



SOCIOLOGY 1301.01W Introduction to Sociology COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2015

Instructor: Katelyn Ginn, MS

Class Times: Online

Class Location: Online

Office Location: Ferguson Social Science Building 206

Office Hours: By appointment

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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 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

Exams:

There will be FIVE exams during the course of the semester. They will be a mixture of multiple choice questions, fill in the blank questions, true/false questions, and essay questions. Exams will be given online and each will be worth 100 points. All exams include an extra credit opportunity. Exams will be on a set schedule, and while it is highly unlikely that the dates of the exams will change, please check your email regularly if that occasion arises. Exams will open on the Thursday of that week and will close on the next day (Friday) at midnight. Once you enter the exam, you will have one hour and thirty minutes to complete it. If for any reason you have any problems entering exams or anything of that nature, please send me an email immediately so that I can help you.

Make up Exams:

If you miss ONE exam, contact me and I will allow you to complete a make-up assignment to replace that grade. I will only allow this for ONE exam and you must contact me; I will not contact you. This will be an essay assignment and if this occasion arises, email me and we will work out stipulations. Any further missed exams will receive a grade of 0.

Assignments:

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

Assignment 1: 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.

Assignment 2: Gender in Catalogs:

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?

Assignment 3: Classroom Analysis:

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.

Discussions:

There will be a total of SIX online discussions this semester, but you are only required to participate in FIVE. These discussions will be worth 10 points each, totaling 50 points. If you choose to participate in all six discussions, I will take add your extra points into your total of points as extra credit. I will pose questions concerning the topics we cover that week and you will be required to post one response to it. Then, I would like to respond to the posts of your classmates. There is no set number of responses I am asking for; rather, I expect you to create a dialogue. On discussion weeks, post early and check the discussion throughout the week to see if anyone has responded to you or posed new questions. Feel free to respond to another student’s post.

Extra Credit:

On each exam, I will leave at least 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. You also have an opportunity to participate in extra discussions. There are ample opportunities for you to earn your points from the number of tests, papers, and discussions, so these will be the ONLY forms of extra credit I will allow. There will be no other 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:

Item:	Points Possible:
Exams (5, worth 100 points each)	500
Discussions (5, worth 10 points each)	50

Assignments (1, worth 50 points)	50
Total:	600

Calculating Your Grade:

Letter grade:	Percentage:	Points needed:
A	90-100%	540-600
B	80-89%	480-539
C	70-79%	420-479
D	60-69%	360-419
F	<60%	<360

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This is primarily an online course. Course handouts, instruction, assignments, powerpoint lectures, and study guides will be posted on ecollege. 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:

The most effective way to communicate with me is email. I do not hold posted office hours, but if you have an issue that must be addressed in person, email me to make an

appointment. I check my email often, so please don't hesitate. I will typically respond within 24 hours of your email during the week and the next Monday on weekends.

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 and Curving:

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:

This course will be very easy-going, and I expect you to work independently, reading your text and staying up to date with the course schedule. Of course, if you have any questions, concerns, or need me to clarify something, do not hesitate to email me. Since we will be interacting with one another by online discussions, there are certain decorum standards I expect. Treat each other respectfully and take the questions I have posed seriously. If anyone attacks another student, is rude or disrespectful, or becomes profane, I will address it personally. I will not tolerate this. Please also refrain from using "text-speak," (examples include "lol," "U," "UR," etc.) Write in complete sentences and use proper grammar and syntax.

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*).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This tentative schedule is subject to change. Prior advance notice will be given via email. You are expected to read the relevant chapters with the corresponding week.

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignments
1	01/20-01/25	Chapter 1: Discovering Sociology and Chapter 2: Doing Sociology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read chapters 1 and 2 • View the presentations for chapters 1 and 2
2	01/26-02/01	Exam 1	Exam will cover chapters 1 and 2
3	02/02-02/08	Chapter 3: Culture and Society and Chapter 4: Socialization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read chapters 3 and 4 • Review powerpoint presentations for chapters 3 and 4 • Participate in Discussion 1 (opens Monday 02/02/2015 and closes Friday 02/06/2015)
4	02/09-02/15	Chapter 5: Social Interaction in Everyday Life and Chapter 6: Social Groups and Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read chapters 5 and 6 • View the powerpoint presentations for chapters 5 and 6 • Participate in Discussion 2 (opens Monday 02/09/2015 and closes 02/13/2015)
5	02/16-02/22	Exam 2	Exam will cover Chapters 3, 4, 5 and 6
6	02/23-03/01	Chapter 7: Deviance and Conformity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read chapter 7 • View the presentation for chapter 7 • Participate in Discussion 3 (opens 02/23/2015 and closes 02/27/2015)
7	03/02-03/08	Chapter 8: Social Stratification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read chapter 8 • View the powerpoint presentations for chapter 8 • Submit Assignment 1: Family Tree by midnight Friday 03/08/2015
8	03/09-03/15	Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity and Chapter 11: Sex and Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read chapters 9 and 10 • View the presentations for chapters 9 and 10 • Participate in Discussion 4 (opens 03/09/2015 and closes 03/13/2015) • Submit Assignment 2 by midnight 03/13/2015
Spring Break	03/16-03/20		
9	03/23-03/29	Chapter 12: Age and the Elderly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read chapter 12 • View the presentations for chapter 12
10	03/30-04/05	Exam 3	Exam will cover 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12

11	04/06-04/12	Chapters 13: Families and Chapter 14: Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read chapters 13 and 14, • View the presentations for chapters 13 and 14 • Submit Assignment 3 by midnight Friday 04/10/2015
12	04/13-04/19	Chapter 15: Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read chapter 15, • View the presentations for chapter 15 • Participate in Discussion 5 (opens 04/13/2015 and closes 04/17/2015)
13	04/20-04/26	Chapter 16: Politics and War and Chapter 18: Health and Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read chapters 16 and 18 • View the presentations for chapters 16 and 18 • Participate in Discussion 6 (opens 04/20/2015 and closes 04/24/2015)
14	04/27-05/03	Exam 4	Exam will cover chapters 13, 14, 15, 16, and 18
15	04/05-05/10	Chapter 19: Population, Urbanization, and Ecology and Chapter 20: Social Change, Collective Behavior, and the Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read chapters 19 and 20 • View the presentations for chapters 19 and 20
Finals Week	05/11-05/15	Final Exam	Exam will cover chapters 19 and 20