Texas Southmost College

 SOCI 1301: Introduction to Sociology Syllabus

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| **SOCI 1301: Introduction to Sociology** |
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| **Professor:** | Cinthia Sierra | **Phone:** | 956-698-1214 |
| **Email:** | csierra@bisd.us | **Office Hours:**  | 10:25 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. |
| *I check emails daily. You can expect a response from me within 2 days.* | *Please note that I teach during the following days/times, and am thus unavailable:*Monday – Friday from8:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. & 12:00 p.m. – 4: 15 p.m.  |
| **Department Website:**  | www.tsc.edu | **Location:** | RECHS F110 |
| **Semester:** | Spring 2018 |  |  |

# Course Description

The scientific study of human society, including ways in which groups, social institutions, and individuals affect each other. Causes of social stability and social change are explored through the application of various theoretical perspectives, key concepts, and related research methods of sociology. Analysis of social issues in their institutional context may include topics such as social stratification, gender, race/ethnicity, and deviance.

# Course Prerequisites

*TSI Reading and Writing*

# Course Outcome

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

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

# Course Materials

Jeff Manza, Richard Arum, & Lynne Haney (2016). (ISBN # 978-0-13-379224-9) *The Sociology Project 2.0*

# Course Components

* Reading and Resource
* Practice Exercises
* Assignments
* Unit Quizzes
* Final Exam

# Course Grading

Grading Breakdown

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| **Activity Types** | **Point Values** | **Total Points** | **Percentage** |
| Assignments | 20 pts each | 300 | 30% |
| Quizzes | 10 pts each | 150 | 15% |
| Tests (3) | 50 pts each | 150 | 15% |
| Essays (2) | 75 pts each | 150 | 15% |
| Final Exam (Research Paper & MC) | 250 | 250 | 25% |
|  | **Total: 1000 points** | **1,000** | **100** |

Grading Conversion Table

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| **Letter Grade** | **Grade Point** | **Percentage** |
| A | 4.0 | 90-100 |
| B | 3.0 | 80-89 |
| C | 2.0 | 70-79 |
| D | 1.0 | 60-69 |
| F | .0 | 0-59 |

# Late Work Policy

All late assignments, other than essays, will result in a ten-point deduction per each class day that it is turned in late. Anything beyond a week (5 days) will not be accepted.

No late essays will be accepted.

# Course Calendar

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| Week 1: | Jan. 8 – Jan. 12 | Welcome!Chapter 1 – The Sociological ImaginationQuiz 1 – Due Saturday by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 2: | Jan. 15 – Jan. 19 | Journal 1: Due MondayChapter 2 – Social TheoryQuiz 2 – Due Saturday by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 3: | Jan. 22 – Jan. 26 | Journal 2: Due MondayChapter 3: Studying the Social WorldQuiz 3 – Due Saturday by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 4: | Jan. 29 – Feb. 2 | Journal 3: Due MondayChapter 4: Social InteractionQuiz 4 – Due Saturday by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 5: | Feb. 5 – Feb. 9 | Journal 4: Due MondayChapter 5: Social StructureEssay 1 (Reflection paper) Due Friday, February 9th!Quiz 5 – Due Saturday by 11:59 p.m. NOTE: End of Unit 1 |
| Week 6: | Feb. 12 – Feb. 16 | Journal 5: Due MondayUnit 1 (Chapters 1-5) Test on TuesdayChapter 6: Culture, Media, and CommunicationQuiz 6 – Due Saturday by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 7: | Feb. 19 – Feb. 22 | Journal 6: Due MondayChapter 7: Power and Politics Quiz 7 – Due Saturday by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 8: | Feb. 26 – Mar. 2 | Journal 7: Due MondayChapter 8: Markets, Organizations, and WorkQuiz 8 – Due Saturday by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 9: | Mar. 5 – Mar. 9 | Journal 8: Due MondayChapter 9: Cities and CommunitiesQuiz 9 – Due Saturday by 11:59 p.m. |
|  | Mar. 12 – Mar. 16 | \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* SPRING BREAK\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* |
| Week 10:  | Mar. 19 – Mar. 23 | Journal 9: Due MondayChapter 10: Social Stratification, Inequality, and PovertyQuiz 10 – Due Saturday by 11: 59 p.m. NOTE: End of Unit 2 |
| Week 11: | Mar. 26 – Mar. 29 | Journal 10: Due MondayUnit 2 (Chapters 6-10) Test on TuesdayChapter 11: Race and EthnicityQuiz 11 – Due Saturday by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 12: | Apr. 3 – Apr. 6 | Journal 11: Due MondayChapter 12: Gender and SexualityQuiz 12 – Due Saturday by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 13: | Apr. 9 – Apr. 13 | Journal 12: Due MondayChapter 13: Families and Family LifeEssay 2 (Perception vs. Reality) Paper Due Friday, April 13Quiz 13 – Due Saturday by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 14: | Apr. 16 – Apr. 20 | Journal 13: Due MondayChapter 14: Sociology of ReligionQuiz 14 – Due Saturday by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 15: | Apr. 23 – Apr. 27 | Journal 14 Due MondayChapter 15: EducationQuiz 15 – Due Saturday by 11: 59 p.m. NOTE: End of Unit 3 |
| Week 16: | Apr. 30 – May 4 | Journal 15: Due MondayUnit 3 (Chapters 11-15) Test on TuesdayChapter 17: Crime, Deviance, and Social ControlQuiz 16 – Due Saturday by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 17: | May 7 – May 11 | FINAL EXAM WEEKSection 1 of Final Exam (Research Paper) Due Monday, May 7thSection 2 Begins Tuesday, May 8th  |

# Assignment Descriptions

**Journals (Assignments):**

For each chapter (15) in the text, you will find an outside news article or other media example of a key concept discussed in class and analyze it for its sociological relevance according to what was read or discussed that week. These will be due each Monday, either typed (APA style) or handwritten. Further instructions will be provided.

**Quizzes:**

At the end of each chapter (16 total), you will take a brief quiz (via Canvas or in class). These quizzes will be worth 10 points each and your lowest grade will be dropped prior to averaging final grade.

**Tests:**

Each unit will consist of every 5 chapters. At this point, you will take a unit test (3 total). These are worth 50 points each for a total of 150 points. Textbooks and notes will not be allowed during these exams.

**Essays:**

Students will write two essays during the semester – one reflection (worth 75 points) and a Perception vs. Reality paper (worth 75 points). Essay 1 (reflection) is due February 9th; Essay 2 (perception vs. reality) is due April 13th.

**Final Exam:**

The final exam will consist of 2 sections. Section 1 will include an independent research study where each student will select a sociological research topic and conduct research prior to writing a research paper (worth 100 points). Section 2 will be taken in class and include cumulative questions regarding all subjects covered throughout the semester (worth 150 points.) Note: Section 1 is due Monday, May 7th.

# Library

The library is located at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) Brownsville campus, but it is shared between Texas Southmost College and UTRGV Brownsville. Please click on the following link to access the library’s website: <http://www.tsc.edu/index.php/library.html>

Our website provides 24/7 access to thousands of scholarly journals and e-books, all accessible to our students, faculty and staff from any location worldwide. Our physical libraries hold a wide array of print books, DVDs, archives, and more, as well as study rooms – available to be checked out for both group and individual study. Librarians are available to help you with your research in person, via phone, chat, text, or email.

# Student Help

Assistance with Course Content

Student help is available directly from your professor via email or telephone. Appointments for office hours are also available at any mutually convenient time.

Please begin all emails to your professor with the course and section number "XXXX-0000" in the subject line and include your name and ID number at the end of all messages.

Assistance with Canvas

If you experience any technical problems with your online classroom environment, please do not hesitate to contact the HELP DESK at 956-295-3800 or email helpdesk@tsc.edu.  They are available Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If, however, you are experiencing issues related to course content (e.g., assignment troubles, quiz difficulties) please contact the professor in the "Virtual Office" or during office hours by phone or by email.

# Professor Expectations

Students are expected to:

* Be punctual
* Attend class regularly
* Complete all assigned readings prior to class
* Participate in class discussion
* Submit all assignments on time

# Professor Communication Expectations

An open communication with professor is important, so please keep me informed of all issues or outside activities that may interfere with class sessions. I can be reached via Canvas, email/phone.

# General Course Requirements

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| 1. **Be punctual.** The professor must provide a learning environment conducive to learning for all students. Tardiness is distracting and disruptive to fellow students and professor. Students who miss quizzes or class assignments due to tardiness may not be able to make up the missed grade. The student may visit with fellow classmates to acquire notes of information missed or may make an appointment with the professor for further direction.

**Avoid absences.** Be absent ONLY when absolutely necessary. Your best chance to do well in this class is to attend every class meeting. Students are expected to be diligent in their studies. It is expected that students will access the course site in Canvas every day and will complete the weekly assignments by the due date. Students are also expected to actively participate with the learning content using the Canvas platform. Therefore, it is vital that students complete the assigned readings and assignments on schedule so that they are prepared. To access the course site: <http://tsc.edu/index.php/mytsc.html> . Please use Mozilla Firefox as your Internet browser. The college attendance policy states that regular and punctual class attendance is essential and that no assigned work is excused because of absence, no matter what the cause. Records of class attendance are kept by faculty. Faculty may process drops for non-attendance when it results in a lack of progress. 1. **Plan ahead for quizzes.** There will be NO make-up quizzes given (a grade of a zero will be recorded for every quiz missed). Quizzes are to be taken in class when provided or in Canvas when scheduled. They are to be taken *without notes or textbooks*. Canvas will automatically stop the quiz or examination when the allotted time has been reached; therefore, be vigilant of your testing time.
2. **Plan ahead for exams.** If a major exam is missed, it is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements with the professor and schedule a make-up exam. The make-up major exam must be taken within a week from the test date (a zero will be recorded if the exam is not taken within this time). Canvas will automatically stop the examination when the allotted time has been reached; therefore, be vigilant of your testing time.
3. **Submit assignments on-time.** There will be a 10-point initial penalty for late assignments, and an additional 5 points for each day thereafter. Assignments not completed within 2 weeks of the due date will not be accepted, and a “0” will be recorded.
4. **Redeem extra points promptly.** If extra points are earned during class activities, they must be redeemed *within a week*. Student must send a message via the message board indicating how the points were earned, the application of the extra points, and the date the points were earned. *Points can only be applied to “already earned grades” in specified categories*. If a student does not indicate the point application within a week, no points will be awarded. Once the professor applies the extra point distribution as indicated by the student, no changes will be allowed.
5. **Note that quiz and exam scores are final.** Once a quiz or exam has been auto-graded, the grade will remain as is, unless the quiz or exam was not fully graded due to technical issues.
6. **Adhere to copyright regulations.** Unauthorized photocopying of copyrighted works, including musical works, may be unlawful and may infringe the copyright of the copyright owner. Students in possession of unauthorized duplications of copyrighted material are subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as those civil remedies and criminal penalties provided by federal law.
7. **Silence your mobile devices.** Cell phones are required to be “turned off” or set on a silent/vibrate mode. Under no circumstances will any student be allowed to carry on a telephone conversation or text during the class session. In case of emergencies, please leave the room as quietly and courteously as possible.
8. **Maintain a clean learning environment.** Students may keep food and drinks at their desks, but must ensure the area is clean before leaving for the day. In lab environments, food and drinks are not permitted around lab equipment.
9. **Demonstrate respect in the classroom.** Each student is expected to demonstrate respect to the professor, fellow classmates, and practicum personnel (if applicable).
10. **Demonstrate professionalism.** Each student is expected to act professionally, both in and out of the classroom. Any inappropriate verbal disgracing regarding this program will result in probation, suspension, and/or dismissal of the program. TSC reserves the right to exclude at any time persons whose conduct is undesirable.
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# College Policies

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| **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)** TSC monitors academic progress every fall and spring semester to identify those students who are experiencing difficulty with their courses.  Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is based upon two components**:** GPA of 2.0 or higher and successful course completion of at least 70% of course work attempted.  Students remain in good standing with the College and Financial Aid when both criteria are met.  Students who do not maintain these required minimum standards will be placed on probation or suspension as appropriate.  The complete Satisfactory Academic Progress policy and the Undergraduate Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid policy can be found in the current Undergraduate Catalog. **“Incomplete” Grades**“Incomplete” grades are given only at the professor’s discretion, and *must be requested by the student*. If the professor grants the “Incomplete,” the student has until ninety (90) days after the beginning of the next regular semester to complete the course requirements. If the student does not complete the course requirements within the deadline, the grade of “Incomplete” will automatically convert into a grade of “F.” Please note that “Incomplete’s” are given only in an emergency or when there are extenuating circumstances. Refer to the catalog for additional details about receiving a grade of “Incomplete” in a course.**Academic Integrity**Students are expected to be above reproach in all scholastic activities. Students who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the College. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student, or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the College, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Vice President of Student Services. Do not allow your peers to pressure you to cheat. Your grade, academic standing, and personal reputation are at stake.Some components of this course are designed to be highly interactive with students helping each other learn; however, all written assignments are designed to represent the efforts of each student individually and not to be shared. When students submit their efforts for grading they are attesting that they have abided by this rule.Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use of, by paraphrase or direct quotation without correct citation in the text and on the reference list, the published or unpublished works of another person. Students may NOT submit papers and assignments that they have previously submitted for this or other courses. The use of materials generated by agencies engaged in "selling" term papers is also plagiarism. Students are encouraged to review the tutorials and suggested websites for more information about plagiarism. Papers and other assignments may be submitted to an external agency for verification of originality and authenticity. **Academic Responsibilities**Students are expected to be diligent in their studies and complete class requirements. Students are responsible for all class work and assignments. On recommendation of the professor’s concerned and with the approval of the Dean, students may, at any time, be dropped from courses. This may result in a “W” or “F” on the student’s permanent record.**Emergency Academic Continuity Plan**In compliance with the Emergency TSC Academic Continuity Program, academic courses, partially or entirely, will be made available on the TSC’s Learning Management System, Canvas (https://texassouthmostcollege.instructure.com). This allows faculty members and students to continue their teaching and learning via Canvas, in case the College shuts down as a result of a hurricane or any other natural disaster.The college will use Canvas to post announcements notifying faculty members and students of their responsibilities as a hurricane approaches our region. If the college is forced to shut down, faculty will notify students through their course(s). To receive credit for a course, it is the student’s responsibility to complete all the requirements for that course. Failure to access course materials once reasonably possible can result in a reduction of your overall grade in the class.To facilitate the completion of class, all of the communication between students and the institution, the professor, and fellow classmates will take place using students’ TSC primary email address. Students may update their phone number, address, and secondary email address, by logging in to TSC Online (www.tsc.edu). In the event of a disaster, that disrupts normal operations, all students and faculty must make every effort to access an internet-enabled computer as often as possible to continue the learning process.**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Support Services early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services counselor. Contact Information:Disability ServicesLightner Center 100 COffice: 956-295-3417Fax: 956-544-9093**Privacy/FERPA Statement**As a student at Texas Southmost College, your education record information is protected by FERPA.  The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 is a federal law that requires Texas Southmost College to treat your education records in a legally specified manner.As a student, under FERPA you have the following rights:1. The right to inspect and review your own education records within 45 days of the day the College receives a request for access.
2. The right to request to amend of your education records if you believe they are inaccurate or misleading.
3. The right to limit the disclosure of personally identifiable information designated by the College as "directory information."
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning an alleged failure by the College to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance OfficeU.S. Department of Education400 Maryland Avenue, SWWashington, DC  20202The Office of Admissions and Records maintains student records and has available the categories of information made available as public information, and the manner in which students may request that information about them not be released as public information. For more information contact:Texas Southmost CollegeDirector of Admissions and RecordsOliveira Student Services Center80 Fort Brown, Brownsville, Texas  78520956-295-3614 |

*Note: Course content and schedule may vary from that specified by this syllabus (and related documents), to accommodate contingencies that may develop during the course. The professor will explain the rationale for any variance as it occurs.*