SOCIOLOGY 137.006  11 TTH  Classroom Location: McGee Business #343

Instructor:  Dr. J.B. Watson, Jr.  
Associate Professor of Sociology  
& Coordinator, Gerontology Program

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Office Hours:  
M 3:45 - 4:45 pm  
T 9 - 11 am  
T 1:45 - 3:45 pm  
Other days/times available by appointment

Text:  
   Important Note: You will not need online access to the student resources provided by the publisher, so it is OK to purchase a used textbook without access codes from the publisher, etc.

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.

Time Requirement: SOC137.006, Introduction to Sociology (3 credits; face-to-face format), spans 15 weeks & Final Exam Week (total=16 weeks). This course contains extensive written content from the textbook & other assigned readings. Students attend class for 2.5 hours per week. Both required textbook reading & lectures provide coverage of key concepts, theories, & methods in the field of Sociology. In addition, occasional bonus assignments may be made that require additional out-of-class time. As a general rule, students should expect to spend at least two hours outside of class for every hour a student attends class each week, expending effort to learn class material, drawing from both textbook and lecture materials).

Sociology Program Assessment Details (Course: Sociology 137):  
Program Learning Outcomes  
The Sociology Program states the following items as program learning objectives (PLOs) for Sociology majors.

PLOs  
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.
6. The student will be able to read theoretical arguments and to identify their major strengths and weaknesses.
7. The student will be able to analyze a data set using statistical techniques and draw conclusions from the results.

This course addresses the following of these objectives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Learning Objective</th>
<th>Supported by Course Objective (Student Learning Outcome) #, or NA – Not applicable</th>
<th>Skill Level (Basic, Intermediate, Advanced)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLO 1</td>
<td>1, 5, 6, 7</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO 2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO 3</td>
<td>3, 4</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO 4</td>
<td>4, 5</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO 5</td>
<td>3, 5, 7</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
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<td>PLO 6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO 7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 collected for assessment 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills (CR)</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills (C)</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQ)</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
<td>Sociology 137 Data Analysis Project: Understanding Population Aging*</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>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility (SR)</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required Class Assessment Project**: A class assessment project to assess empirical and quantitative skills (EQ), entitled, “Sociology 137 Data Analysis Project: Understanding Population Aging” will be required for this class. This project is described in more detail below in the Grading Section.

**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
B. **Exams** (Total=100 %): Three (3) 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. Exams also cover the assigned readings from the text. 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 on learning class material will positively impact your grade in this course. Remember that major exams cover 100% of the lecture material and 100% of the text material. There is no final exam in this class - only the 3 major exams. The third exam may be given at the class final exam time. Typically, a review sheet is distributed at class prior to an exam.

**Tentative exam dates are:**
- Exam 1 - Thursday, February 21
- Exam 2 - Thursday, April 4
- Exam 3 - Tuesday, May 14, 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. The exact time for the make-up session will be announced in class.

C. **Required empirical and quantitative skills (EQ) project, entitled, “Sociology 137 Data Analysis Project: Understanding Population Aging”**: The purpose of this project is to demonstrate basic empirical & quantitative skills utilized in the field of Sociology, & to determine to what extent an aging population presents an economic challenge to modern societies. This project will be turned in via Dropbox on DTL sometime by the end of Dead Week (detailed instructions provided by the instructor).

**Important Note:** This project is a required class activity. Once it is completed, you will receive bonus points added to one or more exam grades. The full details on this project will be covered in class will be covered sometime after the first two weeks of classes. Follow this link to access materials needed for the project: [http://jerry.williamspage.net/population.htm](http://jerry.williamspage.net/population.htm)

D. **Experiential Sociology Bonus Assignments:** Written bonus exercises/activities may be assigned during the semester, connected to relevant course topics. Handouts about these projects will be provided at class & will not be available on D2L. Bonus reports may not be turned in after the due date or “made up” (should you miss a bonus assignment announced in class).

E. **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 on course topics. 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 count in the total. Class meets on a regular schedule immediately before and after University holidays. There is no provision for “making up” an absence. Also, bonus points may be added to the class average for “good attendance” - e.g., 2 or fewer total absences. Lecture outlines are available from the instructor should you miss class & are usually available at the next class meeting. Please note that class lecture outlines may not include all material that you will be responsible for on a major exam.
F. **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 is allowed during class. Use of notebook computers & tablets is allowed for notetaking, but sound should be turned off during class & no headphone use is allowed during class. Students may not text, play online/video games, search the Internet, send/check e-mail, etc. during class. Students may not call attention to information on their personal electronic device to a fellow student. During class, the instructor may respectfully request that individual students refrain from the aforementioned activities. Please keep in mind that these prohibitions are in place because they are disruptive & not in keeping with the social purpose of this academic classroom: to examine ideas that can serve as a framework to help you understand the world in new ways via the academic discipline of Sociology.

**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.

**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/](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](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)
Tentative Course Calendar*

*Typically, class lectures will cover 1 to 1 ½ chapters per week

January 22 - February 21, 2019
Chapter:

1. Thinking Like a Sociologist.
3. Culture (Core Objective: Social Responsibility).
5. Groups, Organizations, and Institutions (Core Objective: Teamwork).

EXAM #1: Thursday, February 21

February 22 - April 4, 2019
Chapter:

4. Socialization.
12. Families and Aging (Core Objective: Personal Responsibility).
10. Race and Ethnicity.

EXAM #2: Thursday, April 4

April 5 - May 14, 2019
Chapter:

9. Gender and Sexuality.
13. Education and Religion.
11. The Economy and Politics (Core Objective: Critical Thinking Skills).


EXAM #3: Tuesday, May 14, 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. 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