



Soc 1306 01W
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
Spring 2018
Online

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COURSE INFORMATION

This course meets: Online Only

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook Required: Social Problems in a Diverse Society 6th Edition Kendall, Diana Boston, Pearson ISBN: 978-0-205-15290-2 The book should be available in the university bookstore and on various websites.

Course Description: A critical discussion of the sociological perspective on studying descriptions, causes, and prevention of social problems such as crime, mental illness, drug abuse, environmental degradation, poverty, terrorism, and declining of quality of life in today's world

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:

1. Students will demonstrate 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. Students will be able to define 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. Students will demonstrate understanding of the scientific method and specific sociological research methods to illustrate how sociologists collect and analyze data to develop sociological theories on human social behavior.
4. Students will be familiar with the major theoretical perspectives and/or paradigms within sociology and to compare/contrast them to theoretical approaches in related fields such as anthropology, history, psychology, and other social and behavioral sciences.
5. 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 PowerPoint presentations with discussions, reading assignments, and other materials.

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**](#)

EXAMS: There will be four exams (worth 100-pts. ea.)—over the chapters we learn. Check the course schedule for dates. If a student misses an exam the only way to make it up is to email the professor and make special arrangements. So mark these dates on your calendars now, otherwise, if you miss an exam you will probably find it necessary to drop the course. There is a 48-hour window on test days to take the exam, but once the exam is started, you have only 1 hour to complete it. If you log off for any reason, the exam is over, and you cannot log back in. You are expected to take exams without the aid of your textbook, notes, or any other type of help or aid from anything or any other person. You are on the honor system to take the exams just as if you were taking them in a classroom with the professor present. I will only count four exams. Students are encouraged to take all five since I will not count your lowest exam.

DISCUSSIONS/PARTICIPATION: Reading all assignments and participating in all online discussions is essential for doing well in this course. Discussions will open at 12:01 a.m. at the beginning of each unit and close at 11:59 p.m. on the eve of the exam. If you miss the “window” for participating in any online discussion, there is no way to make it up. I expect you to post more than 1 response as you should read your classmates posts and engage in discussion with them. To earn the maximum points, you will need to actively engage in discussions over the course of the discussion window. One or two posts on one day will not cut it.

NOTE: Keep all discussions civil and academic/intellectual in nature. We will be dealing with controversial topics. It is essential to treat these subjects seriously and courteously. The discussions should focus on ideas, research, data, facts, and information from the textbook and class. You will have strong personal opinions about some of these topics. That is fine, but you need not share them with the class. Before you post, read what you have written. Any sentence beginning with the words **I feel . . .** or **I believe . . .** are probably better deleted. Your feelings and beliefs are important to you and we do not want to tread on them, but we also do not need to know them. **These are academic discussions, NOT therapy sessions or attempts to convince somebody else to think like you. Every discussion should reflect that you have read the material, attended class, and are applying critical sociological thinking to the topic.**

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

(15 pts)

Student responded to other students' posts

(10 pts)

Student asks questions and engages other students in discussion

(10 pts)

Student's posts are error free, grammatically correct, and stay on topic

(5pts)

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.

Grading

Final grades will be based on the four exams worth 100 pts. each (400 pts) and 5 online discussions worth 40pts. each (200 pts).

		Scale:
4 Exams @ 100 pts. ea. =	400 pts.	A= 90 – 100 % (540-600 pts.)
Discussions =	200 pts	B= 80 – 89 % (480 - 539 pts.)
		C= 70 – 79 % (420- 479 pts.)
		D= 69 – 60 % (360 - 419 pts.)
		F= less than 60 % (< 359 pts.)

Total Points = 600 pts.

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. I will not make any exceptions so DO NOT ASK!

NOTE: We will NOT be negotiating for grades at the end of the semester. You have plenty of opportunities to earn points throughout the semester. A few **bonus points are built into each exam. At the end of the semester, e-college will calculate your total points and they will be applied to the scale on this syllabus. That is the grade you have earned, and that is the grade you will be assigned. (By the way, e-college reports percentages. There is a big difference between a percentage point and a raw point. For example, if you earn 69% of the 530 total points, you are not 1 point away from a C (you are actually 1 percentage point from a C which is 5.3 points)). EARN your points during the semester, don't try to BEG for them at the end of it.**

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- 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)

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

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CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR: The best way to contact the professor will be through campus e-mail.

You must email me at Daniel.skinner@tamuc.edu If you go through eCollege, I may not receive that email. Every effort will be made to reply to inquiries made Monday thru Thursday within a 24-hour period. **E-mails received on Friday, or over the weekend will most likely not receive a response until the following Monday. The professor absolutely will NOT be available on Saturdays or Sundays. YOU MUST INCLUDE THE COURSE NUMBER IN THE SUBJECT OF YOUR EMAIL IF YOU EXPECT A PROPMPT RESPONSE.**

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION: I will communicate with the class through e-college and/or MyLeo e-mail.

Consequently, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check your e-mail regularly for messages from me. I will **attempt** (*not guarantee*) to respond to any e-mail you send to me within 24 hours of receiving it unless the e-mail is received Friday-Sunday. If that is the case, it more than likely will be the following Monday afternoon before you receive a response. If you have a class-related issue that occurs over the weekend, DO NOT PANIC. There is no such thing as **sociological emergency** and I guarantee we can work it out as soon as I can address it.

Remember, this is not an adversarial relationship. I want you to be successful and am here to help you. If you do not receive an email from me in a timely matter, please try again. Sometimes emails go into the clutter folder and I may not see them.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

CHEATING & PLAGIARISM: All exams are expected to be taken closed-book with no outside help from book(s), notes, or other people. 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

Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndService/

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-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.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:

This is an online course so we will not meet face to face. 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.

THIS ONLINE 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.

University Specific Procedures: Guns on Campus

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStateMENTS/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TOPIC:</u>	<u>READING ASSIGNMENTS:</u>
Week 1:	Studying Social Problems <i>Discussion 1 begins at 12:01 Jan. 16</i>	Ch. 1
Week 2:	Wealth and Poverty	Ch. 2
Week 3:	EXAM 1 on Thursday/Friday Feb. 1/2 <i>Discussion 1 closes at 11:59 pm on Jan. 31</i>	Ch. 1,2
Week 4:	Racial Inequality	Ch. 3
Week 5:	Gender Inequality	Ch. 4
Week 6:	EXAM 2 on Thursday/ Friday Feb. 22/23 <i>Discussion 2 closes at 11:59 pm on Feb. 21</i>	Ch. 3,4
Week 7:	Inequality based on age <i>Discussion 3 begins at 12:01on Feb. 26</i>	Ch. 5
Week 8:	Inequality based on sex	Ch. 6
Week 9:	Spring Break March 12-16	
Week 10:	EXAM 3 on Thursday/Friday, March 22/23 <i>Discussion 3 closes at 11:59 pm on March 21</i>	Ch. 5,6

Week 11:	Sex Industry <i>Discussion 4 begins at 12:01 on March 26</i>	Ch. 7
Week 12:	Alcohol and Drugs.	Ch. 8
Week 13:	EXAM 4 on Thursday/Friday, April 12/13 <i>Discussion 4 closes at 11:59 pm on April 11</i>	Ch. 7,8
Week 14:	Criminal Justice <i>Discussion 5 begins at 12:01 April 16</i>	CH 9
Week 15:	Healthcare Problems	Ch. 11
Week 16:	EXAM 5 on Thursday/Friday, May 3/4 <i>Discussion 5 closes at 11:59 pm May 2</i>	Ch. 9,11

*Makeup exams will be given Wednesday, May 9 at 1 PM with instructor approval.