus, etc.	
W, 16 Jan.	Discovering Sociology/Critical Thinking	Ch. 1
M, 21 Jan.	**MLK Day University closed**	Ch. 1
W, 23 Jan.	Doing Sociology	Ch. 2
M, 28 Jan.	Doing Sociology	Ch. 2
W, 30 Jan.	**EXAM 1**	**Ch. 1,2**
M, 4 Feb.	Go over exams/Culture and Society	Ch. 3
W, 6 Feb.	Culture & Society	Ch.3

M, 11 Feb.	Socialization	Ch. 4
W, 13 Feb.	Social Interaction in Everyday Life	Ch. 5
Mon, 18 Feb.	Social Interaction in Everyday Life Video: VHS 2957 "Body Language . . ."	Ch. 5
W, 20 Feb.	**EXAM 2**	**Ch. 3,4,5**
M, 25 Feb.	Go over Exams/Social Groups & Organizations	Ch. 6
W, 27 Feb.	Deviance & Conformity	Ch. 7
M, 4 Mar.	Deviance & Conformity	Ch. 7
W, 6 Mar	Social Stratification & Social Class	Ch. 8
M, 11 Mar.	**Spring Break**	
W, 13 Mar.	**Spring Break**	
M, 18 Mar.	Social Stratification & Social Class	Ch. 8
W, 20 Mar.	**EXAM 3**	**Ch. 6,7,8**
M, 25 Mar.	Go over Exams/Race & Ethnicity	Ch. 10
W, 27 Mar.	Video: VHS 2980 "Shadow of Hate"	Ch. 10
M, 1 Apr.	Sex & Gender	Ch. 11
W, 3 Apr.	Sex & Gender	Ch. 11
M, 8 Apr.	Age & Elderly	Ch. 12
W, 10 Apr.	Age & Elderly	Ch. 12
M, 15 Apr.	**EXAM 4**	**Ch. 10,11,12**
W, 17 Apr.	Families	Ch. 13
M, 22 Apr.	Families	Ch. 13
W, 24 Apr.	Education	Ch. 14
M, 29 Apr.	Education	Ch. 14
W, 1 May	Economy & Work	Ch. 17

M, 6 May 1:15 p.m. EXAM 5 (Final): Ch. 13,14,17
All Make-up exams (Immediately after taking final)

I have read this entire syllabus and understand all of the expectations and requirements for this course. I also understand the grading scale and how my final grade will be calculated and determined for this course. I will not ask the professor to deviate from general course requirements or standards to meet my individual schedule or needs. Also, I will not send him e-mails with questions that are answered in this syllabus.

Printed Name_____ CWID #_____

Signed_____ Date_____