

Sociology 1301 - 08: Principles of Sociology

Fall 2017 : 3 credit hours

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Office Hours: By Appointment only

Required Text:

William J. Chambliss and Daina S. Eglitis, **Discover Sociology** 2nd edition.

ISBN: 978-1-4833-6520-6

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. This course uses the novel “Grapes of Wrath” as a teaching tool to help students apply various sociological concepts to societal events. During the course students will demonstrate basic computer skills such as downloading and sending files and searching the internet.

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

- 1) have a working knowledge of basic sociological concepts and principles.
- 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.

Course Evaluation Methods:

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine a student's grade

Quiz: There will be a total of 10 points for each quiz!

Discussion Forums: Forums will be graded based on the depth of the response. It is a good place to have a respectable debate. You have to provide a thoughtful and insightful response to the given discussion question and also must comment (with insight) on two of your classmates' responses. Please follow due dates for perfect score! Points are distributed in this manner: Your response to the discussion question will score 5points and each of your responses to your classmates' responses will score 2.5pts. (So $5 + 2.5 + 2.5 = 10$). You can respond to as much discussion forum answers but that does not mean that you score more points than the assigned scores.

Exams: Students will have three multiple-choice exams. These three exams will consist of 50 questions worth one point each, totaling 50 points per exam ($50 \times 3 = 150$). Only in cases of emergencies will I give make-ups to students, and only on the day immediately following the exam. It is therefore imperative that students take exams on the scheduled dates. The information on all tests will come from the lectures and slideshows.

GRADING SCALE:

A = 100 – 90%

B = 89 – 80%

C = 79 – 70%

D = 69 – 60%

F = 59% and below

CLASS EXPECTATION

Student Focus: On Blackboard, students will have access to power points, assignments and exams. Because everything is available online, make sure you are in a room without any distractions. **A lot of reading** is what it is going to take for this class. Give 3-5 hours per week to this course without distractions and be certain that your computer is working properly. Similarly to a classroom setting, students need to be focused, especially when taking the exam online. Also, lectures can be lengthy so make sure to take few breaks so you won't feel fatigued.

Online Classroom Etiquettes: An advantage to taking an online course is the anonymity, which gives students the freedom to share opinions without feeling intimidated. Regardless of how bold you may feel, don't forget that a real person is on the receiving end of your emails and/or postings. And sometimes, written language can be misinterpreted. Review your message and make sure it conveys precisely what you mean to say before you click 'send.' Disruptive or intimidating behavior will not be tolerated. Disruptive behavior is defined as anything that prevents students from learning and/or prevents the professor from teaching. Especially in discussion forums, students must be courteous and respectful. Often, the subjects discussed in

social science courses are controversial. To respectfully disagree without contempt is one of the objectives of this class. You have the right to disagree with others, but you are to do so diplomatically.

Discussion Forum Guidelines:

- First and foremost, EVERYONE MUST RESPECT OTHERS, REGARDLESS OF DIFFERING OPINIONS.
- Do not use any vulgar, inappropriate comments or sexual innuendos. No name-calling or blatant disrespect of any group, person or organization.
- Your responses must be written in proper grammar and in complete sentences. No abbreviations such as “u r” or “lol” are allowed. Do not write your postings/responses as if you were text messaging on a cell phone.
- You are allowed to make a comment, reply to a posted comment, or both. Carefully read the comments above and review what you have written before replying. Do not just state ‘I agree’ or I disagree.’ Expand on why you agree or disagree. If relevant, include current events, news articles or videos (as long as it is appropriate).
- When making a comment, do not solicit anything nor post a comment about personal issue unless relevant to the discussion. Discussion forums are purely for academic purpose where we can learn from each other. Late Work: In any case, unless it’s an emergency (such as death in family or hospitalized), late assignments and exams will **NOT** be accepted and you will receive a zero. **Please look at the course outline (syllabus) for discussion assignments due date/time!** To prevent missing deadlines, print out a copy of the ‘Course Outline,’ and place it someplace where you constantly look at.

Course Drop Policy: Even though I reserve the right, *I will not drop you from the course*. It is the student’s responsibility to drop the course for any reason. Please follow the school's policy and withdraw accordingly. Failure to withdraw per school’s policy will result in an **"F"** rather than a **"W"** grade.

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

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. Cell phones observed during examinations will result in an immediate F for that exam. 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/sacs/compliancereport/narratives/documents/3.4.5-SHSU-Syllabus-Guidelines.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 at the very beginning of the semester in order that accommodations can be made to assure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

<http://www.shsu.edu/sacs/compliancereport/narratives/documents/3.4.5-SHSU-Syllabus-Guidelines.pdf>

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 under Section 11.20 of the Tax Code. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding any missed classes due to “Religious Holy Days”.

<http://www.shsu.edu/sacs/compliancereport/narratives/documents/3.4.5-SHSU-Syllabus-Guidelines.pdf>

Classroom Rules 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, iPods, and beepers must be turned off and stowed away while in the classroom. 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.

Course Outline

UNIT 1* <u>Aug 28th – Sept 30th</u> EXAM #1 Sept 19 th – Sept 30 th	Chapter 1 - Quiz Chapter 2 - Discussion (Due: Sept 10, 11:59PM) Chapter 3 - Quiz Chapter 4 - Discussion (Due: Sept 24, 11:59PM) Chapter 5
UNIT 2 <u>Oct 2nd – Oct 28th</u> EXAM #2 Oct 17 th – Oct 28 th	Chapter 6 - Quiz Chapter 7 - Discussion (Due: Oct 8, 11:59PM) Chapter 8 - Quiz Chapter 9 - Discussion (Due: Oct 22, 11:59PM)
UNIT 3 <u>Oct 30th – Dec 2nd</u> EXAM #3 Nov 21 st – Dec 2 nd	Chapter 10 - Quiz Chapter 11 - Discussion (Due: Nov 12, 11:59PM) Chapter 12 - Quiz Chapter 13 - Discussion (Due: Nov 26, 11:59PM)

* Unit 1 starts from August 28th, 2016