

PPRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY
SOC 1301-05, CID # 81857, 3 Credit Hours, Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Olena Leipnik

Class location and time: online class; no class meetings

Instructor's contacts:

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Phone: (936) 294-4087

Skype: ole.le (co connect, email the instructor first with your account name)

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. It 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 practice sociological imagination and critically investigate social issues and their solutions. 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.

COURSE FORMAT

This is an online course with no class meetings. You are expected to meet with instructor online via Skype whenever you need it or instructor requests. All the assignments are individual, you will be involved in group work for discussions only.

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 impact 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>.

On Blackboard, you can find a tutorial on how to use it, for example, how to set up reminders, take/submit quizzes, read your grades in the gradebook. Particularly, be aware of the "weighted total" option of gradebook. During the semester, it 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 will switch off and the total will be 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 in class for clarification.)

TEXTBOOK

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

The textbook publisher offers supplemental materials available online for no additional cost: <https://edge.sagepub.com/chambliss2e>.

CLASSWORK AND GRADING

Note: All the tests/discussions/quizzes open at 0:30 am and close at 11:59 pm.

Tests. There are three tests each worth 50 points (150 points total), based on the reading materials. Each test contains 25 questions (multiple choice, T/F, and multiple answer) worth two points each. Tests are open book, timed 50 minutes, available for two full days, Thursday and Friday of the week for which they are scheduled. Tests, as well as quizzes and discussions, open and close at midnight.

Quizzes. There are 15 quizzes over book chapters, each available for the whole week, Monday through Friday. Quizzes are untimed and open book. Each quiz contains 5 - 10 questions worth one or two points each. You can earn 150 points for quizzes altogether should you choose to take all of them. You are required, however, to take only 12 quizzes and safely omit three (see the **Grade calculation** below).

Note: To accommodate students, who receive their textbooks later, quizzes 1, 2, and 3 will remain open for a longer period of time and close on September 15.

Video quiz. There is one video quiz over an assigned video worth 10 points and open for the whole week.

Discussions. There are three discussions worth 20 points each (60 points altogether), available for the whole week, Monday through Friday. For the full credit, you need to make at least three posts. Your initial post has to be a mini-essay for up to 500 words, and this post is worth up to 10 points. Two other have to be a response to your classmates' posts, and they are worth up to five points each. Your comments on other students' posts have to be meaningful in nature and not as a socializing mean. For instance, a comment "I agree with you", or even "I agree with your idea that...." will not be awarded points because it merely reproduces the idea published by another student. In order to receive points for a comment, it has to, although refer to other student's idea, still, contain your own. For example: "I agree with you that....., because I think," and so on. You may make as many comments as you wish, but 20 points is the maximum you can get for a discussion.

Grade calculation. If you stay on top of your work and do all of it, you can earn up to 380 points (390 if we count in the syllabus e/c quiz). The grade, however, is calculated on the 350 points scale. This means, you can omit work worth 30 points. For example, you can miss up to three quizzes, or a quiz and a discussion. It is a wiser choice, though, to not miss any work, because all the points you earn are count toward your grade. For instance, if you choose to do all the 15 quizzes and earn 127 points for them, points (150 required – 127 earned =23) become an extra credit.

Grade chart:

- A: 315 – 350 points
- B: 280 – 314 points
- C: 245 – 279 points
- D: 210 – 244 points
- F: 209 points or fewer.

Tracking your grades. It is your responsibility to stay on schedule and do your work timely. Quizzes, video-quizzes, and discussions, and test 3 are not available for a makeup. Tests 1 and 2 are available for make up for a partial credit at the end of the semester; at the same time as test 3 is open.

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 considered a failure to meet the attendance requirements. There is no reduction of points for missed classes, but extra credit points might not be count toward your final grade. You are responsible for tracking your own attendance. 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. Only documented absences are considered authorized.

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 the 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 Syllabus quiz; quiz chapter 1	1
Week 2, Aug 28–Sep 1	Discover sociology Quiz chapter 1	1
Week 3, Sep 4–8	Discover sociological research Quiz chapter 2. Discussion 1	2
Week 4, Sep 11–15	Culture and mass media Quiz chapter 3. Video quiz 1	3
Week 5, Sep 18–22	Socialization and social interaction Quiz chapter 4. Quizzes 1, 2, 3, 4 close.	4
Week 6, Sep 25–29	Groups, organizations, and bureaucracies Quiz chapter 5. Test 1 over chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	5
Week 7, Oct 2–6	Deviance and social control Quiz chapter 6. Discussion 2. Video quiz 2	6
Week 8, Oct 9–13	Social class and inequality in the United States. Global inequality. Quiz chapters 7, 8. Video quiz 3	7, 8
Week 9, Oct 16–20	Work, consumption, and the economy Quiz chapter 15	15
Week 10, Oct 23–27	Race and ethnicity Quiz chapter 9	9
Week 11, Oct 30–Nov 3	Gender, family, and society Quiz chapters 10, 11. Test 2 chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15	10, 11

Week 12, Nov 6–10	Education and society. Religion and society Quiz chapters 12, 13. Discussion 3	12, 13
Week 13, Nov 13-17	Health and medicine Quiz chapter 16	16
Week 14, Nov 20, 21 November 22–24 Thanksgiving break	Population, urbanization, and the environment Quiz chapter 17	17
Week 15, Nov 27–Dec 1	Social movements and social change Quiz chapter 18. Test chapters 12, 13, 16, 17, 18	18
Weeks 16, Dec 4–8	Finals week. There is no final in this class.	-

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