

PPRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY
SOC 1301-01, CID # 80870, 3 Credit Hours, Fall 2017

Class location and time: CHSS 210; M, W, F 10:00 am- 10:50 am.

Instructor: Dr. Olena Leipnik

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Office hours: CHSS 270 J: M: 2:00-3:30 pm, or by appointment.

COURSE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES

This introductory course provides a general overview of the discipline of sociology. The course offers a historical summary of the development of sociology and basic information on sociological methods, and covers such areas as culture, socialization, crime and deviance, social stratifications, and inequality with regard to social class, race, ethnicity, gender, and education. The course provides an opportunity to develop sociological imagination and apply it to access social issues and solutions to them. Concepts, theories, and approaches students learn in the course are tested in classroom on their relevance to personal experiences and social conditions.

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to:

- Learn the fundamental sociological concepts, principles, theories, and approaches.
- Master the ability to apply those concepts, principles, theories, and approaches to analyze personal experiences, social events and tendencies.
- Master / improve the ability to communicate their knowledge in a positive and comprehensive manner.
- Master / improve the ability to productively work in group or individually, participate in discussions on sociological topics.

CONTENT DISCLAIMER

Some of the issues addressed in this course are highly debatable, or sensitive, or abusive in their nature, or might be painful to discuss for personal reasons. If you know you would be too uncomfortable discussing a certain topic in class, talk to the instructor prior to the week for which the topic is scheduled to develop a personalized modification of that course unit.

COURSE FORMAT

This is a hybrid course. Quizzes are administered online weekly through the semester; tests are administered in class. Regular reading, attendance, and participation in in-class activities are required. Students are expected to read an assigned book chapter prior coming to class to be able to fully participate in discussions. Students are expected to take notes in class, no PowerPoints presentations are provided by instructor.

BLACKBOARD PROFICIENCY

On Blackboard, you can find a tutorial on the basics of Blackboard, such tasks as setting up reminders, taking tests/quizzes, submitting assignments, participating in discussions, reading your grades in the gradebook, and other. Particularly, be aware of the “weighted total” option of the gradebook. During the semester, the total of the points you have earned is shown as the running total that means it only reflects those assignments you have attempted. This is so that you could see your real progress in class. At the end of the semester, the running total option switches of and the total is calculated on the 450 scale. Thus, if you skip some of the quizzes or other work during the semester, the running total will not reflect the loss of the points, and you might find your grade drop when the running total option goes off. (If this is too confusing, ask the instructor for clarification or call the Service Desk.)

Make sure your online account is set up and you do not experience interruptions with receiving emails from your instructor, or any other technical issues that might affect your grade. For technical issues, contact the SHSU tech support team. Here is the SHSU Service Desk home page with all the contacts and other information: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/client-services/service-desk.html>.

TEXTBOOK

William J. Chambliss and Daina S. Eglitis. Discover Sociology. 2d edition. Sage, 2015. ISBN: 9781483365213

The textbook offers great online resources including chapter summaries, practice quizzes, and video and multimedia resources: <https://edge.sagepub.com/chambliss2e> You do not need any special code to access these resources.

CLASSWORK AND GRADING

Tests. There are three tests each worth 100 points (300 points total), based on reading, video shown in class or assigned to watch, and what is discussed in class. Each test contains 50 questions (multiple choice, T/F, and multiple answer) worth two points each. Tests are formalized, and scantrons are used for grading. There are no essay questions on tests. Tests are administered on Wednesdays during regular class time.

Students, who are tardy for a test are allowed to take it only if they start before the first person in the class completes it. Usage or visible presence of electronic devices during the test are strictly prohibited and result in annulling the test score with no opportunity of re-taking the test. If you are aware of a schedule conflict on the test day (job/service assignment, job interview, planned doctors visit, job/duty related travel, significant family event), inform the instructor at least a week prior to the test day. Upon completing a test, you must turn your test copy in together with your scantron. If a test copy is missing your score cannot be posted.

Quizzes. There are 10 quizzes over 10 book chapters, all are administered via Blackboard. Quizzes are untimed and open book. They are available for a whole week and unavailable after the closure day/time. Each quiz opens at midnight on Friday of the previous week to which the chapter is assigned as the reading, and closes at midnight on Friday of the week on which the chapter is assigned. (Think about it this way: you need to read a chapter and take a quiz over it prior coming to class; reading/quizzing takes the lead over in-class discussions.) Each quiz contains 10 questions worth one points each, 100 points for quizzes altogether. It is your responsibility to stay on schedule and do your work on quizzes timely. No reminders are provided in class regarding your quiz work.

Note: To accommodate students, who receive their textbooks later, quiz 1 is open for a longer period and closes at the same day/time as quiz 2.

In-class exercises. There are in-class exercises and discussions, and your participation in some of them is to be graded. The overall weight of these exercises is 50 points. Exercises might or might not be announced in advance.

Extra credit. Although not guaranteed, the extra credit opportunities might be offered. Extra credit points are count toward your grade by the end of the semester if you meet the attendance and classroom conduct requirements. Extra-credit points are not attached to any particular assignment/test. The extra credit assignments are an extension of in-class work; thus they are offered to those students only who are present in class when the extra credit is offered. Extra credit assignment have no written prompts. The deadline for turning in the extra credit work is the beginning of the next class meeting.

Make-up. Make up exams are allowed at the end of the semester and differ from the regular ones. Make up quizzes are offered for those students only, who present a documented evidence of the inevitability to complete a quiz during the week when the quiz was due. The make up quizzes are administered in-class and they are no materials / closed book. You would need to sign up for make up before Monday, November 20 (week 14); a signing sheet is provided in class. You cannot sign up for a make by e-mailing the instructor. Make up is not offered for the exercises and extra credit work.

Tracking your grades. After you take an exam or turn in an assignment, make sure your grade is posted on Blackboard--gradebook. Usually (but not necessarily), the exam grades are posted the same day as, or the next day after the exam was administered; grading the assignments usually takes up to five business days. If a grade is not displayed on time, let the instructor know ASAP, and not later than two weeks after the test was administrated /

assignment turned in. You can discuss your grades anytime during the semester. Grades are not negotiated at any time.

Grade chart: You can earn up to 450 points for this course.

A: 405 – 450 points

B: 360 – 404 points

C: 315 – 359 points

D: 270 – 314 points

F: 269 points or fewer.

COURSE / INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

Toward the end of the semester, you will be asked to complete the IDEA evaluation form. Through the semester, you are welcome to share with the instructor your feedback on which learning strategies work for you best and which do not, and ideas on how to improve your learning experience in this class.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Students with Disabilities Policy. It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs, nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered, and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy. Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to: cheating on an examination or

other academic work, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials, removing or attempting to remove a test, its answers, or any portion of the test from the testing venue.

For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus>, or <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Roll is taken at every class meeting as is required by university policy. Try not to be late to class. If you are tardy, you still may come in. If you need to leave earlier, let the instructor know before the class period starts. If you leave the classroom after signing the roll, you are considered absent. Signing the roll for another person or having another person signing for you is considered an abuse of academic ethics. Unauthorized absence of more than 2 class periods is a failure to meet the attendance requirements. There is no reduction of points for missed classes, but extra credit points are count toward your final grade only if you attendance and conduct in class meet all the requirements. You are responsible for tracking your own attendances. If you miss a class due to illness or family/personal issues, you do not have to email the instructor (unless special arrangements for you were made for that day); instead, make sure that when you are back to class, you have a document that covers your absence.

CONDUCT IN CLASS

All students with no exceptions are expected to follow the rules of conduct for students at SHSU. Section 5.2.22 of The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline: defines classroom disturbances: <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>. Come to class on time, prepared, participate in class activities, be respectful to and considered of others. The use of electronic devises for taking notes is at the instructor's discretion. Taking pictures in class (for instance, of the PowerPoint presentation on the screen) and/or recording the lectures and class activities are prohibited unless the instructor explicitly invites you to do so. Cell-phone use, surfing online, side conversations, regular cases of tardiness or living class earlier without a legitimate reason discussed with the instructor early in the semester, aggressive, destructive, or otherwise challenging behavior are violations of the rules of conduct. Electronic communicational devices are not allowed for use in class; they should be put on a silent mode and put away for the whole class period. The use of electronic devices during the test results in the annulment of the test score with no further opportunity of taking this test. Violation of the classroom rules of conduct, including the electronic communicational devices no-use policy results in reduction or annulation of the extra-credit points. If after two verbal warnings and an email from the instructor a student continues violate the policy, instructor reserves the right to deduct points from the student's grade by five point for each case of violation. Instructor reserves the right to ask any student(s) to leave class if she believes that the behavior of the student(s) is disrespectful or disruptive.

Diversity statement: In this class, we regularly address topics related to individual and group identity; this increases the possibility that class participants choose to, or accidentally disclose / address their identity or life circumstances in a class discussion. We welcome diversity as one of our biggest strengths, and we seek to provide a safe, inclusive, and enabling environment for everyone. Judgmental or derogative comments or other actions with regard to identity, life circumstances, or opinions are unacceptable and might result in administrative actions.

COURSE OUTLINE & CALENDAR

Week, dates	Reading and other assignments	chapter
Week 1 Aug 23, 25	Discover sociology (social institutions)	1
Week 2 Aug 28, 30, Sep 1	Discover sociology (sociological imagination) Quiz chapter 1	1
Week 3 Sep 4, 6, 8	Discover sociology (development of sociology) Quiz chapter 1	1
Week 4 Sep 11, 13, 15	Discover sociological research Quiz chapter 2	2
Week 5 Sep 18, 20, 22 Wednesday, Sep 20: test	Culture and mass media Quiz chapter 3; Test 1 (chapters: 1, 2, 3)	3
Week 6 Sep 25, 27, 29	Culture and mass media Quiz chapter 3	3
Week 7 Oct 2, 4, 6	Socialization and social interaction Quiz chapter 4	4
Week 8 Oct 9, 11, 13	Deviance and social control Quiz chapter 6	6
Week 9 Oct 16, 18, 20 Wednesday, Oct 18: test	Class and inequality Quiz chapter 7. Test 2 (chapters 3, 4, 6, 7)	7
Week 10 Oct 23, 15, 27	Work, consumption, and the economy Quiz chapter 15	15
Week 11 Oct 30, Nov 1, 3	Race and ethnicity Quiz chapter 9	9
Week 12 Nov 6, 8, 10	Gender and society Quiz chapter 10. Sign up for makeup	10
Week 13 Nov 13, 15, 17	Education and society Quiz chapter 12	12
Week 14 Nov 20, 21	Education and society Quiz chapter 12 November 22 – 24 Thanksgiving break	12
Week 15 Nov 27, 29, Dec 1	Monday: make up. Wednesday: test 3 (chapters 9, 10, 12, 15). Friday: concluding class meeting	-
Weeks 16 Dec 4 – 8	Final examination week. This class has no final.	-

The syllabus is a subject to change. You will be notified of any changes.