Stephen F. Austin State University
Introduction to Sociology
Sociology 137-001
Summer II 2016
07/12/2016 – 08/12/2016

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Class Location: TE Ferguson Liberal Arts G78
Class Time: M-Th, 10:00am – 12:pm

Course Description

General examination of culture, socialization, roles, values, social inequalities, population, social institutions, and social change.

In this course, we will work toward understanding the social worlds in which we live. This is an introductory course. The goal is to introduce you to foundational knowledge and a wide variety of sociological topics; and to better understand how these apply to your everyday life. In short, this course is an exploration of ourselves as much as it is an exploration of sociology.

Importantly, the matters we will discuss in this course necessarily intersect with social structures, going concerns, and individuals. Moreover, conceptualizations of these are not static, but change over time, across cultures, and in relation to power. Thus, part of our interest will be in understanding the relativity the individual and society, dominant power structures, and how these affect everyday lives.

This course is designed to be accessible to non-sociology majors (although my goal is for you to be a sociology major/minor by the end of the semester!). I expect you to read the course materials in advance, participate in course discussions (individually and as a group), and contribute to the overall intellectual atmosphere of the class and university.

Remember: this is not my class, it is our class. Again, your success in this course largely depends upon preparation and participation. By this I am asking: do you read, show up for class, take notes, contribute to the intellectual atmosphere, and prepare for the exams? I will provide you with the tools you need for success, but you must use them.

General Education Core Curriculum
This course has been selected to be part of Stephen F. Austin State University’s core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

Assessment of these objectives at SFA will be based on student work from all core curriculum courses. This student work will be collected in D2L through LiveText, the assessment management system selected by SFA to collect student work for core assessment. LiveText accounts will be provided to all students enrolled in core courses through the university technology fee. You will be required to register your LiveText account, and you will be notified how to register your account through your SFA e-mail account. If you forward your SFA e-mail to another account and do not receive an e-mail concerning LiveText registration, please be sure to check your junk mail folder and your spam filter for these e-mails. If you have questions about LiveText call Ext. 1267 or e-mail SFALiveText@sfasu.edu.

The chart below indicates the core objectives addressed by this course, the assignment(s) that will be used to assess the objectives in this course and uploaded to LiveText this semester, and the date the assignment(s) should be uploaded to LiveText. Not every assignment will be submitted to LiveText every semester. Your instructor will notify you which assignment(s) must be submitted for assessment in LiveText this semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Title</th>
<th>Date Due in LiveText</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>No assignment collected during summer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>No assignment collected during summer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
<td>No assignment collected during summer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
<td>No assignment collected during summer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>No assignment collected during summer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Social Responsibility
To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

No assignment collected during summer

Core Curriculum Objectives

SOC 137 satisfies the university core curriculum requirement for three semester hours in the social and behavioral sciences. It supports four core curriculum learning objectives:

A. Critical Thinking Skills including creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
B. Communication Skills including effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
C. Empirical and Quantitative Skills including the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
D. Social Responsibility including intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Program Learning Outcomes

SOC 137 is a required course in the Sociology Program for majors and minors. It supports the following program learning outcomes:

1. The student will be able to identify, compare, and contrast sociological classical and contemporary theories.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The student will be able to apply sociological knowledge and skills to a variety of settings.
5. 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.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to do the following things at a basic level:

- Identify, compare, and contrast sociological classical and contemporary theories.
• Identify the principles of good social scientific research design. Such principles include validity, reliability, precision in measurement, and sampling methodology.
• Identify the major concepts involved with social stratification, demography, race and ethnic relations, deviance, and globalization.
• Apply sociological knowledge and skills to a variety of settings.
• Recognize the implicit assumptions behind claims of knowledge about the social world, evaluate and distinguish between strong and weak arguments, and draw conclusions from a set of premises.
• Demonstrate critical thinking skills including inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
• Demonstrate communication skills including effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written communication and effective interpretation of oral and visual communication.
• Demonstrate empirical and quantitative skills including the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
• Demonstrate social responsibility through awareness of cultural similarities and differences, understanding of civic responsibility, and knowledge of social issues necessary to effectively participate in regional, national, and global communities.

Course Goals

• Students will recognize, define, and understand core issues related to sociology
• Students will articulate the reflexive relationship between individuals and society
• Students will use micro and macro level perspectives to understand different perspectives of sociological research
• Students will describe how taken for granted portrayals of society (re)produce and challenge existing forms of social inequality
• Students will define theory and its role in building sociological knowledge
• Students will understand the role of qualitative and quantitative data in constructing analytic arguments
• Students will articulate micro and macro level perspectives
• Students will hone their analytic skills to understand power relations in social relationships

Assignments

Exams
There will be two exams comprised of multiple choice and/or essay questions. Questions will be drawn from course lectures, discussion, and readings. (3 exams x 100 points = 300 points)

Makeup exams
Make up exams are permitted with proper documentation and are to be scheduled with the instructor. You must contact the instructor within ONE WEEK after missing an exam or forfeit the opportunity to make it up.

*Attendance and Participation*
Students are expected to attend each class, be prepared, and contribute to the intellectual atmosphere of the University. *(20 classes x 5 points = 100 points)*

*Academic Integrity (A-9.1)*

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.

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

*Text and Materials*


*Course Requirements*

*Exams*
There will be two exams comprised of multiple choice and/or essay questions. Questions will be drawn from course lectures, discussion, and readings. *(3 exams x 100 points = 300 points)*

*Makeup exams*
Make up exams are permitted with proper documentation and are to be scheduled with the instructor. You must contact the instructor within ONE WEEK after missing an exam or forfeit the opportunity to make it up.

**Attendance and Participation**

Attendance and participation are, essentially, free points. In other words, this is a form of extra credit and you should take advantage of it. The best way to earn points is to show up and participate in the class discussion. Read the material, take notes on it, and come to class ready to contribute. You must be on time and stay the entire class period to receive full credit. *(5 points for each per class x 20 classes = 100 points)*

**Course Calendar**

**Week 1**
Tuesday – Course Introduction
Wednesday – Chapter 1 The Sociological Perspective
Thursday – Chapter 1

**Week 2**
M – Chapter 1
T – Chapter 2 Culture
W – Chapter 3 Socialization
Th – Chapter 4 Social Structure and Social Interaction

**Week 3**
M – Chapter 4
T – **Exam # 1**
W – Chapter 5 Social Groups and Formal Organizations
Th – Chapter 6 Social Control and Deviance

**Week 4**
M – Chapter 7 Social Stratification
T – Chapter 8 Race and Ethnicity
W – Chapter 8
Th – **Exam # 2**

**Week 5**
M – Chapter 10 Family and Intimate Relationships
T – Chapter 11 Education
W – Chapter 12 Religion
Th – Chapter 12
F – **Exam # 3**
Grading Policy

Attendance and Participation 100 (25%)
Exam #1 100 (25%)
Exam #2 100 (25%)
Exam #3 100 (25%)
Total 400 points

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is required (it’s easier to learn when you are here). Students who miss class will miss substantial amounts of information. Since this class meets a finite number of times absences are strongly discouraged. If a student must miss class it is the responsibility of that student to contact the teacher or another student to make arrangements to makeup missed work. Absences will result in an automatic reduction in a student’s participation/attendance grade (5 points per absence).

Please do not come to class consistently late. This is disruptive to your fellow students. You will lose at least half of your attendance and participation points for the days you are late (2.5 points per late arrival).

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

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.

Students with 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/.