Prelude: Welcome to SOC 137, Intro to Sociology. Sociology offers a unique framework for analyzing & understanding our increasingly global world & your role in a changing world. Ideas shape the world & Sociology provides a set of ideas via its concepts, frameworks, theories, & research methods that can enhance your understanding of a social reality that transcends individuals.

Instructor: Dr. J.B. Watson, Jr.  
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Office: LA North 333

Office Hours*:  
M 12-1 pm; 3:45-4:45 pm
T 1:45-4:15 pm
W 12:30-1 pm
*Other days/times available by appointment

Phone: Office - (936) 468-2000  
Dept. Phone - (936) 468-4405 (8-5 M-F)

Office: LA North 335  
(Mailbox location to leave a message 8-5 M-F)

2. Other readings as assigned.

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

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO’s) for SOC 137
At the end of this course, students should be able to:

SLO #1 - think sociologically
SLO #2 - “bracket” or set aside common-sense knowledge about the social world.
SLO #3 - see the individual in social context
SLE #4 - understand social structural explanations of social problems
SLE #5 - consider, for the individual, freedom & security are incompatible
SLE #6 - demonstrate a basic understanding of sociological theory
SLE #7 - appreciated the “constructedness” of social reality
SLE #8 - identify the principles of good research design
SLE #9 - communicate effectively in a social science context

General Education Core Curriculum
The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six core learning objectives: 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.

SOC 137 is a general education core curriculum course and fulfills one or more of the general education core curriculum requirement. Another, “shell” course has been created to collect student artifacts to meet this state requirement. You will see this course on your D2L list.

During this semester, you will receive an assignment that fulfills both the requirements of this course and the needs of Stephen F. Austin State University’s Core Curriculum Assessment Plan with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

When you complete this one assignment, you need to upload the assignment to both the SOC 137 dropbox and the core objective dropbox.

Please note that this only applies to the specific assignment listed in the matrix below. All other assignments should be submitted according to regular class operations.

If you have any questions, please see your instructor or contact the University Assessment Specialist at (936) 468-1267 or jstringfield@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 the D2L dropbox this semester, and the date the assignment(s) should be uploaded to the D2L dropbox. Not every assignment will be submitted for core assessment every semester. Your instructor will notify you which assignment(s) must be submitted for assessment in the D2L core objective dropbox.

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<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Title</th>
<th>Date Due in D2L</th>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
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<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>
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<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with</td>
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others to support a shared purpose or goal.

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<th>Personal Responsibility</th>
<th>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
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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 may be added only when the class average is below 70 on a major exam. Exams are not “automatically” curved to produce a certain number of A’s & B’s, etc.

**Withheld Grades Policy**: At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, 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, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. Full details on the SFA Withheld Grades Policy is available here: [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf)

B. **Exams (Total=100%)**: Three exams will be given during the semester and each exam is one-third 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 fully 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 positively 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 - Monday, February 19
- Exam 2 - Wednesday, March 28
- Exam 3 - Wednesday, May 9, 1 pm (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. The exact time for the make-up session will be announced in class.
C. **Applied Sociology Bonus Reports:** Bonus exercises may be assigned connected to relevant course topics. Handouts about these projects will be provided at class & will not be available on D2L. Bonus assignments may not be turned in after the due date or “made up.”

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., three (3) or more classes. Points may be deducted from your final average for 3 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 class 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:** The following issues are also important in this academic course.

**Use of Cell Phones & Other Electronic Devices:** Only limited of cell phones or similar electronic devices (e.g., ipods, headphones/ear buds, blackberries, etc.) is allowed during class. **Use of notebook computers & tablets is allowed for note-taking, but sound should be turned off during class (& no headphone use).** Students may not play games, send/check e-mail, etc. 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/

**Academic Integrity:**
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*
*Typically, class lectures will cover 1 to 1½ chapters per week

January 16 - February 19
  Chapter:

  1. Thinking Like a Sociologist.
  2. Examining Our Social World.
  3. Culture.
  5. Social Interaction and Social Structure.

EXAM #1: Monday, February 19

February 20 - March 28:
  Chapter:

  4. Socialization.
  12. Families and Aging.
  7. Deviance, Crime, and the Criminal Justice System.
  10. Race and Ethnicity.

EXAM #2: Wednesday, March 28
March 29 - May 9
Chapter:

9. Gender and Sexuality.

13. Education and Religion.


11. The Economy and Politics.


EXAM #3: Wednesday, May 9, 1 pm (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. Chesterton

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

We must beware the revenge of the starved senses, the embittered animal in its prison.”
J.B. Priestley

Crime, family dissolution, welfare, and low levels of social organization are fundamentally a consequence of the disappearance of work.
William Julius Wilson

It is always the same: once you are liberated, you are forced to ask who you are.
Jean Baudrillard