

SOC 1310 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of the basic concepts in sociology including social organization, culture, socialization, groups, and human population leading to the development of a sociological perspective of human behavior. SOCI 1310 and 3300 may not both be counted for credit.

COURSE GOALS

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- demonstrate knowledge of concepts related to social structure and social action: societal prerequisites, social institutions, stratification, deviance, and their own contributions to the creation and maintenance of order in society;
- apply a “sociological imagination” for analyzing human behavior, articulating their own sociological imagination;
- present an overview of basic sociological concepts and theories;
- describe the implications of living in a multicultural society;
- develop an enthusiasm for sociology as a way of perceiving the world while fostering their own tolerance for cultures different from their own;
- investigate human behavior through the exploration of social research;
- apply the concepts of sociology in the work world;
- participate in open, non-judgmental discussion about social events while applying a “sociological imagination”;
- discuss culture, prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping relative to tolerance;
- develop a personal enthusiasm for sociology as a way of understanding the world;
- explain social forces (class, race, ethnicity, gender, ability, sexual orientation) that affect life in the United States, which produce the beliefs and patterns of interaction that comprise the American way of life; and
- think critically about the sociological aspects of the world we live in, setting aside personal beliefs and values in order to view the world through a scientific lens.

COURSE MATERIALS

Croteau, D., and Hoynes, W. (2013). *Experience Sociology*. McGraw-Hill. New York, NY. ISBN: 978-0-07-319353-3

ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS, AND GRADING

Your grade will be based on eight assignments and two exams. *You must make a grade of 60% or higher on the final exam in order to pass this course.* Grades are based on a 400-point scale which breaks down as follows:

Assignments: 200 points (8 @ 25 points each)

Midcourse Exam: 100 points

Final Exam: 100 points

The exams will consist of 70 multiple-choice questions worth one point apiece. The remaining 30 points will consist of short answer essay questions.

The grading scale is as follows:

- A: 360-400 points (90-100%)
- B: 320-359 points (80-89%)
- C: 280-319 points (70-79%)
- D: 240-279 points (60-69%)
- F: fewer than 240 points (59% or less)

COMMUNICATION POLICIES

Email

As the instructor for this correspondence course, I have organized the materials in such a way as to facilitate learning. I endeavor to be available to my students' intellectual and emotional needs, and I am always open to hearing those needs. I believe that every student in every class has the intelligence and ability to be successful. Students have responsibilities for the class to fully engage their reading, to be open to new ideas, and to demonstrate their knowledge of course concepts and terms. Success in this course can be secured by regularly reflecting on course materials and readings. With this understanding, I am open to your questions, and I am willing to correspond with you when necessary. The best way to contact me is through email. I check email regularly, and I will respond to email in a reasonable amount of time. My goal is to respond to students' emails the same day they are delivered. However, on occasion, it may take up three workdays for me to reply to emails. Should you wish to contact me, my email address is mw39@txstate.edu.

Discussion Forums

The discussion forums are not graded, but are for your benefit. My role in the discussion groups is that of a facilitator. I will answer questions, correct misconceptions, and/or redirect conversations as needed. You will find the following discussion forums in the course TRACS site:

General Course Questions: Post any questions or comments you may have about a topic, assignment, or technical issues to this forum. I will monitor the forum and respond to the questions. In that way, everyone will have the benefit of the question and answer.

Share and Tell: Use this forum to celebrate your personal accomplishments, encourage each other, post inspirational quotes, etc.

FREE TUTORING RESOURCES

A variety of free tutoring resources are available for students enrolled in correspondence courses. All correspondence students have access to several hours of free online tutoring from Smarthinking for subjects ranging from grammar and writing to mathematics and Spanish. Free online tutoring for writing-related assignments is also available from the Texas State Writing Center. For information on accessing these resources, please visit the Office of Distance and Extended Learning's [Free Tutoring](#) page. Currently-enrolled, degree-seeking students able to visit the Texas State campus are eligible for free in-person tutoring from the [Student Learning Assistance Center \(SLAC\)](#) on the fourth floor of Alkek Library and from the [Math Lab](#) in Derrick 233.

TRACS TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Texas State's Information Technology Assistance Center (ITAC) provides phone and LiveChat technical support for TRACS 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. To take advantage of these services, visit [ITAC online](#) or call 512.245.ITAC (4822). Note also that a number of online TRACS tutorials are available from [TRACS Facts](#).

Before beginning this online course, it is recommended that you review the minimum hardware and software requirements and other important information available on the ITS [Course Information page](#).

STUDENT WITH DISABILITIES

The Office of Distance and Extended Learning is committed to helping students with disabilities achieve their educational goals. A disability is not a barrier to correspondence study, and we strive to provide reasonable accommodations to individuals in coursework and test taking. Students who require special accommodations need to provide verification of their disability to the [Office of Disability Services](#), Suite 5-5.1 LBJ Student Center, 512.245.3451 (voice/TTY). Students should then notify the [Office of Distance and Extended Learning](#) (ASBN Room 302, 512.245.2322) of any disability-related accommodation needs as soon as possible to avoid a delay in accommodations.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

The [Texas State Academic Honor Code](#) applies to all Texas State students, including correspondence students. The Honor Code serves as an affirmation that the University demands the highest standards of integrity in all actions related to the academic community.

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

As members of the university community, students are expected to be aware of and abide by university policies regarding academic honesty. By the same token, members of the faculty within the university community are expected to enforce those policies. Members of the Department of Sociology operate on the assumption that each student has thoroughly reviewed the university policies regarding academic honesty and that the policies will be followed. Accordingly, members of the Department of Sociology will enforce all policies related to academic honesty.

The following is not a substitute for the statement of policies found in the above referenced material. Rather, it serves to call each student's attention to the breadth and depth of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes the following: Cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or abuse of resource materials. Each term or phrase is defined in some detail in the above referenced material. Because the offense of plagiarism can be confusing to students, the following information is provided as essential reading by all students. "Plagiarism means the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work offered for credit" (Texas State University Handbook, UPPS No. 07-10-01). Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- downloading or buying a research paper;
- cutting and pasting information from several sources to create a paper;
- leaving out quotation marks around quoted material, placing quotation marks around some but not all copied information;
- leaving out quotation marks around copied information but adding a citation implying that the information is the student's summary of the source;
- leaving out quotation marks for more than three consecutive words taken directly from a source;
- providing a reference/bibliography page but leaving out the reference citation in the body of the paper
- faking a citation; and
- unintentionally using words or ideas or quotes without citing them in the body of the paper and on the reference/bibliography page. (<http://www.virtualsalt.com/antiplag.htm>)

Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism or having plagiarized in the past without having been penalized does not excuse such acts in the Department of Sociology. Any student charged with plagiarism may appeal in writing in accordance with Texas State University policy.