Soc1301.01W – Introduction to Sociology
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2019
Class time MTWRF

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Karista Hughes
Office Location: Online
Office Hours: MTWRF: daily
Office Phone:
Office Fax: 903-886-5330 University
University Email Address: karista.hughes@tamuc.edu/ khughes5@leomail.tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: 24 Hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required
Society in Focus: An Introduction to Sociology (8th ed.) by

Optional Texts and/or Materials: Additional and/or supplementary required readings will be assigned during the semester.

Course Description

This course is designed to help students better understand the social world in which they live as well as provide a foundation for other courses in sociology. It provides an overview of major concepts and principles of sociology, including globalization, diversity, socialization, social control, social order, social stratification, ethnicity, social deviance, and social change. This course emphasizes global dynamics (issues, trends, processes, and systems) from a sociological perspective, and helps students view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
**Student Learning Outcomes**
This course is intended to enable you to:

1. Demonstrate creative thinking of sociological concepts and to comprehend these which will be measured through objective exams.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Explain the scientific method and specific sociological research methods to illustrate how sociologists collect and analyze data to develop sociological theories on human social behavior.
5. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics including global issues, processes, trends, and systems
6. Communicate, in written, oral, or visual means the application of sociological theories to real world topics. Which shall be in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
7. Demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues and view yourselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Minimal Technical Skills Needed**
The class will use the D2L learning management system. Students in the class may be required to use or be able to perform tasks employing Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and using presentation and graphics programs, etc.

**Instructional Methods**
All assignments posted into D2L (our online system) must be on time (in most cases 11:59pm) and on or before the last designated due date. There will be no exceptions, and excuses will not be tolerated. There will be no make-up assignments.

This course will provide a variety of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes/objectives for the course. Each week you will work toward achieving these outcomes through discussions and comments, a course project, and exams. A core component of this course is critical thinking. Critical thinking requires students to think through situations, facts, and issues in an open-minded and objective way in an effort to analyze and evaluate information in an informed manner. Below is an explanation of each course requirement including due date, assignment instructions, and other requirements.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
This course also requires that you utilize APA citation format for all discussions/assignments/exams. See Course and University Policies/Procedures for more information on how to cite using APA.

**Discussion Posts:** (10 discussion posts)

- **Student Learning Outcomes #1, #2, #3, and #4:** The student will obtain a basic understanding of important sociological theories. The student will learn to utilize critical thinking skills. The student will learn how to apply course concepts to ‘real life’ social issues. The student will be an active and engaged participant in discussion forums by analyzing and evaluating information presented within the textbook, external readings/resources, student research, and class activities.

- The discussion forums are related to the chapter readings and other materials. Upon completion or near completion of the assigned readings and activities, you are expected to engage in an ongoing discussion/debate with your classmates. Your contributions to the discussion forums will be graded for quality, timeliness of your contributions, and a detailed analysis linking together theory (readings) to application (activities/‘real life’ societal issues).

- Discussion posts will be posted within the first week class. The content of these posts may be found in D2L (See below under Technology Requirements for more on accessing/turning in assignments using D2L). Posts are due by Wednesday, 11:59PM CST. **NO LATE POSTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

- You are required to answer the discussion questions using your textbook/additional materials (if applicable/required) as your primary source(s). Additional source materials are always welcome and should be cited accordingly and are sometimes required in order for you to complete the assignment. Please read the assignment directions carefully.

- Your main posts/initial response to the question should be **A MINIMUM of 250 words in length.** Please keep in mind that **ALL** posts must be substantive and meaningful. Proper grammar and word usage are required. I will take this opportunity to remind you that your discussion posts are formal assignments and will therefore be graded as such. Failure to cite will result in an automatic 30 point deduction.

**Comment Posts:** Comment Posts: (20 posts)

The **syllabus/schedule are subject to change.**
• Student Learning Outcomes #2 and #4: The student will learn to utilize critical thinking skills. The student will be an active and engaged participant in discussion forums by analyzing and evaluating information presented within the textbook, external readings/resources, student research, and class activities.

• Comment posts are responses you make to the 10 discussion posts that you and your classmates have posted during the course. You are to post two (2) substantive peer comments by the deadline per week by Saturday evening at 11:59PM CST. Comment posts should be a MINIMUM of 100 words in length.

• Comment posts should be meaningful. Merely agreeing or disagreeing with a classmate will not be looked upon favorably and will result in a loss of points. A meaningful post is one that moves the discussion forward in some substantive way through providing one’s perspective, additional information through research, or reframing the discussion in some new way. You are expected to engage in an ongoing discussion/debate with your classmates. Your comments will be graded for quality, timeliness of your contributions, and relevance. Further you are expected to be in the class a minimum of two (2) days per applicable week.

• NO LATE COMMENTS ARE ACCEPTED.

  ▪ Assessment Method: Discussion assignments will be graded using the Discussion Post/Comments Grading Rubric provided in Appendix A of the syllabus.

• Mini Assignments (2 assignments @ 50 pts = 100 course points) More information will be provided.

• Exams: (2 exams @ 100 points = 200 course points)
  o There will be 2 exams in this course. Exams will be 1 hour in length. YOU WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO ACCESS THE EXAM ONCE. See under Course and University Policies/Procedures for more information regarding taking tests on D2L.
    ▪ The Midterm exam will cover Chapter 1-6. The Final Exam will cover Chapters 7-13.

    ▪ Assessment Method: Multiple choice and true/false questions.

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**Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

The student must log into the course multiple times throughout the week to complete weekly assignments and post and respond on discussion boards. Weekly reading is expected as well as taking scheduled quizzes/exams and completing all other assignments.

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GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or Below

Grades earned on each assignment will be added together and will be divided by the total number of points possible in the course. Below is the overall point scale for the course.

Total points possible for the semester = 500

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500-450</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>449-400</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>399-350</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>349-300</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>299 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessments

GRADING Assignments for this course will be scored using a points system. Below is an explanation of how each assignment type will be scored.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th># of Assignments</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion/comments</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20 each</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Assignments</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50 each</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS
All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:  
https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements

LMS Browser Support:  
https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:  
https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend’s home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support
If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies
No make-up opportunities are allowed. Late work will not be accepted. If a problem arises please contact instructor. No Extra credit will be assigned.

Syllabus Change Policy
The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.
http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:
https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette

TAMUC Attendance
For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.
http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Academic Integrity
Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

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Students with Disabilities-- 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- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu
Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

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.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

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 the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus

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document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url: 
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

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**

- **DISCUSSION POSTS** are due by 11:59PM CST on Wednesday. NO LATE POSTS ACCEPTED.
- **COMMENT POSTS** are due by 11:59 PM CST on Saturday. NO LATE POSTS ACCEPTED.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 August 26</td>
<td>Course Review</td>
<td>Introduction Posts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Syllabus Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 September 2</td>
<td>Discovering Sociology</td>
<td>Read Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 September 9</td>
<td>Doing Sociology</td>
<td>Read Chapter 2 Discussion #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 September 16</td>
<td>Society &amp; Culture</td>
<td>Read Chapter 3 Discussion #2 Mini Assignment Due Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 September 23</td>
<td>Socialization</td>
<td>Read Chapter 4 Discussion #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 September 30</td>
<td>Social Interaction in Everyday Life</td>
<td>Read Chapter 5 Discussion #4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 October 7</td>
<td>Social Groups, Organizations, and Bureaucracies</td>
<td>Read Chapter 6 Discussion #5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 October 14</td>
<td>Midterm Exam- Ch.1-6</td>
<td>Opens Monday due Friday at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 October 21</td>
<td>Deviance and Conformity</td>
<td>Read Chapter 7 Discussion #6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Read Chapters</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 October 28</td>
<td>Social Stratification in the U.S Class System</td>
<td>8 AND 9</td>
<td>#7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 November 4</td>
<td>Race &amp; Ethnicity</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>#8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 November 11</td>
<td>Sex &amp; Gender</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>#9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 November 18</td>
<td>Families</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>#10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 November 25-26</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 December 2</td>
<td>Review and Ask questions week</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mini Assignment due Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 December 9</td>
<td>Final Exam week- Ch.7-13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Opens Monday due Friday 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Appendix**

DISCUSSIONS: Each week/unit will require two submissions: 1) an answer to a discussion question and 2) two (2) responses to fellow students’ discussion questions. The guidelines are under the unit’s discussion; NOTICE, there are two separate dates for each submission. There are weekly unit questions worth a combined 20 points each, a total of 200 points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Exemplary</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answered Question(s)</td>
<td>Did not answer question. &lt; 0 &gt;</td>
<td>Less than 250 words. &lt; 3 &gt;</td>
<td>250 words or more. &lt; 5 &gt;</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cite Article APA format</td>
<td>Did not cite article &lt; 0 &gt;</td>
<td>Did not use correct APA format. &lt; 3 &gt;</td>
<td>Used correct APA format. &lt; 5 &gt;</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response</td>
<td>Did not answer question. &lt; 0 &gt;</td>
<td>Less than 50 words. &lt; 2 &gt;</td>
<td>100 words or more. &lt; 5 &gt;</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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