South Plains College: Common Course Syllabus
Department: Behavioral Sciences
Revised August 2024

Department: Behavioral Science Discipline:

Sociology Course Number: Soci1301

Course Title: Introduction to Sociology

Available Formats: conventional and internet

Campuses: Levelland, Reese, Plainview, Lubbock Center, Downtown Lubbock, Dual-Credit.

Prerequisite: No prerequisite for conventional sections; must be TSI compliant in reading for Internet sections including dual credit. Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0.

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Component Area (080)

Textbook: *Introductory Sociology 3e* by OpenStax through LibreTexts.
https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Sociology/Introduction_to_Sociology/Introductory_Sociology_3e_(OpenStax)

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.

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:

· Communications skills—to include effective written, oral and visual communication

· Critical thinking skills—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information

· Empirical and quantitative competency skills—to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions

· Social Responsibility—to include the demonstrated knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Approval number 45.1101.51 25

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: See instructor's course information sheet for information on assessment that may include the following: pretests and posttests, quizzes, discussions, essays and/or other types of assessment tools.

Course Evaluations: Refer to instructor's course information sheet for specifics on coursework and grading.

Attendance Policy: As per the SPC General Catalog: Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus. When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first-class meeting. Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy. It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through Texan Connect If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated

the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

See instructor's course information sheet for additions to the attendance policy.

Academic Integrity: As per the SPC General Catalog: It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

Cheating: Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the textbook or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating. Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of whatever length, as well as to final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers.

Plagiarism: Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, reports or other writings of fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.

More Information About Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following: 1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill; 2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation; 3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; 4. Missing in-text citations; and 5. Using any form of A.I. to create or write your respones

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following: 1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion; 2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given; 3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment; 4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage; 5. Taking an examination for another; 6. Altering grade records; 7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment; 8. Rewriting another

student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's; 9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: As per the General Catalog: Rules and regulations relating to the students at South Plains College are made with the view of protecting the best interests of the individual, the general welfare of the entire student body and the educational objectives of the college. As in any segment of society, a college community must be guided by standards that are stringent enough to prevent disorder, yet moderate enough to provide an atmosphere conducive to intellectual and personal development. A high standard of conduct is expected of all students. When a student enrolls at South Plains College, it is assumed that the student accepts the obligations of performance and behavior imposed by the college relevant to its lawful missions, processes and functions. Obedience to the law, respect for properly constituted authority, personal honor, integrity and common sense guide the actions of each member of the college community both in and out of the classroom. Students are subject to federal, state and local laws, as well as South Plains College rules and regulations. A student is not entitled to greater immunities or privileges before the law than those enjoyed by other citizens. Students are subject to such reasonable disciplinary action as the administration of the college may consider appropriate, including suspension and expulsion in appropriate cases for breach of federal, state or local laws, or college rules and regulations. This principle extends to conduct off-campus which is likely to have adverse effects on the college or on the educational process which identifies the offender as an unfit associate for fellow students. Any student who fails to perform according to expected standards may be asked to withdraw. Rules and regulations regarding student conduct appear in the current Student Guide.

In addition to the above policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Students can find the Diversity Statement, Disabilities Statement, Non-Discrimination Statement, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement, and Campus Concealed Carry Statement here https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/.

Course Information Sheet
SOCI 1301-Introduction to Sociology

Instructor Information

- **Name:** Brant Farrar
- **Office Location:** Lubbock Downtown Center, Room 2003 (upstairs by the elevator)
- **Office Hours:** Posted on Blackboard and office door
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- **Contact Information:**
  - **Email (Preferred method of contact):** bfarrar@southplainscollege.edu
  - **Phone:** (806) 716-4657 (*Clearly include your name, class, phone number, and message when leaving a voicemail.*)
  - <u>**Responses:**</u> Typically, within 24 hours (weekdays) or 48 hours (weekends/holidays).

Classroom Behavior Guidelines

- Respectful, inclusive, and adult discussions are expected.
- Disruptive behaviors (e.g., side conversations, texting, rude remarks, repetitive noises) are not tolerated.
- **Cell Phones:** Mute or turn off; no use during class. Smartwatches are prohibited during exams. If you are expecting an emergency or necessary message/call, please notify the professor before class begins or as soon as possible.
- **Tobacco Products:** Prohibited in all forms.

Attendance Policy

- **Attendance Taken Every Class:** No "excused absences" and no doctor's notes.
- **Exit Tickets may NOT be done outside of class.**
- If sick and contagious, email your professor and stay home.
- **Missed Classes:** Communicate promptly with the instructor and get the notes from a classmate.
- **Failure to submit work for 14 consecutive days may result in you being dropped from the class.**

Key Resources

- In our Blackboard course there is a **"Start Here"** module which contains the **"***Student Resources***"** folder containing a comprehensive list of resources for students.
- **Mental Health Services:** Free counseling at all SPC campuses. Details Here
- **Study Tools:** Online resources are available for your text at the end of each chapter.

Key Deadlines

- All deadlines are **11:59 PM** unless otherwise noted. Deadlines for work are primarily Tuesdays and Fridays. If you don't like those days, submit early on a day you pick. Other due dates are noted for exams.
- **Late work is NOT accepted.** Plan ahead and submit early.
- Download and print the **Course Calendar/Checklist** for detailed deadlines.

Communication

- Check SPC email and Blackboard **daily.**
- Professional emails should include proper spelling and grammar.
- Visit during office hours for grade discussions—grades are not discussed via email.

Writing and Assignment Expectations

- Use **Standard Written English.**
- Typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins.
- Cite all information sources properly; plagiarism = zero.
- Avoid AI-generated work—violations may result in a zero on the assignment(s) or being dropped from the course.
- **Read the complete AI guidelines posted in our Blackboard course.
- **Proofread your work before submission:** Grammar, spelling, and structure matter.

Accessibility & Diversity

- Accommodations available through Student Disability Services, available here.
- An inclusive, respectful environment is maintained for all.
- **Bigotry will not be tolerated, but will be addressed. The overall goal is to create an environment where we can all learn and grow as members of society.**

Sociological Perspective

- Evaluate behaviors through societal patterns, not personal judgments.
- Avoid terms like "good/bad" or "moral/immoral" in assignments.
- You have the right to believe whatever you want to believe, but you do not have the right to force those opinions onto others. You also have the right to not have opinions forced on you. This class is about facts. For example, It is acceptable to say something like "I

was raised to believe that being gay is a sin." But, you will NOT be allowed to make statements for all people such as, "Being gay is a sin." The distinction is vital to productive academic discussions.

Other Notes

- Blackboard is where students will access the vast majority of assignments and information for this course, as well as submit work. You should check Blackboard regularly and work ahead.
- **Extra Credit:** Instructor's discretion—don't request it at the semester's end.
- **Readings:** Complete before lectures for better comprehension. Highlight key terms and use provided questions for guidance. Take notes over readings. Create flash cards or study tools from those notes.
- **Course Agreement: Must be signed by the deadline**.
- Controversial topics may arise—maintain an open, respectful dialogue, and feel free to ask any questions of the professor.

COURSEWORK AND GRADES

Coursework and Deadlines

- Deadlines listed in the course calendar are "set in stone" and will not be changed unless there is a mistake by the professor which necessitates more time for students.
- **Recommendation**: Set personal deadlines at least a day or two before the listed deadline to avoid stress.
- Early submissions are encouraged.
- No late work accepted for grading.

Unit Exams

- **Format**: 60-minute timed exams, 50 multiple-choice/true/false questions.
- **Coverage**: Based on chapters/sections in each unit.
- **Platform**: Taken via Blackboard during a 3-day window.
- **Final Exam**: Not comprehensive.
- **Note**: Exams cannot be reopened after the deadline.
- **Each exam is worth 100 points**.

EdPuzzle Assignments

- **Content**: Video for each chapter with embedded questions.
- **Attempts**: One attempt per EdPuzzle assignment.
- **Scoring**: **Each assignment is worth 25 points.**

Major Assignment

- **Social Breach Project**: Propose, gain approval, and complete a project on a social norm violation.
- **This assignment is completed in THREE PHASES**.
- **Late Work**: Not accepted—adhere to class deadlines.
- **Scoring**: **Total assignment is worth 125 points.** See assignment instructions for grading guidelines and point breakdown.

Weekly Assignments

- Designed for interaction and engagement.
- Format: Instructor poses questions or scenarios for student responses.
    - o 15 assignments available; complete any 13.
    - o Topics range from conversational to deep and personal (sharing personal information is not required).
    - o Flexibility provided for occasional missed assignments.
- **Scoring**: **Each Weekly assignment is worth 15 points. 15 assignments will be available and students must complete any 13; 195 points total**

Exit Tickets

- Completed at the end of most classes.
- Purpose: Reflection for students and feedback for the professor.
- **Makeup Policy**: Cannot be made up if a class is missed.
- **Scoring: 20 tickets, 5 points each; 100 points total**

Journal Submissions

- Reflective journal entries on chapter readings, videos, discussions, key concepts, or class-related topics.
- **Submission**: Online via Blackboard.

- **Deadlines**: Announced in class and listed on Blackboard. Regularly check email and Blackboard.
- **Scoring: 2 assignments, 50 points each; 100 points total**

Miscellaneous Assignments

- Examples include:
  - Course Agreement Form
  - Student Resources Quiz
  - Scavenger Hunt
  - Letters from Former Students
  - Letter to Future Students
  - Optional extra credit opportunities
- **Scoring**: The points for these items vary but will be clearly listed in the instructions for each assignment.

Graded Item breakdown:

- Online Participation Agreement Quiz   = 25 points
- LDC Scavenger Hunt Assignment   = 25 points
- Letters From Former Students Assignment   = 25 points
- Student Resources Quiz   = 25 points
- 14 EdPuzzles @ 25 points each   = 350 points
- 2 Journal Assignments @ 50 points each   = 100 points
- 13 Weekly Assignments @ 15 points each   = 195 points
- 20 Exit Tickets @ 5 points each   = 100 points
- 1 Social Breach Assignment Proposal/Field Notes/Paper   = 150 points
- 3 Exams @ 100 points each   = 300 points
- Letter To Future Students Assignment   = 25 points

  - **Total Points Available   =1320 points**

Your grade will be based upon the accumulation of points. The grading breakdown is as follows:

1188 to 1320	A
1056 to 1187.9	B
924 to 1055.9	C
792 to 923.9	D
791.9 and below	F

Grades are NOT automatically rounded up. **For example, 1187 points is a B and not automatically rounded up to an A.**

Students are encouraged to come by during office hours to discuss their grades and any other class related questions as I do not discuss grades through email.

Thank you for choosing this course! Let's make it a productive and engaging semester.