

SOCI 1301 - Introduction to Sociology
CRN 6162-86042-SOCI-1301 – Spring 2016
Distance Education via Eagle Online 2.0
3 Hour Online (DE) Course / 8 Weeks

Instructor Contact Information

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Phone:

Office Location: Northline, DE – Online via email or mobile phone...

The professor will make every effort to meet with, speak with, and otherwise assist students.

Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear your concerns or to simply discuss course topics. You certainly do not need to wait until you have received a poor grade before asking for my assistance. Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course or any questions that you have about the course. The best way to get in touch with me is by sending an email to deandrea.hughes@hccs.edu. Be sure you include your last name and the course CRN in the subject line (ex: Smith 46571). I will do my best to respond to all emails with 48 hours.

Course Description: SOCI 1301 is a survey course which focuses on the nature of human groups in American and world societies, their social and cultural adaptations, and the impact which various social processes may have on their social organization and social change. Core Curriculum course.

The course you have signed up for is a *fully online 8 week course* that utilizes Eagle Online 2.0.

Although the course is only 8 weeks long, we will cover the same amount of information and do the same amount of work as those in 16 week classes. As such, this class should be viewed as *accelerated*, meaning you will be required to put in many more hours each week than you would in a standard 16 week course.

The fact that this is a *fully online course* means that the class never meets in person; you will be responsible for learning the material *on your own* with my support and guidance. To be successful in this class you need to be a self-directed, motivated learner and you *must* keep up with all reading and assignments.

This Introduction to Sociology course is likely structured unlike any course you've ever taken before! Instead of a traditional online course in which you read, take quizzes and tests, and submit assignments, you will be taking on a specific role and tackling an assortment of real world challenges that will allow you to develop a variety of skills and exercise your sociological imagination.

More specifically, you are a sociologist and the Founder and Director of a non-profit activism and advocacy organization that works on a variety of human rights and social justice issues such as prison reform, improving our schools, helping

underserved populations, influencing social policy, and so on. In your role as the leader of this organization, you will be faced with a variety of tasks that will require you to develop and demonstrate several different skill sets – including, but not limited to, critical thinking, oral and written communication skills, empirical and quantitative skills, teamwork, and both personal and social responsibility – and to utilize your sociological imagination to solve problems.

I strongly encourage you to carefully review this syllabus so that you can be sure this course is right for you.

Core Curriculum Statement: Sociology 1301 is a core curriculum course. It may be used to fulfill the requirements for a core Social and Behavioral Sciences course OR a core Cross/Multi-Cultural Studies course.

Core Curriculum Objectives: Given the rapid evolution of necessary knowledge and skills and the need to take into account global, national, state, and local cultures, the core curriculum must ensure that students will develop the essential knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, in a career, in their communities, and in life. Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

Students enrolled in this core curriculum course will complete several assignments designed to cultivate the following core objectives:

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

Prerequisites: Must be placed into college-level reading (or take GUST 0342 as a co-requisite) and be placed into college-level writing (or take ENGL 0310/0349 as a co-requisite).

Student Learning Outcomes [One of these may be assessed during the course of the semester.]

1. Compare and contrast the basic theoretical perspectives of sociology.
2. Identify the various methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data in sociology.
3. Describe key concepts in sociology.
4. Describe the empirical findings of various subfields of sociology.
5. Explain the complex links between individual experiences and broader institutional forces.

At the top of each unit you will see a list of the Core Curriculum Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes that correspond with the material in that unit to help direct and focus your studies.

Course Calendar [Subject to change.]

TOPIC & ASSIGNMENTS
<p><i>Introduction to the Course (1 Week)</i></p> <p>Read Syllabus, Welcome Aboard Module and Student Resources Module Submit Introduction and Getting to Know You before 11:55 pm Sunday 3/27</p>
<p><i>Presenting to the School Board (2 Weeks)</i></p> <p><u>*Note that you have extra time on this unit because the material is so important for you to master!*</u> <u>*Be sure that you fully understand everything in Chapter 1 before moving ahead.*</u> Read Chapters 1, 2 and 3 & Complete Tasks before 11:55 pm on Sunday 4/10</p>

<i>Preparing Written Testimony (1 Week)</i>		
Read Chapters 4, 5, 6 and 7 & Complete Tasks before 11:55 pm on Sunday 4/17		
<i>Creating a Fact Sheet (1 Week)</i>		
Read Chapters 10, 11 and 12 & Complete Tasks before 11:55 pm on Sunday 4/24		
<i>Delivering a Speech on Incarceration (1 Week)</i>		
Read Chapters 13, 14, 15 and 16 & Complete Tasks before 11:55 pm on Sunday 5/1		
<i>Profiling a Social Movement (1 Week)</i>		
<u>*Check this module early in the semester for a Service Learning Extra Credit Opportunity*</u> Read Chapters 17 and 18 & Complete Tasks before 11:55 pm on Sunday 5/8		
COURSE READING SCHEDULE		
Some chapters may be repeated are rollover into another topic assignment...		
Week (s)	Chapters (s)	Topics/Readings
1	Chapter 1 Chapter 2 and 3	An Introduction to Sociology in the Global Age Thinking Sociologically; Researching the Social World
2	Chapter 4 and 5	Culture; Socialization and Interaction
3	Chapter 6 and 7	Groups, Organizations, and the Globe; Crime and Deviance
4	Chapter 8 and 9	Social Stratification; Global Stratification
5	Chapter 10 Chapter 11 and 12	Race and Ethnicity Gender and Sexuality; The Family
6	Chapter 13 and 14	Education; Religion
7	Chapter 15 and 16	Politics and the Economy; The Body, Medicine, Health, and Health Care and Social Movements
8	Chapter 17 and 18	Population, Urbanization, and the Environment; Social Change, Social Movements, and Collective Behavior

Instructional Methods

This is an online course and is thus primarily self-directed and self-taught. It is your responsibility to read the textbook and other readings, watch the assigned videos, submit assignments and complete assigned activities before the due dates, study for and complete the quizzes before the due dates, participate actively, and enjoy yourself while learning about Sociology and developing several useful skills.

Student Assignments

Assignments and activities are designed to enhance your learning. To help you master the course material and develop some specific skills, you will be asked to complete assignments and activities that cover key information necessary for success in this course and beyond. Below is a description of all the assignments and activities planned for this course.

Readings: You are required to read all of the assigned material in its entirety if it is listed under Required Readings/Videos. This material includes the textbook and any additional readings posted on Eagle Online. This will ultimately improve your ability to be an effective, efficient, perceptive and critical reader and will ensure you are prepared to participate in all assigned activities. Your ability to succeed in this class is dependent on your preparedness each day and your ability to stay focused and not procrastinate, so it is imperative that you complete the readings as they are assigned (refer to the Course Calendar for details).

Videos: You are required to watch all of the assigned videos in their entirety if they are listed under Required Readings/Videos. These videos have been specifically selected to help you master course concepts and specific skills necessary for your success in this course.

Quizzes: You will be required to complete a quiz (listed as “Check Your Knowledge”) on the assigned reading from the textbook for each major unit. Quizzes require you to answer 20 multiple choice questions in 45 minutes. You can take the quiz a total of two times so that if you are unhappy with your performance on your first attempt, you can study a bit more and then try again. Quizzes do not need to be taken in the presence of a proctor. However, you will only have 45 minutes to complete each quiz, so I encourage you to be prepared and not to rely on your book and/or notes. It is your responsibility to be prepared for each quiz and to ensure that you complete each quiz before the due date. You will be able to see which questions you missed along with the correct answers after the quiz deadline has passed. I have a zero tolerance policy for late work, so if you miss a quiz then you will receive a 0 for that quiz. Quizzes are worth **40%** of your final grade.

Assignments: Each unit has at least one major assignment. I have designed all of the assignments to help you master important concepts and ideas and to give you an opportunity to develop and enhance several specific skills (such as building presentations, giving speeches, creating videos, researching, writing, etc.). All of your submissions should be well-written and well thought-out meaning they should utilize full sentences with proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation and should demonstrate critical thinking skills and subject knowledge. All of the assignments and detailed instructions for completion and submission are available on Eagle Online. I strongly encourage you to avoid procrastinating and to work on the assignments early and often. Assignments are worth **60%** of your final grade.

Extra Credit: You may be given the opportunity to earn extra credit for various activities during the course of the semester. Any and all extra credit opportunities will be posted on Eagle Online and will be due at the same time as the other assignments in the topic area. Please note that extra credit is not guaranteed.

Student Assessment

Assignments:

Quizzes:

TOTAL: 100%

Instructional Materials

Text: Introduction to Sociology by George Ritzer, 2e text (Loose Leaf)

Textbook Websites: <https://edge.sagepub.com/node/26519/student-resources>

Course Website: <https://eo2.hccs.edu/> (Eagle Online 2.0)

HCC Policy Statement: ADA

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office. For more information, go to the HCC ADA Website or call Dr. Becky Hauri at (713) 718-7910.

HCC Policy Statement: Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism and collusion. If you engage in any form of academic dishonesty, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken and you will receive a failing grade for the course. [Note: If you are caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty in this course, you will fail the course. Trust me – IT IS NOT WORTH IT!]

HCC Policy Statement: Meningitis Immunization

Texas Senate Bill 1107 passed in May 2011, requires that new HCC students and former HCC students returning after an absence of at least one fall or spring semester who are under the age of 30 are required to present a physician-signed certificate showing they have been vaccinated against bacterial meningitis. Students must satisfy this requirement prior to enrollment. For more information and a list of exemptions please go to <http://www.hccs.edu/hccs/admissions-registrationcenter/new-student-general-admissions-steps/submit-meningitis-documentation>.

HCC Policy Statement: Attendance

Students are expected to login to Eagle Online regularly. Students who do not login to Eagle Online by the day of record will be dropped from the course. Instructors also have the authority to drop a student for not logging in regularly and participating.

HCC Policy Statement: Repeating Courses

The State of Texas encourages students to complete college without having to repeat failed classes. To increase student success, students who repeat the same course more than twice, are required to pay extra tuition. The purpose of this extra tuition fee is to encourage students to pass their courses and to graduate. Effective fall 2006, HCC will charge a higher tuition rate to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available.

HCC Policy Statement: Withdrawal

If you feel that you cannot complete this course, **you** will need to withdraw from the course prior to the final date of withdrawal. Before, you withdraw from your course; please take the time to meet with the instructor to discuss why you feel it is necessary to do so. The instructor may be able to provide you with suggestions that would enable you to complete the course. Your success is very important. Beginning in Fall 2007, the Texas Legislature passed a law limiting first time entering freshmen to no more than **SIX** total course withdrawals throughout their educational career in obtaining a certificate and/or degree. If you plan on withdrawing from your class, you **MUST** contact a HCC counselor or your professor prior to withdrawing (dropping) the class for approval and this must be done **PRIOR** to the withdrawal deadline to receive a “W” on your transcript. Final withdrawal deadlines vary each semester and/or depending on class length, please visit the online registration calendars, HCC schedule of classes and catalog, any HCC Registration Office, or any HCC counselor to determine class withdrawal deadlines. Remember to allow a 24-hour response time when communicating via email and/or telephone with a professor and/or counselor. Do not submit a request to discuss withdrawal options less than a day before the deadline. If **you** do not withdraw before the deadline, you will receive the grade that you are making in the class as your final grade.

Information on other policies and additional information on these policies can be found in the [HCC Student Handbook](#) (available on the HCC website).

HCC Distance Education Policy Statement

The Distance Education Student Handbook contains policies and procedures unique to the DE student. Students should have reviewed the handbook as part of the mandatory orientation. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the handbook's contents. The handbook contains valuable information, answers, and resources, such as DE contacts, policies and procedures (how to drop, attendance requirements, etc.), student services (ADA, financial aid, degree planning, etc.),

course information, testing procedures, technical support, and academic calendars. Refer to the DE Student Handbook by visiting this link: <http://de.hccs.edu/de/de-student-handbook>.

Requirements

As your instructor, it is **my responsibility** to:

- Facilitate an effective learning environment through discussions, assignments and activities via Eagle Online.
- Describe any special projects or assignments.
- Make adjustments and changes to the course as necessary to best serve the needs of the class.
- Keep an open line of communication.
- Provide the course outline and calendar.
- Provide a detailed grading formula explaining how student grades will be derived. □ Inform students of HCC and classroom policies.

To be successful in this course, it is **your responsibility** to:

- Login to Eagle Online *and* check HCC email **DAILY**.
- Participate meaningfully in all activities, discussions and other assignments before the due date. □ Successfully complete all of the scheduled quizzes before the due date.
- Take responsibility for your own learning.
- Comply with all policies and expectations.
- Ask for assistance when you need it.

Additionally, it is your responsibility to *actively engage* in the process of learning and thinking. Learning is not a passive process whereby experts impart knowledge upon you; rather, learning is an active process that requires extensive effort and involvement from both the teacher and the student. **I expect you to focus on truly learning and understanding the material, not simply committing it to memory. You will get as much out of the class as you are willing to put in.** Please note that your education is not simply a means to an end (such as a better career or higher income), but is also an end in and of itself – try to slow down and enjoy the learning process!

Program/Discipline Requirements

Per the HCC Sociology program requirements, we must cover the following topics: Research Methods, Culture, Socialization, Society, Social Interaction, Deviance, Groups, and Class Stratification. Additionally, we must cover two additional forms of stratification (e.g. Race, Gender, and Aging) and three social institutions (e.g. Government, Religion, Economy, Education, Family, and Health). Lastly, we must cover at least one topic related to social change (e.g. Urbanization, Social Movements, and Social Change).

The HCC Sociology program requirements also dictate that at least 40% of your grade must come from writing. This can be done in a variety of formats including in-class writing assignments, written homework, assigned essays, or essay exams.

HCC Grading Scale

A: 90-100 B: 80-89 C: 70-79 D: 60-69 F: <60

Instructor Grading Criteria

The quizzes, assignments, and other assessments that you are given throughout the semester are tools that you can use to determine how successful you are at achieving the course learning outcomes (mastery of course content and skills) outlined in the syllabus. If you find you are not mastering the material and skills, I encourage you to reflect on how you study and prepare for each class. I welcome a dialogue on what you discover and may be able to assist you in finding resources on campus that will improve your performance. All of your grades will be available to you on Eagle Online. Please note that I rarely round scores up at the end of the semester even if you are within half of a point of the next letter grade.

All grades are graded and calculated within the online classroom... Assignments are uploaded weekly by the professor.
NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED...

GRADE CALCULATION

90	-	100	=	A
89	-	80	=	B
79	-	70	=	C
69	-	60	=	D
59	-	0	=	F

Tentative List of Topics: The Sociological Perspective, Sociological Investigation, Culture, Society, Socialization, Social Interaction in Everyday Life, Groups and Organizations, Sexuality and Society, Deviance & Crime, Social Stratification, Social Class in the U.S., Gender, Race, Aging and the Elderly, Economy and Work, Politics and Government, Families, Religion, Education, Health and Medicine, Urbanization and the Environment, Collective Behavior and Social Movements, Social Change

Specific Classroom Policies

Participation: In order to best facilitate your success and to nurture the most productive and useful learning community possible, you are expected to actively participate in this course throughout the semester. This includes logging in to Eagle Online at least once per day and actively participating in all discussions and activities.

Late Work: There is a zero-tolerance policy for late work in this course. You must submit all quizzes and other assignments in their entirety before the posted deadline – no exceptions or excuses.

Technical Compliance: Students are expected to maintain a state of technical compliance, including (but not limited to): up-to-date software as required by the instructor; a stable Internet connection; and use of the Firefox browser when using Eagle Online. The instructor will not give consideration for lost/missing/unacceptable work stemming from technical non-compliance and/or end-user technical issues.

Email Etiquette: Because I teach multiple classes each semester, all email correspondence must reference your last name and the CRN number (ex: Smith 94037) in the subject line. If your email does not meet these guidelines, it will be immediately deleted. Additionally, all emails should be written using proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling and should avoid the use of slang words and “text speak” (such as cuz or plz).

Respect: To create a safe and enjoyable learning community, you are expected to respect each other’s opinions and experiences at all times. Disrespectful behavior may result in a decrease in your grade.

Disclaimer

The material in this syllabus is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. Any changes made will be clearly described and explained. The ability to alter the syllabus provides us with the flexibility necessary to ensure success.

Department Chair

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