

**The University of Texas at Dallas  
School of Economic, Political & Policy Sciences  
Department of Sociology**

**Introduction to Sociology  
SOC1 1301.0W1  
Fall 2015**

**Instructor:**

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Online office hours by appointment

**Course Description**

SOCI 1301.0W1. **Introduction to Sociology** (3 semester hours) An overview of the sociological perspective and its application to social research and social policy.

In this introductory course you will learn about the social world in which you live. Sociology is the scientific study of social interaction from the micro through the macro level. We will discuss research, theories, and methods of sociology. By the end of the course you will develop a sociological imagination and you will be able to demonstrate an understanding of culture, socialization and social interaction, stratification, and other topic from a sociological perspective.

This course is taught 100% online – each student is expected to have access to a computer and reliable internet service. There are no prerequisites for this course.

**Required materials**

Macionis, John J. 2015. *Society: The Basics*. 13<sup>th</sup> ed. Pearson. You are welcome to purchase the e-text instead of the hard copy, but you are required to read the textbook. We will not be using MySocLab, so you do not need to purchase the access code for it.

Throughout the semester I may assign additional readings that I will post on eLearning and/or articles that may be read via the Internet.

**Contact Information**

Please take advantage of my office hours which are offered **online** by appointment. I welcome your questions and concerns, and I will try my best to assist you. If you need to contact me privately, please do so via email. I will respond to emails generally within 24 hours. If you have questions related to the readings, assignments, quizzes, or anything else to do with the class please feel free to ask the question on the discussion board - often others will have the same questions. Please allow several days for grades to be posted.

For many of you, this is your first online class, and you are not completely comfortable with the format. If, after taking the eLearning tutorial, you have questions, concerns, or simply can't find what you need on eLearning let me know - I'm here to help you.

## **Core Objectives**

This course supports the development of the new core objectives developed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). You are each expected to demonstrate these skills and an understanding of their importance. This course includes the following required 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

## **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, each student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of:

- The various sociological theories and apply them in the process of analyzing social phenomena.
- The significance of employment of the scientific method in research.
- Sociological research methods, data, and ethics.
- The development and evolution of past and present social structure and institutions and their impact on our world.
- The reflexive nature of our socially constructed social world.
- The sociological imagination.

These course objectives will be assessed through: required readings, weekly discussions, exams and other instructional materials.

## **Course Information and Policies**

My teaching goals are:

- To facilitate learning (yours and mine)
- The continuing development of students' critical thinking skills
- For students to understand coursework and be able to apply this learning to real-life situations outside of the classroom
- To encourage independent thinking
- To encourage questions
- To encourage open exchange of ideas
- To facilitate discussion

### **Technological Considerations:**

Each student must have regular, reliable access to a computer and to the Internet to be successful in this course. The student should have basic computer skills, and should be able to access and browse the Internet. For more information please refer to the "My Organizations" box located on your eLearning homepage (it is the page which opens **after** you log into eLearning).

**It is your responsibility to get your work in on time. There is no make-up work or late work available in this class. Exams are timed and must be completed in one sitting. If you lose your connection during an exam you will not be able to start the exam over.**

### **Technical Support**

If you experience any problems with your UT-Dallas account, then you may email: [assist@utdallas.edu](mailto:assist@utdallas.edu) or call the UT-Dallas Computer Help Desk at 972-883-2911. Please copy me on any emails that have to do with class and technical issues.

### **Electronic Communication:**

Email is an important form of communication for online classes. Please make sure to check your UTD email account regularly (at least once per day!!), or have it forwarded to an account that you check several times a week. Students are expected to check into class regularly for communication and announcements from the instructor

### **Academic Integrity**

As a student at UTD you are expected to complete all assignments honestly. Neither the university nor I will tolerate cheating, plagiarism, and/or any other form of academic dishonesty. Please refer to "Academic Integrity": <http://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/> or <http://www.utdallas.edu/deanofstudents/integrity/> .

### **UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

The following link will bring you to information regarding university policies and procedures: <http://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/>

**All students are required to be familiar with these policies and procedures.**

### **Course Requirements**

#### **Interaction Expectations:**

Traditional classes, unlike online classes, meet at a specific time and place on a regular schedule. The online course offers the participants the opportunity to interact asynchronously; this means that the participants most likely will not be "in" the online classroom at the same time. Our interactions will take place on the discussion board forum. One of the great benefits of online interaction is that what we "say" in our discussions remains on the board. We have the opportunity to think about what someone has posted, and we can fully develop our thoughts before we respond to a classmate. Communication online is through words - we do not hear inflections, sarcasm, or humor, and we do not have physical cues and gestures to clarify meaning. Therefore, we must make every effort to phrase our responses and posts so they will not offend nor alienate our classmates. I expect each of you to completely think out all your posts, read and reread them thoroughly prior to posting, and to carefully consider what you are saying and how you are saying it. At all times show respect and courtesy for your fellow classmates.

#### **Participation (attendance):**

Weekly substantive posts are required for all students.

##### **Please note:**

- **In order to be eligible to earn an A in this class you must post at least 2 substantive posts per week and earn full credit on each**

- In order to be eligible to earn a **maximum** of a B in this class you must post at least 2 substantive posts per week
- In order to be eligible to earn a **maximum** of a C in this class you must post at least 1 substantive posts per week

Each student is required to post a **minimum** of 1 time a week with at least one post before Wednesday at 11:59PM. All posts must be substantive, and they must demonstrate your understanding of the reading materials. **If you only post one time per week, then you cannot earn higher than a C in class.**

The first post must be your reflection of the readings for the week and the second post must be in response to a classmate's substantive post. A reflection is **not** a summary. **The first post is due Wednesday before midnight.**

All subsequent posts are due by 6:00 PM each Saturday. Your posts must refer to different readings or topics; in other words, you must reflect on at least 2 different topics for the readings per week if you choose to post two times.

I will comment on many discussion posts. All students are expected to read and respond to my posted questions. All students are responsible for the information discussed on the discussion board.

Each student can earn up to 15 points per post for a maximum of 30 points for the week for participation in the discussion. Additional posts are encouraged and, at my discretion, up to 10 bonus points per week may be earned for exceptional work. Posts submitted after 6:00 PM on Saturday will not be eligible to earn points.

Grades are based on a 15 point rubric – follow the requirements and you earn up to 15 points.

Rubric (see detailed rubric in eLearning):

- 15 points for being fully engaged in the discussion
- 10 points for being moderately engaged
- 5 points for being minimally engaged
- 0 points for late work or no participation

The expectations are:

- Properly formatted in-text citations
- Properly formatted references at the end of the post
- Proper use of quotation marks
- Posts are substantive
- Post reflect understanding of the reading

An automatic 0 will be earned for:

- Failure to include properly formatted in-text citations
- Failure to include properly formatted references at the end of post
- Failure to include substantive information
- Failure to properly use quotation marks
- Failure to reflect on reading
- Opinion only
- Use of outside information not pre-approved
- Plagiarism, intentional or unintentional - possible additional academic sanction(s).

**Substantive Posts:**

What is a substantive post? It is a post that demonstrates you have read and understand the readings for the week. You may submit posts on 2 different readings or your 2 posts may reflect 2 or more readings. The point is that I need to know by your discussions that you have read and understand the course materials. Your posts must be at least 250 words and they must be written at a level appropriate for college students. Spelling, punctuation, and grammar count! Accurate use of quotation marks is mandatory. Quoted material does not count towards the word count. Improperly formatted quotes, references, and citations will result in a 0 for the post. You **may not** introduce outside information into this class. The reason for this is that I need to make sure the information in this class is accurate and course specific. I also require a lot of reading for my classes and I do not believe it is fair to ask your classmates to read additional materials.

**Time management:**

Time management is imperative in an online class. Many students find that online classes require more time commitment than traditional face to face classes. The student is responsible for the timely completion of all readings, assignments, and interactions. Late work will not be accepted.

**Quizzes:**

There are 16 weekly assessments based on the class readings. The quizzes are multiple choice, true/false, and/or matching. Once the quiz is started it must be finished. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes. You have 10 minutes to take the quiz. The quiz must be completed in the week of the unit. The quizzes should be used as study guides for the two exams and the final – 50% of the final is cumulative. These quizzes are intended to test your knowledge without the use of your books; in other words, they should be taken closed book. You will not have time to look up answers for these quizzes. Each quiz is worth 10 points – for a total of 150 points. This means you have the option of skipping 1 quiz, or you may take all of the quizzes and potentially earn a total of 160 points (10 are extra credit). **If you go over 10 minutes, then you will not have access to the quiz and the correct answers. If you do not take a quiz, then you will not have access to it for the exams.**

**Exams:**

**Exam 1:** Covers Chapters 1-5. The questions will be similar to the questions asked in the quizzes, but the questions will not be identical. Exam 1 is available Wednesday, September 30 and must be completed before 6PM on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The exam is designed to be taken closed-book. You will not have time to look up answers in the book. The exam must be taken in one sitting. There are 50 questions and you have 60 minutes to complete the Exam. **If you exceed 60 minutes, then you will earn a 0 on the exam.**

**Exam 2:** Covers Chapters 6-10. The questions will be similar to the questions asked in the quizzes, but the questions will not be identical. Exam 2 is available Wednesday, November 4 and must be completed before 6PM on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. The exam is designed to be taken closed-book. You will not have time to look up answers in the book. The exam must be taken in one sitting. There are 50 questions and you have 60 minutes to complete the Exam. **If you exceed 60 minutes, then you will earn a 0 on the exam.**

**Final:** The final exam will be made available to the students on **Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** and must be completed before **Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6PM**. The final exam will consist of 100 multiple choice and true false questions. The exam consists of 50 questions which cover Chapters 11-16 and 50 questions which cover information from the entire semester. You have

90 minutes (1 ½ hours) to complete the final. The exam must be completed in one sitting. Late exams will not be accepted. **If you exceed 90 minutes, then you will earn a 0 on the exam.**

**Extra credit:**

There is no extra credit for this course. However, at my discretion, up to 10 bonus points per week may be earned for exceptional work in your weekly postings.

**Grading Rubric:**

Assignment		Points Possible	% of Grade
Maximum of C possible: Weekly Posts (minimum 1 per week)	15 points X 15 weeks	225	22.5%
A or B Level Weekly Posts (minimum 2 per week)	15 points X 15 weeks	225	22.5%
Chapter Quizzes	10 points X 16 (additional points are extra credit)	150	15%
Exam 1	100 points	100	10%
Exam 2	100 points	100	10%
Final Exam	200 points	200	20%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1000</b>	<b>100%</b>

Grade	Points Range
A+	970-1000
A	940-969
A-	900-939
B+	870-899
B	840-869
B-	800-839
C+	770-799
C	740-769
C-	700-739
D+	670-699
D	640-669
D-	600-639
F	Less than 600

***The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***

## Readings

Dates Topics

**Topic 1:**  
**August 24-29**  
**Sociology: Perspective, Theory, and Method** **Chapter 1**

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**Topic 2:**  
**August 30-September 5**  
**Culture** **Chapter 2**

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**Topic 3:**  
**September 6-12**  
**Socialization: From Infancy to Old Age** **Chapter 3**

**Labor Day 9/7**

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**Topic 4:**  
**September 13-19**  
**Social Interaction in Everyday Life** **Chapter 4**

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**Topic 5:**  
**September 20-26**  
**Groups and Organizations** **Chapter 5**

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**Topic 6:**  
**September 27-October 3**  
**Sexuality and Society** **Chapter 6**

**Exam 1: Covers Chapters 1-5**

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**Topic 7:**  
**October 4-10**  
**Deviance** **Chapter 7**

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**Topic 8:**  
**October 11-17**  
**Social Stratification** **Chapter 8**

**Midterm Grades due Saturday 10/17**

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**Topic 9:**  
**October 18-24**  
**Global Stratification** **Chapter 9**

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**Topic 10:**  
**October 25-31** **Chapter 10**  
**Gender Stratification**

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**Topic 11:**  
**November 1-7** **Chapter 11**  
**Race and Ethnicity**

**Exam 2: Covers Chapters 6-10**

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**Topic 12:**  
**November 8-14** **Chapter 12**  
**Economics and Politics**

**AND**

**Family and Religion** **Chapter 13**

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**Topic 13:**  
**November 15-21** **Chapter 14**  
**Education, Health, and Medicine**

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**Fall Break and Thanksgiving**  
**November 22-28**

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**Topic 14:**  
**November 29-December 5** **Chapter 15**

**Population, Urbanization, and Environment**

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**Topic 15:**  
**December 6-9** **Chapter 16**

**Social Change: Modern and Postmodern Societies**

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**Note the last day of class is Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>!!**

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**Final Exam: Is multiple choice and true/false. It is available from Thursday, Dec 10 until Saturday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup> at 6PM under the folder labeled Final Exam (in the Modules). You must take the exam all at once. Once you begin you must finish. The exam consists of 50 questions which cover Chapters 11-16 and 50 questions which cover information from the entire semester. The exam is worth 200 points. You have 90 minutes (1 ½ hours) to complete the exam. The Exam must be completed before Saturday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM. If you exceed 90 minutes, then you will earn a 0 on the exam.**