SFASU DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL & CULTURAL ANALYSIS

SOCIOLOGY 137.004  12:30-1:45 PM TTH  Classroom Location: F 478

Instructor:          Dr. J.B. Watson, Jr.  
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Office Hours:
M  10 AM - 12 NOON
T  10:30 AM - 12:30 PM; 1:45 - 3:15 PM
W  10 AM - 12 NOON

*AVAILABLE ON OTHER DAYS/TIMES BY APPOINTMENT

       2. Other readings as assigned.

Course Description and Objectives
SOC 137: Introduction to Sociology (SOCI 1301) - General examination of culture, socialization, roles, values, social inequalities, population, social institutions, and social change.

This course is designed to expose you to the sociological perspective in terms of the major theories, research methods, & concepts of the field. The following Sociology Dept. learning objectives are also relevant for this class:

PLO1. The student will be able to identify, compare, and contrast sociological classical and contemporary theories.

PLO2. The student will be able to identify the principles of good social scientific research design. Such principles include validity, reliability, precision in measurement, and sampling methodology.

PLO3. The student will possess sociological knowledge as evidenced by the identification of the major concepts involved with social stratification, demography, race and ethnic relations, deviance, and globalization.

PLO4. The student will be able to apply sociological knowledge and skills to a variety of settings.

PLO5. The student will recognize the implicit assumptions behind claims of knowledge about the social world, will be able to evaluate and distinguish between strong and weak arguments, and will be able to draw conclusions from a set of premises.

PLO6. The student will be able to read theoretical arguments and to identify their major strengths and weaknesses.

Student Learning Outcomes
Student learning outcomes for this class include (but are not limited to):

1. Students will possess knowledge of the history of Sociology as an academic discipline.
2. Students will be able to identify distinctive features of the field of Sociology that set it apart from related basic and applied academic disciplines.

3. Students will be able to identify, compare, and contrast the three major sociological theories to diverse social
phenomena.
4. Students will be able to identify the principles of good sociological research. Such principles include common criteria for choice of research method, validity, reliability, and research ethics.
5. Students will possess sociological knowledge as evidenced by the identification of the major concepts involved with an understanding of major social institutions, including religion, the marriage/family system, the economic system, and the political order.
6. Students will be able to apply sociological knowledge and skills to a variety of settings & develop a “sociological imagination.”
7. Students will possess sociological knowledge of contemporary social trends.

Program Learning Outcomes

This course addresses the following of these objectives:

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Exemplary Educational Objectives (Core Courses Only)

The Higher Education Coordinating Board Requires Certain Exemplary Educational Objectives to be taught in core courses. Not all objectives are to be covered in every course.

EEO1. To employ the appropriate methods, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.

EEO2. To examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures.

EEO3. To use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.

EEO4. To develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

EEO5. To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the area under study.

EEO6. To comprehend the origins and evolution of U.S. and Texas political systems, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the constitutions of the U.S. and Texas, federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights.

EEO7. To understand the evolution and current role of the U.S. in the world.

EEO8. To differentiate and analyze historical evidence (documentary and statistical) and differing points of view.

EEO9. To recognize and apply reasonable criteria for the acceptability of historical evidence and social research.
EEO10. To analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions to public policy problems.

EEO11. To recognize and assume one's responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for oneself, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy.

EEO12. To identify and understand differences and commonalities within diverse cultures.

This course addresses the following of these exemplary educational objectives:

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Grading:

A. **A 10-point grading scale** is in effect in this course. Any allocation of “bonus points” to an assignment or an exam is at the discretion of the instructor. Typically, additional points are added **only** when the class average is below 70. Exams are not “automatically” curved to produce a certain number of A’s & B’s, etc.

**Withheld Grade Policy** - Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

B. **Exams (90%):** Three exams will be given during the semester and each exam is 30% of your course grade. Exams will cover the assigned reading and lectures. Tests will be closed-book, in-class, and the format will be objective and subjective questions. **Do not expect class lectures to cover all significant aspects of the topic.** The amount of class time available in a given week is inadequate to cover all class material that you are responsible for on a specific exam. **It is therefore your responsibility to read the textbook chapters in a timely manner, attend class regularly, & take careful notes.** It is useful to think of the text and lecture as separate “learning paths.” Your ongoing daily-focused effort will impact your grade in this course. **Remember that major exams cover 100% of the lecture material, and 100% of the text material.** Typically, a review sheet is distributed during class
prior to an exam. There is no final exam in this class - only the 3 major exams. The third exam is given at the class final exam time.

**Tentative exam dates are:**
Exam 1- Thursday, September 27
Exam 2- Thursday, November 1
Exam 3- Tuesday, December 11, 10:30 AM (Final Exam Time)

Make-up exams will be given during Dead Week. If you miss an exam for any reason, please plan to take the exam during this time. Please schedule the make-up with the instructor before Dead Week. The format of make-ups may change.

C. **Daily Work (10%)**: Selected daily assignments will be given during the semester. Examples include chapter quizzes (e.g., 3-4 total), in-class assignments, or group exercises/assignments.

D. **Class Attendance**: Regular and punctual class attendance is extremely important, so that you may gain exposure to course material to the fullest extent possible. Class discussions provide a valuable opportunity for “peer teaching,” as class members contribute to scholarly discourse. **There are no “excused” absences in this course.** Grade reductions may be made for excessive absences, i.e., four (4) or more classes. Points may be deducted from the Daily Average for 4 or more absences. Attendance may be also be weighted in determining final “borderline” grades. Absences related to late registration, drop/add, or advising, or conducting business at a university office counts in the total. Class meets on a regular schedule immediately before and after University holidays. There is no provision for “making up” an absence. Points may be added to the Daily Average for “good attendance,” e.g., 2 or fewer total absences. Lecture notes are not available from the instructor should you miss class; contact a fellow class member in such situation if you need “complete” notes.

E. **Other Important Matters**:

**Use of Cell Phones & Other Electronic Devices:** No use of cell phones or other electronic devices (e.g., ipods, headphones/ear buds, blackberries, etc.) is allowed during class, including text messaging. **Use of notebook computers is allowed for note-taking**, but the sound should be turned off during class (no headphones). Students may not play games, send/check e-mail, etc. during class. **There is only one exception in regard to cell phone use.** If you have some type of pending “emergency” (e.g., you are anticipating a call about a sick child, etc.), please inform the instructor prior to the beginning of class. In any other circumstance, you may not check voice messages or exit the classroom to take a cell phone call. If you have a pressing need to check your phone, you must exit the class & not return. **This rule is in place to avoid disruptions during class.**

**Written Communication Skills:** In a Liberal Arts course, students should possess adequate written communication skills. As a minimum standard, spelling/grammatical errors, or other writing problems (on any work in the course) may result in a grade reduction, with a 20-point maximum per assignment/exam for writing-related errors.

**Accommodation for Disabilities:** To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For
additional information, go to: http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**Cheating and Plagiarism**: Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty** - Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

The availability of the Internet is a double-edged sword: it greatly assists in the research process, but it is a tempting source of seemingly “ready-made” information. When a student uses three (3) or more words from another source without proper attribution, it is generally considered plagiarism. Cheating & plagiarism, including failing to properly attribute work, is a serious breach of academic integrity & can lead to failure on an assignment.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

**Tentative Course Calendar**

Note: Typically, one-two class meetings will be devoted to each chapter.

**Week of 8-27-12**
1. Understanding Our Social World: The Scientific Study of Society

**Week of 9-3-12**
2. Examining the Social World: How Do We Know?

**Week of 9-10-12**
3. Society and Culture: Hardware and Software of Our Social World

**Week of 9-17-12**
5. Interaction, Groups, and Organizations: Connections That Work

**Week of 9-24-12**
5. Interaction, Groups, and Organizations: Connections That Work (Continued)

**EXAM #1: Thursday, September 27**

**Week of 10-1-12**
4. Socialization: Becoming Human and Humane

**Week of 10-8-12**
10. Family: Partner Taking, People Making, and Contract Breaking

Week of 10-15-12
6. Deviance and Social Control: Sickos, Perverts, Freaks, and Folks Like Us
7. Stratification: Rich and Famous - or Rags and Famine?

Week of 10-22-12
7. Stratification: Rich and Famous - or Rags and Famine? (Continued)
8. Race and Ethnic Group Stratification: Beyond “We” and “They”

Week of 10-29-12
8. Race and Ethnic Group Stratification: Beyond “We” and “They” (Continued)

EXAM #2: Thursday, November 1

Week of 11-5-12
9. Gender Stratification: She/He - Who Goes First?

Week of 11-12-12

Week of 11-19-12

Week of 11-26-12
13. Population and Health: Living on Spaceship Earth

Week of 12-3-12
14. The Process of Change: Can We Make a Difference?

EXAM #3: Tuesday, December 11, 10:30 AM (Final Exam Time)

Selected Quotes Related to Sociology

I think of the old slavery, and of the way the economy has now improved upon it. The new slavery has improved upon the old by giving the new slaves the illusion that they are free. The economy does not take people's freedom by force, which would be against its principles, for it is very humane. It buys their freedom, pays for it, and then persuades its money back again with shoddy goods and the promise of freedom. "Buy a car," it says, "and be free. Buy a boat and be free. Buy a beer and be free." Is this not the raw material of bad dreams? Or is it maybe the very nightmare?

Wendell Berry in Jayber Crow

Our society's values are being corrupted by advertising's insistence on the equation: Youth equals popularity, popularity equals success, and success equals happiness.”

John Fisher

A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.

Greek proverb
In a consumer society, there are inevitably two kinds of slaves: the prisoners of addiction & the prisoners of envy.
Ivan Illich

Marriage is an adventure, like going to war.
G.K. Chesterton

Marriage is a duel to the death which no man of honor should decline.
G.K. Chesteron

The negative side to globalization is that it wipes out entire economic systems and in doing so wipes out the accompanying culture.
Peter L. Berger

As social beings we live with our eyes upon our reflection, but have no assurance of the tranquility of the waters in which we see it.
Charles Horton Cooley

The imaginations which people have of one another are the solid facts.
Charles Horton Cooley

When one ceases from conflict, whether because he has won, because he has lost, or because he cares no more for the game, the virtue passes out of him.
Charles Horton Cooley