COURSE SYLLABUS – ONLINE

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE

SOCI 1301 Introduction to Sociology

COURSE (CATALOG) 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.

INSTRUCTOR: Richard Kirk  OFFICE: W-322

OFFICE HOURS: MWF – 10:00 to 11:00; TTH 9:30 to 10:30 or by appointment

OFFICE PHONE: 956-364-4758

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL ADDRESS: rkirk@tstc.edu

COURSE REQUIREMENT

This course covers nine chapters. At the completion of each chapter there will be a quiz. Students will be assigned discussion topics to be completed on Moodle. Written assignments will be given throughout the semester for students to apply critical thinking skills. In-class group discussion activities will be scheduled to give students the opportunity to share their thinking on topics relevant to sociology. In addition to these student requirements, power point lecture, social media, and videos will be used to enhance the instructional component of the course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

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.
CORE OBJECTIVES:

1. **Critical Thinking (CT)** – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, inquiring analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts, and constructing solutions.
2. **Communication Skills (CS)** – Students will demonstrate effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)** – Students will demonstrate the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
4. **Social Responsibility (SR)** -- Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national and global communities

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic/Lecture/Event</th>
<th>Measureable Activity</th>
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</table>
| 1    | Chapter 1: Sociology: Perspective, Theory, and Method  
  - Explain the sociological perspective  
  - Apply examples of the sociological perspective  
  - Explain origins of sociology  
  | Written assignment – Explain the sociological imagination using a case study (Critical Thinking, Communication Skills) |
| 2    | Chapter 1: Sociology: Perspective, Theory, and Method  
  - Explain sociological theory  
  - Discuss research orientations and theory  
  - Explain research ethics  
  - Explain research methods  
  | Written assignment – Explain the contributions to sociology by classical theorists (Critical Thinking, Communication Skills) |
| 3    | Chapter 2: Culture  
  - Explain culture?  
  - Discuss the elements of culture  
  - Illustrate how technology impacts culture  
  - Discuss examples of cultural diversity  
  - Explain the theoretical analysis of culture  
  | Article Quiz – Demonstrate an understanding of culture as discussed in a journal article  
  Quiz Chapter 2 – Demonstrate knowledge and application of basic concepts of culture (Critical Thinking) |
| 4    | Chapter 3: Socialization  
  - Discuss social experience  
  - Define socialization  
  | Discussion assignment – Critically evaluate video scenarios as to the influence of media and technology on socialization (Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Empirical Quantitative skills) |
| 5    | Chapter 3: Socialization  
  - Discuss examples of agents of  
<p>| Exam 1 – Demonstrate knowledge of basic concepts in sociology; the |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Content</th>
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| 6       | **Chapter 4: Social Interaction in Everyday Life**  
- Explain social structure  
- Discuss examples of status  
- Discuss examples of roles  
- Discuss the social construction of reality  
- Explain theories of social interaction  
| Article Quiz – Demonstrate an understanding of “self” as discussed in a journal article (Critical Thinking) |
| 7       | **Chapter 5: Groups and Organizations**  
- Compare and contrast Social Groups  
- Explain formal organizations  
| Discussion assignment – Describe examples of primary and secondary groups (Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Empirical Quantitative skills) |
| 8       | **Chapter 5: Groups and Organizations**  
- Discuss evolution of formal organization  
- Discuss the future of organizations  
|  |
| 9       | **Chapter 6: Sex and Sexuality**  
- Explain the difference between sex and sexuality  
- Discuss the research on sexual attitudes in the United States  
| Article Quiz – Demonstrate an understanding of changing roles in marriage as discussed in a journal article  
Exam 2 -- Demonstrate knowledge of concepts and theories of social interaction, various forms of groups and organizations, and how sex and sexuality affect society (Critical Thinking) |
| 10      | **Chapter 6: Sex and Sexuality**  
- Explain sexual orientation  
- Discuss sexual issues and controversies  
|  |
| 11      | **Chapter 7: Deviance**  
- Define deviance  
- Explain the functions of deviance  
|  |
| 12      | **Chapter 7: Deviance**  
- Discuss labeling theory of deviance  
- Explain Deviance and inequality  
- Illustrate different types of crime  
| Discussion assignment – Discuss the relationship between mental health and deviance ((Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Empirical Quantitative skills) |
| 13      | **Chapter 8: Social Stratification**  
- Explain social stratification  
|  |
- Discuss the functions of social stratification
- Explain stratification and social interaction
- Discuss the relationship between stratification and technology

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<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Discussion Points</th>
<th>Written Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Chapter 8: Social Stratification</td>
<td>Discuss inequality in the United States, Identify and explain social classes in the United States, Discuss examples of social mobility, Discuss poverty in the United States</td>
<td>Written assignment – Explain the issue of homelessness as an example of stratification using local data ((Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Social Responsibility))</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Chapter 11: Race and Ethnicity</td>
<td>Discuss the social meaning of race and ethnicity, Explain prejudice and stereotypes</td>
<td>Written assignment – Discuss the concepts of prejudice and discrimination ((Critical Thinking, Communication Skills))</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Chapter 11: Race and Ethnicity</td>
<td>Explain discrimination, Discuss the differences in majority and minority patterns of interaction, Analyze issues of race and ethnicity in the United States</td>
<td>Exam 3 -- Demonstrate knowledge of concepts and theories of deviance, social stratification, and race/ethnicity (Critical Thinking)</td>
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**READING MATERIAL FOR COURSE**

Students will be responsible for readings that come from the required texts (see below) and additional material associated with written and discussion board assignments.

**REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS:**


Scrantron forms #882-ES-LOVAS, paper, pens, and #2 pencils

**GRADING CRITERIA**

Grade will based on a combination of quizzes, written assignments, in-class discussions, and online discussion assignments.

**GRADING SCALE**

3 exams = 150 points
7 assignments = 140 points
3 quizzes = 60 points
Total = 350 points

A = 350-315 (100% to 90%)
B = 314-280 (89% to 80%)
C = 279-245 (79% to 70%)
D = 244-210 (69% to 60%)
F = 209 (59% and below)

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a documented disability which will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as the instructor has outlined, and/or if you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact (956) 364-4520 or visit Support Services Office located at the Consolidated Student Service Center (Bldg. EK) as soon as possible to make appropriate arrangements.

DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Assignments from this course are subject to being archived for general education assessment. Procedures will follow protocols as prescribed by the research guidelines of the Association for Institutional Research.

CLASS POLICIES

Academic Dishonesty

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of an educational institution. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person’s work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, or collaboration, consult the course instructor, and or TSTC Harlingen, Student Handbook: Code of Student Conduct. Academic Dishonesty includes but is not necessarily limited to the following:

A. Cheating or knowingly assisting another student in committing an act of cheating or other academic dishonesty.

B. Plagiarism occurs when one presents work which is taken from another person who is not given due credit.
   a) You are providing information that your reader may use in seeking further knowledge on your topic, or on a subtopic or peripheral topic that you have treated only briefly.
b) You are providing a means whereby another person may verify the accuracy of your use of sources.

c) Copying files from a student’s disk and submitting to yours is another example.

Intellectual honesty is fundamental to scholarship. Accordingly, the College views plagiarism or cheating of any kind in academic work as among the most serious offenses that a student can commit. Academic dishonesty can result in a grade of \( F \) or 0 for the particular test or assignment involved. A student wishing to contest this ruling must do so within one (1) week after return of graded papers.

**Copyright Statement**

The materials used in the course (textbooks, handouts, media files (podcast, MP3, Videos, RSS Feeds), and all instructional resources on the colleges Learning Management System (Moodle) are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course, and are only to be used for instructional use, activities associated with, and for the duration of the course. By "handouts," this means all materials generated for this course, which includes but are not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and any additional materials.

These materials may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act. These materials may not be reproduced, displayed, modified or distributed without the express prior written permission of the copyright holder or TSTC. For further information contact your instructor.

**Communicating with your instructor (MyMail Email System)**

The use of Your Mymail TSTC College student e-mail account will be the only way to receive official notices from the college. When communicating with instructors and/or employees of the college you are required to use your TSTC Mymail student e-mail address. If you choose to forward your e-mail to another account, please be advised that all communication from and within the college will use your Mymail student e-mail.

**Tutoring**

The Supplemental Instruction & Tutoring Program at TSTC offers free tutoring and academic support services to help you achieve your academic and career goals. You can access the most up-to-date Supplemental Instruction & Tutoring Schedule, as well as MyTSTC Video Tutor Library, by clicking on the following webpage

[http://www.tstc.edu/harlingenss/situtoringprogram](http://www.tstc.edu/harlingenss/situtoringprogram)

For more information, please contact the Office of Student Success at 956.364.4163 or the Supplemental Instruction & Tutoring Program at 956.364.4170

**Moodle Learning Management System**
This course will utilize Moodle as the Learning Management System. Internet exercises, discussion topics and reflection paper topics can be viewed on Moodle. Below are some guidelines to help you understand the course expectations.

1. It is the responsibility of the student to complete discussion topics, reflection papers and chapter exercises by the specified due date.

2. Missed quizzes may be made up on the quiz make-up days. See schedule for date.

3. Discussion topics – Students are to respond to each discussion topic with a minimum of 100 words. In addition to their response to the topic, students must reply to one other student response with a minimum of 25 words. Points will be awarded as follows: 10 points for student response; 10 points for student reply. Deductions will be given for less than minimum allowed words in either response or reply, not addressing the topic, or not answering the discussion assignment. **Discussion topics cannot be made up.**

4. Article Quizzes – Students will read assigned articles and take an on-line quiz on the article. No make-up for these quizzes.

5. Internet exercises – Students will have internet exercises that are related to selected chapter topics. These exercises are intended to combine on-line research with written responses. Late submissions will be deducted 10 points and not accepted after the next class meeting.

6. In-class assignments – These assignments are started and finished in class. Students missing these assignments will not be allowed to make them up. These assignments are identified on the semester schedule

7. Random in-class activities. These unannounced activities will happen throughout the semester. They are not listed on the semester schedule. Students missing these assignments will not be allowed to make them up.

8. On-line assignments – These assignments combine internet activities with discussion and written response exercises.

9. Learning Summaries – These are one paragraph (5 sentences) reflections on chapter topics. Students can reflect on what they learned about the chapter topic that was new (creative knowledge). Students can evaluate the information (analytic knowledge) Students can relate the chapter topic to experience (prior/practical knowledge). Summaries need to be typed and identified by chapter.

10. Service Learning – Students will attend one public meeting (i.e. school board, city commission, county commission, booster meeting, TSTC Student Government Meeting). The meeting must be formal and open to the public. Students will respond to a question set posted on Moodle and turn in a one to two page response by the due date. This assignment is on Moodle.
11. Bonus assignments are located on the Welcome module.

12. Roll will be called throughout the semester.

13. Please turn off all cell-phone and other electronic devices. They are not to be available during class time. Please keep them out of sight. In other words, put them away. Any “emergency” type situations see me before class. If it is truly an emergency, you may ask yourself if you really need to be in class.

14. Any student wishing to use a laptop will need to sit in the first row. When using a laptop, please use the battery source and not the adapter. This is for safety reasons. To be specific, you can only use the laptop with the battery source. Student using the laptop for purposes other than taking notes, viewing the points, or following the chapter outlines will be asked to turn off the laptop and will not be permitted to use it in class for the remainder of the semester.

15. The instructor reserves the right to make any changes to the course syllabus he/she perceives necessary to facilitate the delivery of the course material and student learning. The class will be notified if any changes occur.

16. Last day to drop with a “W” is November 8, 2013

NOTE: Any changes to this syllabus will be provided in writing to the student and updated on all posted locations (HB 2504, course Moodle sites, building offices, etc.).