

Sociology 1301: Principles of Sociology
Sec. 3: M/W/F 11:00 – 11:50; CHSS, Room 242B
Spring 2017; 3 credit hours (EWCAT)

Instructor: Dr. Douglas H. Constance **Office Hours:** M/W 12:00 – 2:00,
Office CHSS: 270W or by appointment.
Phone: 936-294-1514
E-mail: soc_dhc@shsu.edu

Teaching Assistance: Illiana Moore.

Required Texts:

William J. Chambliss and Daina S. Eglitis, **Discover Sociology**
John Steinbeck, **The Grapes of Wrath**

Course Description: This is an introductory level course that provides a general overview of the discipline of sociology. The course begins with a historical summary of the development of sociology and then moves on to cover the substantive areas such as theory/methods, culture, socialization, social interaction, groups, and deviance. The middle section of the course deals with issues of inequality related to social class, race, ethnicity, and gender. The last portion of the course focuses on the societal institutions of marriage and the family, religion, education, politics and the economy, as well as population and social change. As part of the EWCAT format, several Friday class sessions will employ a peer-teaching format utilizing the novel “Grapes of Wrath” where students apply various sociological concepts to events from the novel and everyday life.

Student Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students will:

- 1) have a working knowledge of basic sociological concepts.
- 2) be able to perform minimal operations related to the empirical and scientific methods and theories of Sociology that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human.
- 3) be able to explore behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events.
- 4) be able to examine the impact of these behaviors and interactions on individuals, society and culture.
- 5) be able to think critically about their lives and social events.

Toward the end of the semester, a multiple choice, anonymous, questionnaire will be distributed in class. All students in all SOCI 1301 courses will be asked to participate in the activity. This is a tool the Sociology Department will use to monitor progress on student learning objectives.

Skill Objectives:

- 1) **Critical Thinking Skills:** Students will develop skills to apply different theories and methods to critically analyze social situations.
- 2) **Communication Skills:** Students will develop skills to develop, interpret and express sociological concepts and ideas in written and oral formats.
- 3) **Empirical and Quantitative Skills:** Students will develop skills to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

- 4) **Social Responsibility:** Students will develop skills to enhance their intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and engagement in regional, national, and global communities.

Exams, Quizzes, and Project: There will be five quizzes and three exams during the semester for a total of 400 possible points. The three exams will be worth 100 points each and will cover the readings and the lectures. The exams will be true/false and multiple-guess. The five quizzes will be worth 25 points each and will also cover the readings and the lectures. The lowest quiz score will be dropped. The remaining four quizzes will be worth a maximum of 100 points. The quizzes will be true/false, fill in the blank, multiple guess, and short answer. Students may make-up missed exams if they notify the professor ahead of the exam date and provide documentation regarding his/her absence for the exam. Missed quizzes cannot be made-up. There is one group project worth 100 points due at the end of the semester as a Power Point presentation. The group project be a commodity systems analysis assigned by the professor, with instructions posted in Blackboard.

Extra Credit: Students will have the opportunity to choose TWO of THREE possible 10 point extra credit opportunities. The first extra-credit opportunity will be to volunteer at a community service organization for at least five hours and write a two-page paper that describes the sociological aspects of the volunteer experience. A contact number and phone number at the volunteer site is also required. For the second extra credit you need to use concepts you have learned from class and in the chapter on deviance and interpret deviant behavior you have witnessed as part of your college experience. The requirements for the paper will be available from Blackboard. The third extra-credit opportunity is to attend the “Study Skills Workshop Series” sponsored by the SAM Center. This is a series of six one-hour weekly study skill sessions designed to improve your student skills. Call the SAM Center at 294-4444 to register for a session time. You will receive 1 point for each session you attend. If you complete all six sessions, you will receive a total of 10 points. The SAM Center will provide you a “card” of attendance that must be provided to me on or before the final exam. Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these extra credit opportunities.

Grading: Final grades will be curved according to the highest total points out of the possible 500. **For example, IF** the highest grade in the class is 467/500 total points, then $A = .90 \times 467 = 420$ points; $B = .80 \times 467 = 374$; $C = .70 \times 467 = 327$; $D = .60 \times 467 = 280$; and $F = \text{below } 256$. All grades can be viewed in the Grade Center in Blackboard.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all classes and participate fully in class activities. A record of attendance will be maintained by the instructor. Punctual attendance is also expected of each student. Please be respectful and arrive to class on time. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for both absences and tardiness and are also expected to initiate action to satisfy all missed class work. Failure to do so will affect grades.

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete 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 which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive an F for that assignment with more severe sanctions as appropriate.

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>

Americans with Disabilities Act: 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 must register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center and then arrange a conference with the instructor in order that accommodations can be made to assure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/9edd8433-cad5-40d1-b4bf-6a91b08f90e4.pdf>

SSD Office Location: Lee Drain Annex (next to the Farrington Building); Ph. 936-294-3512;

TDD: 936-294-3786; E-mail: disability@shsu.edu; Web Address: www.shsu.edu/disability

Religious Holidays: 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. 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. Religious Holy Day means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding any missed classes or exams due to Religious Holy Days.

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0953c7d0-7c04-4b29-a3fc-3bf0738e87d8.pdf>

University Code of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students shall arrive to class on time and be respectful to their other students. If a student needs to arrive to class late or leave class early the student will make the professor aware of these needs prior to class time. All cell phones and beepers must be turned off and stowed away while in the classroom. If a cell phone is out during an exam, the student will receive an F for that exam. Students who disrupt the class will be contacted by the professor to adjust their behaviors. In extreme cases students who cannot comply with these requirements can be removed and resigned from the class.

<https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>

Instructor Evaluations: Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Visitors to the Classroom: Unannounced visitors to the class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor is allowed to remain in the classroom.

Schedule of Reading Assignments, Quizzes, and Exams:

Week of:

- Jan. 16: Ch. 1- Discover Sociology
Steinbeck: Ch. 1-5
- Jan. 23: Ch. 1- Discover Sociology
Ch. 2 – Discover Sociological Research
Steinbeck: Ch. 6-10
- Jan. 30: Ch. 3 – Culture
Quiz 1: Friday, Feb. 3rd.
- Feb. 6: Ch. 4 – Socialization and Social Interaction
Steinbeck: Ch. 11-13
- Feb. 13: Ch. 5 – Groups, Organizations, and Bureaucracies
Steinbeck: Ch. 14-16
Quiz 2: Friday the 17th.
- Feb. 20: Ch. 6 – Deviance and Social Control
Steinbeck: Ch. 17-20
Deviance Extra Credit due Friday the 24th.
- Feb. 27: **Exam 1: Monday**
Ch. 7 – Social Class and Inequality in the United States
- March 6: Ch. 7 – Social Class and Inequality in the United States
Ch. 8 - Global Inequality and Power
Quiz 3: Friday, March 10th.
- March 13: Spring Break
- March 20: Ch. 9 – Race and Ethnicity
Ch. 10 – Gender and Society
Steinbeck: Ch. 21-23
- March 27: Ch. 11 – Families and Society
Ch. 12 – Education and Society
Ch. 13 – Religion and Society
Steinbeck: Ch. 24-25
Quiz 4: Friday the 31st.
- April 3: **Exam 2: Monday.**
Ch. 15 – Work, Consumption, and the Economy
- April 10: Ch. 15 – Work, Consumption, and the Economy
Ch. 14 – The State, War and Terror
Steinbeck: Ch. 26-27
- April 17: Ch. 17 – Population, Urbanization, and the Environmental
Steinbeck: Ch. 28-30 (finish)
Quiz 5: Friday the 21st.
- April 25: Ch. 18- Social Change and Social Movements
- May 1: Group Project Presentations on Monday and Wednesday
Volunteering Extra Credit Due on Wednesday
Exam 3: Friday, May 5th.