



Soc 1301.001
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
Spring 2015
(web-enhanced)

Professor: William E. Thompson, Ph.D.

Office Location: Ferguson Social Science 229

Office Hours: M 3:00-4:30 p.m.; T/R 8:30-9:30 a.m.; 1:30-2:00 p.m.; & by appointment

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook Required: *Society in Focus: An Introduction to Sociology (7th Ed. with census update)* by William E. Thompson and Joseph V. Hickey, Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2012, ISBN: 0-205-25230-3. The book should be available in the university bookstore. 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. After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Define and apply major theoretical perspectives in sociology and use critical thinking skills in order to better understand the social world in which they live and interact on a daily basis.
2. Define and give examples of 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. Describe and explain the scientific method and specific sociological research methods how sociologists use to collect and analyze data to develop sociological theories on human social behavior.
4. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics including global issues, processes, trends, and systems.

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.

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 classroom etiquette at all times.

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 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!

EXAMINATIONS: There will be five major exams (worth 100-pts. ea.) Check the tentative course schedule for dates of all exams. If a student misses an exam for he/she must schedule a make-up exam during the last week of classes. 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. **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.

TARDINESS: Please come to class on time! Classroom doors will be closed at the beginning of class time. If you arrive late, you will not be allowed to enter and will be counted absent. Lateness communicates a "don't care" attitude, and also is extremely disruptive. If you cannot come to class on time, you should drop the course!

GLOBAL SCHOLAR OPPORTUNITY (extra credit): Since this course is designated as a "Global" course, students have an opportunity to write a paper for 10 points extra credit. The paper should be approximately 2 pages in length (typed, 12 pt. font, double-spaced), and should address the topic of global stratification as outlined in Chapter 9. The paper should be submitted electronically through e-college in the appropriate drop box. It will be graded and returned and then can be uploaded by the student to his/her e-portfolio.

Grading

Final grades will be based on the five exams worth 100 pts. each, 5 discussions worth 10 pts. each, the signed syllabus worth 20 pts., and attendance worth 30pts.

5 Exams @ 100 pts. ea. =	500 pts.	Scale:
Attendance =	30 pts.	A= 90 – 100 % (540-600 pts.)
Total Points =	530 pts.	B= 80 – 89 % (480-539 pts.)
		C= 70 – 79 % (420-479 pts.)
		D= 60 – 69 % (360-419 pts.)
		F= less than 60 % (< 360 pts.)

Your grades will be posted online through e-college

EXTRA CREDIT: The Global Scholar paper is an opportunity to earn 10 pts. extra credit. Beyond that, 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 MyLeo e-mail in e-college. 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.*

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

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:

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](#)

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

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

DATE:	TOPIC:	READING ASSIGNMENTS:
T, 20 Jan. R, 22 Jan.	Introduction, Course Syllabus, etc. Discovering Sociology/Critical Thinking	Ch. 1
T, 27 Jan. R, 29 Jan.	Discovering Sociology Doing Sociology	Ch. 1 Ch. 2
T, 3 Feb.	Doing Sociology	Ch. 2
R, 5 Feb.	EXAM 1	Ch. 1,2
T, 10 Feb. R, 12 Feb.	Culture and Society Culture & Society	Ch. 3 Ch.3
T, 17 Feb. R, 19 Feb.	Socialization Social Interaction in Everyday Life	Ch. 4 Ch. 5
T, 24 Feb. R, 26 Feb.	Social Interaction in Everyday Life Video: “Body Language . . .” EXAM 2	Ch. 5 Ch. 3,4,5
T, 3 Mar. R, 5 Mar.	Social Groups & Organizations Deviance & Conformity	Ch. 6 Ch. 7
T, 10 Mar. R, 12 Mar.	Deviance & Conformity Social Stratification & Social Class	Ch. 7 Ch. 8
T, 17 Mar. R, 19 Mar.	Spring Break Spring Break	
T, 24 Mar . R, 26 Mar.	Global Stratification EXAM 3	Ch. 9 Ch. 6,7,8,9
T, 31 Mar. R, 2 Apr.	Race & Ethnicity Video: VHS 2980 “Shadow of Hate”	Ch. 10 Ch. 10
T, 7 Apr. R, 9 Apr.	Sex & Gender Sex & Gender	Ch. 11 Ch. 11
T, 14 Apr. R, 16 Apr.	Age & Elderly EXAM 4	Ch. 12 Ch. 10,11,12
T, 21 Apr. R, 23 Apr.	Families Families	Ch. 13 Ch. 13

T 28 Apr.	Education	Ch. 14
R 30 Apr.	Education	Ch. 14

T, 5 May	Economy & Work	Ch. 17
R, 7 May	Economy & Work	Ch. 17

All make-up exams must be taken during this week

R, 14 May	9:00 a.m.	Final Exam:	Ch. 13,14,17
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