

**SOCI 2301: Principles of Sociology (3 credit hours)**  
**Sam Houston State University: Sociology Department**  
**Spring 2018, Room: CHSS 210**

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**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.

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Upon completion of this course, students will:

- have a working knowledge of basic sociological concepts.
- 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.
- be able to explore behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events.
- be able to examine the impact of these behaviors and interactions on individuals, society and culture.
- 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:**

- Critical Thinking Skills: Students will develop skills to apply different theories and methods to critically analyze social situations.
- Communication Skills: Students will develop skills to develop, interpret and express sociological concepts and ideas in written and oral formats.
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills: Students will develop skills to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- Social Responsibility: Students will develop skills to enhance their intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and engagement in regional, national, and global communities.

**REQUIRED TEXT:** *William J. Chambliss and Daina S. Eglitis, **Discover Sociology**. (3rd edition)*  
Link to an electronic version of the book is available in our Blackboard course .

### **GRADE REQUIREMENTS:**

**This course consists of 500 total points.** Because I offer extra credit, I will NOT “bump” a student’s grade. The grade you earn will be the grade you receive.

447.5 points = 89.5% (A)

397.5 points = 79.5% (B)

347.5 points = 69.5% (C)

297.5 points = 59.5% (D)

297 points or below = F

### **EXAMS**

- In this course, you have FOUR EXAMS, each worth 100 points each.
  - Exams will be conducted in class, and scantrons are required. Each exam will last a full class length, so regardless of students’ timeliness, the exam will begin and close at the regular class times. No exceptions.
  - **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN.** In the event of an excused absence such as a school activity, students may take the exam early. No make-up exams will be given for any reason. In the event that a student experiences an emergency, notice must be provided before the actual exam day arrives, and it must be approved by me.

### **WEEKLY QUIZZES**

- In this course, you have TEN WEEKLY QUIZZES, worth 95 points total.
  - Quizzes will come directly from your text and will include either all multiple choice or true/false, or a combination of the two.
  - All quizzes must be completed by Sunday night at midnight. No late quizzes are accepted— no exceptions. There is the possibility that you may encounter technical issues, so I strongly encourage you to take the quizzes before Sunday night so we may address the problem.

### **DISCUSSION POST**

- During the first week of class, students are required to post in the Introductions discussion forum in our Blackboard shell. This is worth 5 points.

### **EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES**

- I will offer multiple ways to earn extra credit in this course, such as volunteering your time in the community, helping secure supplies for a nonprofit, or watching documentaries/films and writing a paper on them. Those details will be provided for you at a later date and instructions will be posted in Blackboard.

### **ATTENDANCE**

- Attendance in this course is required. Your presence or absence will be recorded in the first 5 minutes of class. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure absences are

excused, and only official documentation will be accepted such as documents from the university, medical personal, courts, etc. Students are responsible for monitoring their absence records, as asking questions like “don’t you remember I was here on that day three weeks ago?!” will not be entertained.

- Students who have **zero** unexcused absences at the end of the semester will receive three points added to their overall course grade.
- Students with **three** or more unexcused absences in the course will lose five points off their overall course grade.
- Students with **five** or more unexcused absences will lose ten points on their overall course grade.
- Students with **seven** or more unexcused absences will automatically fail the course.

## **PERSONAL COMMENTS**

This course will cover social facts and phenomena that may be somewhat controversial in nature. As adult college students, I expect you be open-minded and able to have substantive discussions regarding these matters. If you are unable or feel uncomfortable doing so, you might consider dropping the course. HATE SPEECH WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN THIS COURSE.

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**Visitors in the classroom:** View SHSU’s policy at <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus>.

**AMERICAN 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 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](mailto: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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

**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 which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see Dean of Student's Office.

**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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: /dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf

### **CONTACTING ME**

In the event you need to alert me of late work, technical issues (for which I may or may not be able to help you), or simply want to ask a question, you should first email me at [amp058@shsu.edu](mailto:amp058@shsu.edu).



### **Tentative Schedule Outline (subject to change)**

Date	Assignment
WEEK ONE: Jan. 18	Syllabus day, introductions, Start Chapter 2
WEEK TWO: Jan. 23-25	Chapter 1 and Chapter 2
WEEK THREE: Jan 30-Feb 1	Chapter 2 and Chapter 3
WEEK FOUR: Feb 6-8	Chapter 4
WEEK FIVE: Feb 13-15	***Exam One*** Start Chapter 6
WEEK SIX: Feb 20-22	Chapter 6 and Chapter 5

<b>WEEK SEVEN: Feb 17-Mar 1</b>	Chapter 14 and Chapter 13
<b>WEEK EIGHT: Mar 6-8</b>	Chapter 13 <b>***Exam Two***</b>
<b>WEEK NINE: Mar 13-15</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
<b>WEEK TEN: Mar 20-22</b>	Chapter 9
<b>WEEK ELEVEN: Mar 27-29</b>	Chapter 10
<b>WEEK TWELVE: Apr 3-5</b>	Chapter 11
<b>WEEK THIRTEEN: Apr 10-12</b>	<b>***Exam Three***</b> Chapter 7
<b>WEEK FOURTEEN: Apr 17-19</b>	Chapter 7 and Chapter 17
<b>WEEK FIFTEEN: Apr 24-26</b>	Chapter 17 and Chapter 16
<b>WEEK SIXTEEN: May 1-3</b>	Chapter 18 <b>***Exam Four*** (In the event that we are running behind, exam four will be moved to the following week during standard finals week)</b>

HAVE A FABULOUS SUMMER!

