Sociology 597.01W Syllabus                            Summer II, 2013

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer II, 2013

Instructor: Yvonne Villanueva-Russell (Associate Professor)
Office Location: Social Sciences 210
Office Hours: virtual office hours-- please contact me via email this summer
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Office Fax: 903-886-5330
University Email Address: Yvonne.VRussell@tamuc.edu
Course Website: http://online.tamu-commerce.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required:
   [You will need this book from the very first day of our class]

2] Several articles posted as .pdf files on eCollege.

Course Description:
This is a special topics course, focusing separately on the sociology of work, occupations and professions. We will investigate a general overview of these three facets of society, learning about the concepts and theories in each subarea. Additionally, we will read several peer-reviewed journal articles that will provide case studies that highlight key areas of interest for researchers in the discipline.

I have set up our course to run Monday-Friday and have tried to space everything out, with nothing due over the weekend. I have tried to make assignments due on the same days each week. I would highly recommend printing out the course outline and posting it near your computer as a reminder of due dates.
Student Learning Outcomes:

1) Demonstrate competence of sociological concepts relevant to the sociology of work, occupations and professions.

2) Synthesize information and be able to articulate it in the form of a PowerPoint presentation.

3) Be an active and engaged participant in discussions by analyzing and evaluating information presented within the textbook, lectures and readings.

4) Exhibit the ability to synthesize, critique and apply relevant concepts and theories to specific case studies through written papers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

There will be numerous articles and reading assignments during the semester. Students should get in the habit of taking detailed notes from their own interpretation of the reading assignments. Get in the habit of keeping a notebook next to your computer devoted only to our class. Articles and readings have been compiled from a variety of sources: sociological journals as well as the popular press. As students read these excerpts, ask yourself these questions:

- What does the title of the article have to do with the main argument or point of the reading?
- What are the main ideas or concepts that the author is defining or focusing upon?
- Are there possible alternatives to the explanations offered by the author?

Our course will use several types of assignments. I have provided a description of the major assignments in the course, below:

A. Quiz  1 @ 50 points

This assignment has been designed to measure student learning outcome #1: Demonstrate competence of sociological concepts relevant to the sociology of work, occupations and professions

There will be one quiz this semester, worth a total of 50 points (25 multiple choice questions, worth 2 points each). Students will be required to complete the quiz within a period of 48 hours in which the quiz will accessible through eCollege. You will receive an instant score on the multiple choice and true false question, but will not be able to see the correct answers. After all students have completed the exam, the professor will re-open the quiz so that you may see the items you missed with the correct answer revealed.

The quiz is open book, open notes, but will be timed. The quiz covers ONLY material in Chapter 1. You will not be able to take and do well on the quiz without having read and studied the material first. Make sure that you are fully prepared and have done all the readings prior to logging on to attempt the quiz. Should you run out of time, no additional minutes will be granted to you, and you will have to accept the grade based on your work completed.

If you lose Internet connectivity during the exam, log back in immediately and continue on with the exam. Save your answers often (every 5-10 minutes). If you experience any issues while taking the exam, you must contact the eCollege Helpdesk immediately so that your issue is documented with a helpdesk ticket number. Considerations regarding exam issues will be made by the instructor on an individual basis based on the documentation.
Policy for Reporting Problems with eCollege

Should students encounter eCollege-based problems while taking an online quiz, the following procedure MUST be followed.

• Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at helpdesk@online.tamuc.org or 1-866-656-5511
• Students MUST file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
• Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should Email me to advise me of the problem and to provide me with the helpdesk ticket number
• At that time, I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

PLEASE NOTE: Personal computer/access problems are not a legitimate excuse for filing a ticket with the helpdesk. I strongly encourage you to check for compatibility of your browser BEFORE the course begins and to take the eCollege tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the eCollege platform. ONLY eCollege-based problems are legitimate.

Makeup Quiz

Makeup quiz will NOT be given, and the instructor will not extend the due date of this assignment.

Important notes:
* The quiz covers Chapter 1 in our textbook
* The quiz will be open from Monday, July 8- 11:59PM on Wednesday, July 10th
* The quiz contains 25 multiple choice questions, worth 50 points total
* Save your answers often, but submit only once.
* No make up quiz available

B. PowerPoint Assignment 1 @ 50 points

This assignment has been designed to measure student learning outcome #2: Synthesize information and be able to articulate it in the form of a PowerPoint presentation.

Many of our graduate students have expressed a desire to teach. Imagine that you have 50 minutes to deliver the highlights of the assigned chapter: Globalization. Without simply paraphrasing the textbook, how can you communicate the most important concepts and theories of the reading to a class of undergraduate students? Your work will be graded primarily on content and the quality of information you can provide, but adding clip art, links to outside or real-life scenarios and/or audio narration to the PowerPoint is highly encouraged! The PowerPoint presentations should be a comprehensive yet succinct summary of the textbook. Appropriate citing procedures are expected.

The assignment will be graded using the following rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
<th>Your points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Sociology 597.01W Syllabus Summer II, 2013
**Important notes:**

***The PowerPoint presentation will be due by 11:59PM on Friday, July 15th and will be worth 50 points.***

***The PowerPoint should cover Chapter 16: Globalization***

***Late assignments will receive a 10% point deduction.***

***Submit your PowerPoint assignment to the dropbox on eCollege as an attachment.***

### C. Discussion Boards 4 @ 34 points each

Discussion boards have been designed to meet course objective #3: Be an active and engaged participant in discussions by analyzing and evaluating information presented within the textbook, lectures and readings.

Because we will not interact face-to-face in the traditional classroom format, we will try to simulate this experience by using eCollege discussion boards. Each week you will be assigned a number of readings. After completing this, students will need to post comments to a question posted by the professor. It is expected that students will thoughtfully reflect on the discussion that ensues, and reply back to comments posted by other students. Here are some ground rules for our discussion boards:

- There will be a total of 4 discussion boards. You will need to participate in ALL of these.
- You may NOT make up a discussion board assignment.

Here are some ground rules for our discussion boards:

1) **There are no minimums or maximums on how much or how little you post on the discussion boards. The goal is to achieve quantity & quality. I am striving for us to have a genuine conversation on the boards this semester.** You may post a new question, start a new thread, or simply respond to other students. For this to happen, we need a couple of guidelines: post or reply, and then **follow-up.** You will not achieve full points by just logging on in the last hour of the last day and posting a couple of random comments on others’ posts. Ideally, you’ll post something, check back in a few hours and check-in again over the course of several days to interact, reply, respond and comment on what others have said on a single thread. **You don’t always have to post a new topic or start a new thread.** You
should aim to contribute meaningfully and engage in actual reciprocal interaction, extending a thread to its maximum.

2) This discussion will take place within a set timeframe. After the deadline, your professor may post some summary comments of the discussion, highlighting the themes and questions that have emerged. Discussion boards cannot be made up. If you miss out, there is no way to makeup these points.

3) Students should feel free to honestly post and defend their opinions, but should be tolerant of other students who express views that are contrary to their own. Discussion boards are places where dialogue occurs. They are not a debate that is to be “won” or places where “conversion” takes place. Feel free to explore differences in view points, but do not allow these conflicts to escalate into personal attacks. Please do not play devil’s advocate or pretend to take a stance that is not genuine or authentically held.

4) Full, complete sentences are required. Do not use jargon, abbreviations, or acronyms. So, no “LOL,” “SMH,” “IMHO” or “BTW,” please.

5) IMPORTANT: Demonstrate your “sociological imagination” by integrating relevant theories and concepts to help explain, support and defend the arguments you plan to make. You will usually need to draw upon the articles for support. Be sure to CITe appropriately.

6) Spell-check your posts. You may want to draft your response in Microsoft Word, spell-check it, then cut and paste it into the discussion board on eCollege. You will not be able to go back and edit your post once it has been submitted to eCollege.

Here are the essentials for our discussion boards this semester:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cardinal Rules- OBEY!!!</th>
<th>Try NOT to:</th>
<th>Try to:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wikipedia cannot be used as a credible source of information</td>
<td>Do not rely on personal experiences as your “proof”</td>
<td>Take a firm stance &amp; defend it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bible cannot be used as an academic source of information</td>
<td>Do not rely on overly-psychological or psychoanalytical explanations</td>
<td>Pose a question to take the discussion deeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do NOT call people “crazy”</td>
<td>Do not give us more to read-summarize and provide a link to a website for those who are curious, instead</td>
<td>Engage in reciprocal interaction with other students within a single thread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do NOT attribute behavior to the whims of individuals in which patterns cannot be deciphered</td>
<td>Do not post overly-long or overly-complex responses</td>
<td>Give us something new to think about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do NOT simply say “I agree” with someone’s post (send them a private email, instead)</td>
<td>Do not wait until the last day to post. Do no post only on one day at one sitting.</td>
<td>Cite whenever appropriate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7) Discussion board grades will be decided on the following rubric:

Grading rubric- discussion boards
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
<th>Your Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did student post more than once, and on more than on one day at one sitting?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did student make a genuine attempt to engage in ongoing conversation within a single thread?</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did student contribute and add something original &amp; valuable to the discussion</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did student demonstrate comprehension of the assigned readings</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did student integrate sociological concepts and theories where appropriate?</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did student put comments in sociological context rather than personal opinion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was the student collegial and professional in interactions with fellow students?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proper grammar and citations used throughout</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCORE</strong></td>
<td>34 points</td>
<td><strong>points</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Important Notes:**
*Each discussion board is worth 34 points*
*Discussion board assignments CANNOT be made up*
*Student should participate in a total of FOUR (all) discussion boards*
*Any written work in this class is subject to turnitin review (including posts on discussion boards). Turnitin.com is a website that checks for plagiarism and generates an originality report that notes which parts of a paper appear unattributed to other student papers, internet sources or articles and books. Please make sure that you cite wherever appropriate. If you need help or advice on how to do this, please contact your professor. Students who plagiarize will receive a zero on the assignment in question.*

**D. Papers: 3 @ 50 points each**

This assignment has been designed to measure student learning outcome #4: Exhibit the ability to synthesize, critique and apply relevant concepts and theories to specific case studies through written papers.

You will be assigned a number of readings each week. The discussion are designed to help you think through some of the issues presented in our reading material. To demonstrate your mastery of each topic, a summary paper will be assigned for you to complete.

The summary paper will be written around a specific set of questions posed by your professor. The questions vary, but generally ask the student to be able to synthesize, compare or critique our readings. Emphasis should be placed on integrating sociological insight as well as relevant concepts and theories from the week. Students should be careful to base their responses on the readings assigned for the week, using these sources as their evidence to construct an argument. Students are expected to cite appropriately.
Summary papers are due by midnight on Fridays, and are worth 50 points each. Papers should be submitted as a word or rtf attachment to the dropbox provided on ecollage. Late papers will receive a 10% deduction in points.

Any written work in this class is subject to turnitin review (including short answer questions on quiz). Turnitin.com is a website that checks for plagiarism and generates an originality report that notes which parts of a paper appear unattributed to other student papers, internet sources or articles and books. Please make sure that you cite wherever appropriate. If you need help or advice on how to do this, please contact your professor.

Your grade for each weekly summary paper will be assigned according to the following rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
<th>Your Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student addressed the question posed thoroughly/stayed on topic</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student was able to integrate readings from the week as evidence</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student integrated theoretical and/or key concepts relevant to the week</td>
<td>15 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student demonstrated comprehension of the week’s topic</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student displayed sociological insight (rather than personal opinion, psychological or other disciplines)</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student cited in-text appropriately; paper was proof-read and grammatically correct throughout</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YOUR SCORE</strong></td>
<td><strong>50 points</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Important notes:**
*Students will need to complete 3 (all) papers this semester*  
*Each paper is worth 50 points*  
*Papers are due by 11:59PM on Fridays*  
*Late assignments receive a 10% deduction in points.*

**Grading**
The grading scale used for individual assignments will be:

- **Individual Quiz and Papers**
  - A  90 – 100%
  - B  80 – 89%
  - C  70 – 79%
  - D  60 – 69%
  - F  59% and below

There are a total of 386 points attainable in this class. The breakdown of points is as follows:

- **Quiz:** 1 @ 50 points
- **PowerPoint Assignment:** 1 @ 50 points
Discussion Boards: 4 @ 34 points
Papers: 3 @ 50 points
Total Points: 386 points

→ Final grades in the course will be calculated using the following scale:

- 347-386 = 90-100% = A
- 308-346 = 80-89% = B
- 270-307 = 70-79% = C
- 231-269 = 60-69% = D
- 0-230 = 0 – 59% = F

Grades of Incomplete:
I do not assign grades of incomplete in this course. Your grade will 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 I can or will extend due dates or course requirements for your individual needs or preferences.

I do not drop students from my courses. If you feel Sociology 341 is not the course for you, please take the necessary steps to remove yourself from this class. Simply not participating or logging on, in hopes that I will remedy the situation for you will not occur. You are responsible for the consequences stemming from either coming to class, or not coming to class. [Student may submit a “drop request” through MyLeo.]

Late Work:
Discussion board assignments cannot be made up. Lack of participation in this forum will result in a loss of points for this assignment. Written work is due by the day and time assigned. Late work will result in a loss of points, usually 10%. See specific assignment for details.

→ Important dates:
Last Day to Drop: July 25
Last Day to Withdraw from the semester: August 1

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS
The following hardware and software are necessary in order to use eCollege:

You will need the ability to open Adobe Acrobat files (.pdf), PowerPoint files (.ppt) and Word files (.doc or .docx)

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).
Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

For those of you who are not familiar with eCollege, I suggest you take the tutorial offered online. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact the folks in Technology Services.

**ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc-commerce.edu.

**COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

Interaction with Instructor Statement:
All communication with your professor will need to be done virtually this semester. You may email me at any time of the day at: Yvonne.VRussell@tamuc.edu. I will make every effort to answer your questions expeditiously and definitely within 24 hours.

In case of emergency, you may leave word for me through the Sociology & Criminal Justice department, who can forward your message to me: 903-886-5332.

Check your MyLeo email account regularly for announcements about our class!!!

Technical Support:
Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- **Chat Support:** Click on ‘Live Support’ on the toolbar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- **Email:** helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- **Help:** Click on the ‘Help’ button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc...)

**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

Course Specific Procedures:
**Attendance & Participation:**
This is an online class. Although attendance will not be taken, it is crucial that you regularly visit the eCollege website and work independently to keep up with reading assignments. Regularly check
your MyLeo email account for notifications about our class, too. I have designed the course with assignments due on set days each week, to help you get into a rhythm.

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 academic honesty policies will receive a zero on the exam or assignment involved. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to both the Department Head as well as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. These offices may also wish to evaluate the case and 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!

***If in doubt, check with your professor on citing procedures, format and style. See notes above about the use of turnitin.com in this class.

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 Conduct
As stated in the Student Handbook: “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct, for more information). Please refer to the section on “netiquette” for information about expected behaviors in online discussion boards.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Reading & writing assignments are scheduled tentatively at this time. They may be changed, but advanced notice will be given in class. You are expected to read the assigned material prior to its discussion in class.
Print off this course outline and post near your computer for reference through the semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week One:</td>
<td>Foundational Concepts</td>
<td>1] Chapter 1: Evolution of Work</td>
<td>1] Introduce yourself on the (ungraded) discussion board before 11:59PM on Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 8 - 12</td>
<td></td>
<td>2] Chapter 16: Globalization</td>
<td>2] <strong>Complete the open-book QUIZ over Chapter 1 by 11:59PM on Wednesday</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>3] Submit PowerPoint Lecture over Chapter 16 by 11:59PM on Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Two:</td>
<td>The Meaning of Work</td>
<td>1] Chapter 3: Satisfaction and Alienation</td>
<td>1] Participate in Discussion Board #1 by 11:59PM on Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 15-19</td>
<td></td>
<td>2] “Media and Mobilization” posted on eCollege</td>
<td>2] Submit Paper #1 to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM on Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Three:</td>
<td>Balancing Work and Life</td>
<td>1] Chapter 5: Work and Family</td>
<td>1] Participate in Discussion Board #2 by 11:59PM on Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22-26</td>
<td></td>
<td>2] “Lean In” posted on eCollege</td>
<td>2] Submit Paper #2 to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM on Friday</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>3] “The Time Bind” posted on eCollege</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Four:</td>
<td>Professions</td>
<td>1] Chapter 11: Professions</td>
<td>1] Participate in Discussion Board #3 by 11:59PM on Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 29-August 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2] “Rambo Litigators” posted on eCollege</td>
<td>2] Submit Paper #3 to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3] “Over the Counter” posted on eCollege</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Five:</td>
<td>Marginal Work</td>
<td>1] Chapter 14: Marginal Jobs</td>
<td>1] Participate in Discussion Board #4 by 11:59PM on Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 5-8</td>
<td></td>
<td>2] “Are We Not Temps?” posted on eCollege</td>
<td>2] NO Paper this week!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3] “American Untouchables” posted on eCollege</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>