



**SOCIOLOGY 1301.004 Introduction to Sociology
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2013**

Instructor: Katelyn Ginn, B.S.-Graduate Assistant Teacher
Class Times: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:15
Class Location: Ferguson Social Science Building 313
Office Location: Ferguson Social Science Building 206
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:00-2:00pm, or by appointment
Office Phone: (903) 886-5323
Office Fax: (903) 886-5330
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required: Thompson, William & Joseph Hickey. 2012. Society in Focus (7th edition). Pearson.

Any additional readings will be provided for you.

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students 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 students better understand this world by providing an overview of major concepts and principles of sociology, including culture, socialization, social order, social control, social control, social stratification, sex and gender, race and ethnicity, social deviance, social institutions, and social change.

Student 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 develop an understanding of the many sociological concepts theories and methods learned throughout the semester by in class examinations.
3. Students will demonstrate a better understanding and appreciation of cultures, sub-cultures, and belief systems of than their own.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Attendance

I will take attendance every class period by passing around a roster for you to sign. It is your responsibility to get to class on time to sign the roster before it is taken up. You will receive 2 points for each class you attend. .

Do not be late for class. I understand that sometimes being late is unavoidable, but I will not tolerate habitual tardiness. If you cannot make it on time for most of the semester, then you should reconsider taking this class. Coming in late when class has already begun disrupts other students, so please be considerate.

Exams

There will be FIVE exams during the course of the semester. They will be multiple choice and given in class. Each exam will be worth 100 points each and each will have an extra credit opportunity. These exams will require that you bring with you a blue scantron. I will not provide a scantron for you; this is your responsibility. The blue scantron provides a section for you to write your extra credit answer on the back. They can be purchased in the campus bookstore.

Makeup Exams

If you miss ONE exam, I will allow you to take a makeup exam right after you take your final. If you miss more than one exam, you should consider dropping the course.

Assignments

There are a total of 3 projects due throughout the semester. You only have to complete 2. You cannot do all 3 for extra points. Each project is worth 50 points, and I will provide more detailed instructions for you before they are due. Here is a brief overview of each assignment:

Family Tree:

For this assignment, I ask that you chart your family back three generations. After we've discussed social class, status, and power, you will analyze where your relatives were socially, based on the standards of their generation. You will discuss their life chances, mobility, social factors, and individual factors. More details instructions will be given in advance.

Gender Assignment:

For this assignment, I ask that you obtain a catalog that sells children's clothing or children's toys. Write an evaluation of the pictures, describing the differences between the boys' and girls' products. There will be more detailed instructions, but overall, the focus will be this: does the catalog reinforce gender roles? Does the catalog challenge gender roles?

Classroom Assignment:

This assignment has two parts. First, you must analyze the pictures in one of your textbooks (Math, English, whatever). You'll make a tally of who is dominant-men vs. women, whites, vs. minorities; and what activities are they doing? Be very descriptive. Then, you'll do the same for one of your classes. Who speaks the most, males or females, whites or minorities? Who does the teacher respond to or dismiss? You'll write a summary of this, and an evaluation of your thoughts. Again, more detailed instructions will be available.

Extra Credit

At the end of each test, I will leave one open-ended short answer essay question for you to answer for extra points added to your test grade. You can earn two points for each question. There are ample opportunities for you to earn your points with the attendance policy, the number of tests, papers, and with class discussions, so this will be the ONLY form of extra credit I will allow. There will be no opportunities to do extra work for more points, so don't ask. If you take your tests and assignments seriously, then you won't need it anyway.

Grading

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|----------------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Exams (5 @ 100 pts each) | 400 pts | A= 90-100% (495-550) |
| Projects (2 @ 50 pts each) | 100 pts | B= 80-89% (440-494) |
| Attendance | 50 pts | C= 70-79% (385-439) |
| Total | 550 pts | D= 60-69% (330-384) |
| | | F= < 60% (<330) |

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This is primarily a face-to-face course. Course handouts, instruction, assignments, powerpoint lectures, and study guides will be posted on ecollege as a supplement rather than a requirement of the course. In order to access ecollege, students will need the following:

- Internet Connections-high speed recommended
- Word processor (Microsoft Word 2003 and newer)

All students should have access to email, as periodic announcements and reminders will be made using this format.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Ecollege technical concerns: Please contact the ecollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by sending an email directly to helpdesk@online.tamuc.org. You may also reach the HelpDesk by calling (866) 656-5511, or through online chat by clicking on the “Live Support” tab within your ecollege course.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

The most effective way to communicate with me will be to come to class. I will be in my office during posted office hours and by appointment. Outside of office hours and class time, you may contact me through email. I check it often, so please don't hesitate to email me.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Academic Honesty

Cheating and Plagiarism: Every student is expected to do his/her own work. Plagiarism (the use of other's words, phrases, and ideas in your own writing without giving credit to the original author) is a form of cheating and not only violates academic ethical standards, but it is against the law.

Any student found to be in violation of University rules will receive an “F” on the exam or assignment involved. ALL instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department Head. This office may choose to pursue further disciplinary action through the University.

Grades of Incomplete

I do not assign grades of incomplete. Your grade will be assigned based on the points you have earned from all completed work at that time. It is your responsibility to finish assignments prior to their due dates or to make alternate arrangements for their completion. Do not assume that I can or will extend due dates or course requirements for your individual needs or preferences. I will not drop any student from this course. If you feel this course is not for you, please take the necessary steps to remove yourself from the class. Simply not attending in hopes that I will remedy the situation for you will not happen. You are responsible for the consequences stemming from either class or not coming to class.

Extra Credit

From this syllabus it is very clear as to the number of assignments and the possible points to be attained in the course. You begin earning points on day one. Do not rely on friends' notes or on the professor to explain what the reading are about. It is your responsibility to read, listen, and comprehend the material. If you do not understand a concept or issue, please ask me to clarify, or stay after class for further elaboration.

I will not curve the grades of a class to conform to an artificial bell curve, so requests to do so will fall on deaf ears. I will assist the class by means of lectures, discussions, study guides, and reviews, but I do not manipulate your test score, drop a test score, or inflate your test score so that it will be more to your liking.

An improvement of grades will come from your studying efforts and not from your instructor's generous grading, so please do not expect or ask for more, or extra credit points in the course.

Decorum

I ask that you please give this class your full attention for the entirety of it. Phone calls, texts, and talking to others can wait until after class. Please either turn your cellphones off, or put them on silent (NOT vibrate) before coming to class. All other electronic devices also need to be set to silent.

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.

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@tamuc.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*).

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| COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR |
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This tentative schedule is subject to change. Prior advance notice will be given in class. You are expected to read the relevant chapters before each class.

| Day | Date | Topic | Assignment |
|-----|-----------|---|--------------------------|
| T | 1/15/2013 | Introduction to Class, Review of Syllabus | |
| R | 1/17/2013 | Chapter 1: Discovering Sociology | |
| T | 1/22/2013 | Chapter 1 continued | |
| R | 1/24/2013 | Chapter 2: Doing Sociology | |
| T | 1/29/2013 | Chapter 2 continued | |
| R | 1/31/2013 | Exam 1 | Exam covers Chs. 1 and 2 |
| T | 2/5/2013 | Chapter 3: Culture and Society | |

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| R | 2/7/2013 | Chapter 4: Socialization | |
| T | 2/12/2013 | Chapter 5: Social Interaction in Everyday Life | |
| R | 2/14/2013 | Chapter 6: Social Groups and Organizations | |
| T | 2/19/2013 | Review | |
| R | 2/21/2013 | Exam 2 | Exam covers Chs. 3, 4, 5, and 6 |
| T | 2/26/2013 | Chapter 7: Deviance and Conformity | |
| R | 2/28/2013 | Chapter 8: Social Stratification | |
| T | 3/5/2013 | Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity | Family Tree Project due |
| R | 3/7/2013 | Chapter 11: Sex and Gender | |
| T | 3/12/2013 | SPRING BREAK | |
| R | 3/14/2013 | SPRING BREAK | |
| T | 3/19/2013 | Chapter 12: Age and the Elderly | |
| R | 3/21/2013 | Exam 3 | Exam covers Chs. 7, 8, 10, and 11 |
| T | 3/26/2013 | Chapters 13: Families | Gender Project due |
| R | 3/28/2013 | Chapter 14: Education | |
| T | 4/2/2013 | Chapter 14: Education continued | |
| R | 4/4/2013 | Chapter 15: Religion | |
| T | 4/9/2013 | Chapter 16: Politics and War | |
| R | 4/11/2013 | Chapter 18: Health and Medicine | |
| T | 4/16/2013 | Watch <i>Generation Rx</i> | |
| R | 4/18/2013 | Exam 4 | Exam covers Chs. 13, 14, 15, 16, and 18 |
| T | 4/23/2013 | Chapter 19: Population, Urbanization, and Ecology | |
| R | 4/25/2013 | Watch <i>American Dream, American Nightmare</i> | |
| T | 4/30/2013 | Chapter 20: Social Change, Collective Behavior, and the Future | Classroom Project due |
| R | 5/2/2013 | Review for Final | |

**THE FINAL EXAM WILL BE DURING FINALS WEEK