

Principles of sociology

SOC 1301 B 1, 3 Credit Hours, Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Olena Leipnik

Class location and time: online class; no class meetings

Instructor's contacts:

Email: soc_ovl@shsu.edu

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-10: 1483365204; ISBN-13: 978-1483365206

The textbook publisher offers supplemental materials available online for no additional cost: <https://edge.sagepub.com/chambliss2e>. These materials contain practice quizzes, flash cards, videos, and other valuable resources, which you are highly recommended to use in addition to reading the chapters. They will help you master the material and perform better on your graded activities. A link to these resources is provided on Blackboard.

CLASSWORK AND GRADING

Note: All quizzes, discussion, and test open at 0:30 am and close at 11:59 pm.

Quizzes. There are 15 quizzes over book chapters, each available Monday through Saturday. 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).

Discussion. There is one discussion in this class worth 30 points. It is planned for the last week of class and opened for the whole week (closes Saturday midnight). 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 30 points is the maximum you can get for a discussion. Note: you cannot omit a discussion; participation in discussion is required.

Test. There is one final test in this class administered during the finals week. The test contains 50 questions over the major terms, theories, and ideas learned in class. The questions are multiple choice and T/F, worth two points each. The test is open book and timed 100 minutes. It will be available for three full days, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Grade calculation. If you stay on top of your work and do all of it, you can earn up to 280 points. The grade, however, is calculated on the 250 points scale. This means, you can omit up to three quizzes that is an equivalent of 30 points. You cannot omit a discussion. It is a wiser choice, though, to not miss any quizzes, because all the points you earn are count toward your grade. For instance, if you choose to do all the 15 quizzes and earn 137 points for them, 17 points (137 earned - 120 required = 17) become an extra credit.

Grade chart:

A: 225 – 250 points

B: 200 – 224 points

C: 175 – 199 points

D: 150 – 174 points

F: 149 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 leaning 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>.

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 Oct 18-21 | Discover sociology | 1 |
| | Discover sociological research | 2 |
| | Quizzes chapters 1, 2 | |
| Week 2 Oct 23-28 | Culture and mass media | 3 |
| | Socialization and social interaction | 4 |
| | Groups, organizations, and bureaucracies | 5 |
| | Quizzes chapter 3, 4, 5 | |
| Week 3 Oct 30-Nov 4 | Deviance and social control | 6 |
| | Social class and inequality in the United States. | 7 |
| | Global inequality. | 8 |
| | Quiz chapters 6, 7, 8 | |
| Week 4 Nov 6 -11 | Race and ethnicity | 9 |
| | Gender, family, and society | 10, 11 |

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| Week 5 Nov 13-18 | Education and society | 12 |
| | Religion and society | 13 |
| Week 6 Nov 20-25 Nov 22-24: Thanksgiving | Work, consumption, and the economy | 15 |
| | Health and medicine | 16 |
| | Quizzes chapters 15, 16 | |
| Week 7 Nov 27-Dec 2 | Population, urbanization, and the environment | 17 |
| | Social movements and social change | 18 |
| | Quizzes chapters 17,18 | |
| | Discussion | |
| | Test preparation. Review of the material | |
| Weeks 16, Dec 4–8 | Test | - |

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