



**Social Sciences
Southwest College**

SOCI 1301 - Introduction to Sociology

CRN 54145 – Fall 2011

Distance Education via Eagle Online
3 Hour Online (DE) Course / 8 Weeks

Instructor Contact Information:

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Office Location: West Loop - C256

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

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. *The best way to get in touch with me is via Eagle Online's email system.* I will do my best to answer all student emails within 24 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.

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).

Course Goal: Satisfy the core curriculum social science requirement and allow students the opportunity to improve their reading, writing, communication, and critical thinking skills while gaining a cursory knowledge of Sociology.

Student Learning Outcomes [One of these will be evaluated using an EO quiz. Your score will not affect your grade.]

1. Apply the three major perspectives in Sociology: Social Conflict, Structural Functionalism, and Symbolic Interactionism.
2. Identify the principles of the social science research process.
3. Evaluate the various aspects of stratification as they affect American society and the world.
4. Evaluate the various aspects of the institutions of society as they affect American society and the world.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- *Apply* the sociological perspective.
- *Identify* and *define* a variety of sociological concepts and theories.
- *Understand* the qualitative and quantitative ways that sociologists study the world.
- Critically and objectively *assess* the strengths and weaknesses of claims.
- *Think* beyond what you are reading and hearing to make a variety of intellectual connections and apply your knowledge to the real world.
- Better *understand* and *appreciate* our social world.

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.

Course Calendar [Subject to change.]

Welcome Aboard! / Getting Started – Due by October 24

Reading: Welcome Aboard & Student Resources Module Information

Assignments: Intro HW & First Discussion

Quizzes: Syllabus Quiz

No Exam

Unit 1: Introduction to Sociology – Due by November 1

Reading: Chapters 1, 2 & 3

Assignments: HW1 & 3 Discussions

Quizzes: Chapters 1, 2 & 3

Exam 1

Unit 2: More Sociological Concepts – Due by November 15

Midterm E-Conference: Must be completed by 11:59 pm on November 11. Schedule via EO.

Reading: Chapters 4, 5 & 7

Assignments: HW2 & 3 Discussions

Quizzes: Chapters 4, 5 & 7

Exam 2

Unit 3: Stratification – Due by November 29

Reading: Chapters 8, 10 & 11

Assignments: HW3 & 3 Discussions

Quizzes: Chapters 8, 10 & 11

Exam 3

Unit 4: Social Institutions & Social Change – Due by December 13

Final E-Conference: Must be completed by 11:59 pm on December 9. Schedule via EO.

Reading: Chapters 13, 14 & 16

Assignments: HW4 & 3 Discussions

Quizzes: Chapters 13, 14 & 16

Exam 4

Instructional Methods

This is an online course and is thus primarily self-directed and self-taught. It is your responsibility to read the textbook, submit assignments and complete assigned activities before the due dates, study for the exams, participate actively, and enjoy yourself while learning about Sociology.

Student Assignments

Assignments and activities are designed to enhance your learning. To help you master the course material, 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 organized by core competency.

Readings: You are required to read all the assigned material. This material includes the textbook, materials posted online and any additional reading assignments given during class. This will ultimately improve your ability to be an effective, efficient, perceptive and critical reader. Your ability to succeed in this class is dependent on your preparedness and 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) and that you do not put them off until just prior to the exams.

Discussions: You will be asked to thoroughly and fully participate in a minimum of 10 (out of 12) discussions throughout the course of the semester. Discussions take place on the Discussion Board on Eagle Online and will address a variety of topics. These discussions will help you solidify, demonstrate, and assess your mastery of the course material. Discussion participation is worth **15%** of your final grade.

Quizzes: You will complete a quiz on each major topic area to assess your understanding. These quizzes will be primarily multiple choice and will help you prepare for the exams and identify important material. Quizzes do not need to be proctored. However, you will only have 15 minutes to complete each quiz, so I encourage you to be prepared and to not rely on your books and notes. Quizzes are worth **15%** of your final grade.

Homework Assignments: The Intro HW is designed to assess your needs and desires as they relate to the course. To get this feedback as early as possible, the Intro HW is due near the beginning of the semester (refer to the Course Calendar for details).

I have designed the Unit HWs to help you master the most important concepts and ideas that we cover and to help you prepare for each exam, so please carefully and fully complete each one. The Unit HW assignments are due by the start of the exam for that unit (refer to the Course Calendar for details) to give you the maximum time to complete each assignment, but you may submit each Unit HW as soon as you have completed it. I encourage you to pace yourself and to work on the assignments throughout the course of each unit so that you can focus your energy on exam preparation in the days leading up to each exam.

The actual HW assignments and detailed instructions for completion and submission are contained within each Learning Module. The HW is worth **30%** of your final grade.

Exams: You will be required to complete four exams. The exams may vary in form, but will likely include a mixture of multiple-choice, true/false, short answer and discussion questions. Exams typically consist of a large number of multiple choice questions. Exams do not need to be taken in the presence of a proctor. However, you will only have 90 minutes to complete each exam, so I encourage you to be prepared and to not rely on your books and notes. Please note that I provide a detailed exam review guide prior to each exam to enable your success and to ensure that all exams are as straight-forward and transparent as possible. Exams are worth **40%** of your final grade.

Student Assessment

Discussions	15%
Quizzes	15%
Five HW Assignments (6% each)	30%
Four Exams (10% each)	40%
TOTAL:	100%

Instructional Materials

Textbook: Macionis, John J. 2011. "Society: The Basics." 11th Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Textbook Websites: <http://www.prenhall.com/macionis/> & <http://www.mysoclab.com/>

Course Website: <https://hccs1.mrooms3.net/login/index.php>

HCC Policy Statement: Distance Education

The Distance Education Student Handbook contains policies and procedures unique to the DE student. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the handbook's contents and part of the mandatory orientation. 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>.

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 and you will be reported to HCC administration. Trust me – IT IS NOT WORTH IT!***

HCC Policy Statement: Attendance, 3-Repeaters, and Withdrawal

Attendance: Students are expected to attend classes regularly. Students are responsible for material covered during their absences, and it is the student's responsibility to consult with me for makeup assignments. I am required to check class attendance daily. Although it is the responsibility of the student to drop a course for non-attendance, I have the authority to drop a student for excessive absences. A student may be dropped from a course for absenteeism after the student has accumulated absences in excess of 12.5 percent of the hours of instruction (including lecture and laboratory time).

Repeat Course Fee: 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.

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).

Instructor Requirements

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

- Facilitate an effective learning environment through class activities, discussions, assignments and activities via Eagle Online.
- Describe and discuss 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 with students during and outside of class time.
- 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 assigned activities and discussions.
- Complete all readings and assignments.
- Successfully complete all of the scheduled exams.
- 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.** 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 Stratification. Additionally, we must cover two forms of stratification (Race, Gender, and Aging) and three social institutions (Government, Religion, Economy, Education, Family, and Health). Lastly, we must cover at least one topic related to social change (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

Your instructor will conduct quizzes, exams, and assessments throughout the semester 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, you are encouraged to reflect on how you study and prepare for each class. Your instructor welcomes a dialogue on what you discover and may be able to assist you in finding resources on campus that will improve your performance.

Please note that grades are available online. I strongly encourage you to pay close attention to your grades and progress throughout the semester.

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.

Late Work and Make-Up Exams: There is a zero-tolerance policy for late work and missed exams in this course.

Email Etiquette: Because I teach multiple classes each semester, all email correspondence (outside of Eagle Online) must reference your last name and the CRN number (ex: Smith 123456) in the subject line. If your non-Eagle email does not meet these guidelines, it will be immediately deleted.

However, *the best way to contact me is via Eagle Online Mail*. 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 during discussion and at all other times.

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.