

SOCI 1301
Introduction to Sociology

Credit: 3

Contact Hours: 45

Class Days: Monday to Friday, June 29th, 2020 to July 31st, 2020

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

Office Hours:By appointment

Course Description

Sociology is the systematic study of human social actions and interactions. Its basis is the understanding of human behavior as social beings. Sociology not only can be turned into social policies and interventions, but it also enables individual to think imaginatively and to detach from existing preconceived ideas about society and social relationships.

This course will introduce the students to the analysis of social issues and interactions, as well as to the methods and main concepts of the discipline. Empirical researches will provide different insights of Western societies, and contemporary social and cultural issues..

Course Objectives

The students in this course will:

1. Understand how sociological theory and research add to our knowledge of human societies and social issues.
2. Understand the main concepts, issues, theoretical perspectives, and methods used in the discipline.
3. Develop understanding of the relationship between the individual and society. Be able to elaborate a critical point of view on social structures and systemic forces.
4. Deepen their understanding of Western culture and analyze other societies from the viewpoint of cultural relativism: recognizing that every culture is unique and valid rather than judging cultural variations from an ethnocentric perspective.
5. Appreciate the importance of empirical evidence to support arguments and assertions. Combine theoretical aspect, classical and contemporary sociological concepts with the real life.

6. Be able to apply sociological insights to real-life situations, challenge common-sense explanations, and analyze and interpret facts and data that they encounter in the media.
7. Develop a critical perspective in order to deconstruct the taking-for-granted culture and analyze the evolution of societies, focusing on crucial concepts like tradition/ modernity, industrialization, urbanization and migration.

Course Materials

Sociology. The Basics (2016). John Macionis, 14th Edition. Pearson, Prentice Hall.

Tentative Course Schedule

Please note that the schedule is meant to give an overview of the major concepts this Course will cover. Changes may occur in this calendar as needed to aid in the students' development..

Date	Required Readings	Assignment Due Dates
June 29	Introduction to the Course	
June 30	Chapter 1 – Sociology: Perspective, Theory and Method	
July 1 - 2	Chapter 2 – Culture	
July 3	Chapter 2 – Culture	
July 6	Debate and discussion	First “takeaway from assigned readings”
July 7	Chapter 3 – Socialization: From Infancy to Old Age	Presentation of the topic chosen for the final essay
July 8 - 9	Chapter 4 – Social Interaction in Everyday Life	
July 10	Chapter 4 – Social Interaction in Everyday Life	
July 13	Chapter 5 – Groups and Organizations	
July 14 - 15		Second “takeaway from assigned readings”
July 16	Chapter 6 – Sexuality and Society	Presentation of three documents selected for the final essay
July 17	Chapter 6 – Sexuality and Society	

July 20 - 21	Chapter 7 – Deviance	
July 22 - 23	Chapter 8 – Social Stratification	
July 24	Debate and discussion	Third “takeaway from assigned readings”
July 27	Chapter 10 – Gender Stratification	
July 28 - 29	Chapter 10 – Gender Stratification	
July 30	Chapter 11 – Race and Ethnicity	
July 31	Chapter 11 – Race and Ethnicity	

Course Grading Policies

Your final grade of this course will be calculated as follows:

Weekly takeaway	40%
Final Written Assignment (Essay)	40%
<u>Participation in class</u>	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

Course Assignment, Examination, and or Project Policies

There are TWO kinds of assignments that make up your final grade.

(1) *Before every Friday*, each student must prepare what will be referred to as their “weekly takeaway from assigned reading”. Each student must select two topics from at least two of the chapters assigned for reading during the week, and must think about what they have learned from these selected topics and how these have made them reconsider preconceived notions or ideas they had prior to joining the summer school.

During the class, all the students will present their “takeaway”, which will then be used as a basis for group discussions and debates.

This assignment will represent 40% of the final grade.

(2) *The written final assignment* will be in an essay format. Each student will choose a social issue related to one of the classes; and will gather on the internet three documents related to this chosen topic. The documents can be research articles, reports from international organizations as well as small videos and documentaries. The essay will consist in analyzing the gathered documents and mobilize their data as well as

the concepts that have emerged during the classes, to propose some elements of critical analysis of the chosen topic.

Students will be asked to present their chosen topic on July 8th, and the three selected documents on July 15th. During the fourth week (July 22nd to 26th) each student will come for an individual meeting with the professor (during office hours) in order to report about the progress made in writing their essay. All these steps will be taken into account in grading the final assignment.

The essay must be between 5 and 7 pages long, double-spaced. It will represent 40% of the final grade.

(3) Participation in class. 20% of the grade will come from participation of students during the class and especially during the discussions and debates organized each Friday.

Class participation is essential! You are expected to attend all (attendance will be taken every class period), to complete all the required readings before class meetings, to watch all the videos that are shown in the class, and to participate actively in class discussions and activities on the basis of thoughtful engagement with lectures, readings and videos.

Please note the class start time. As a matter of courtesy to both the instructor and to fellow students you are asked to arrive promptly, and not to make a habit of entering the classroom after class is under way.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Grade Percentage
A	90% - 100%
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	59% - 0%

Academic Integrity

All work must be completed individually unless otherwise stated. Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute scholastic dishonesty: acquiring or providing information for any assigned work or examination from any unauthorized source; informing any person or persons of the contents of any examination prior to the time the exam is given in any subsequent sections of the course or as a makeup; plagiarism; submission of

a paper or project that is substantially the same for two courses unless expressly authorized by the instructor to do so. For more information, see the Code of Student Life.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (Code of Student Life). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. Inappropriate behavior may result in disciplinary action or referral to the University's Behavioral Intervention Team. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Attendance Policy

For the purposes of learning assessment and strategic planning, all students enrolled in Core Curriculum or developmental courses at West Texas A&M University must attend each class/lab meeting. Any students with more than three unexcused absences will automatically fail the course.

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