SOC 1301 Introduction to Sociology (Spring 2018)
MWF 10-10:50   CARR192
MWF 11:11:50   A135

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Campus Office Hours: MWF  12-1p
Virtual Office Hours (BB): TTH  9a-12:30p
& By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course uses a sociological perspective to survey various topics, which may include applying social imagination to concepts related to family, politics, economy, religion, education, crime, population, environment, and so forth.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS
Our Social World: An Introduction to Sociology, 6th by Ballantine, Roberts, and Korgen

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS
- Computer with MAC or Windows Operating System
- High Speed Internet Access
- Access to a Webcam, Digital Camera or other recording device

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Assignment(s) or activity(ies) best validating outcome achievement:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Gaining factual knowledge</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2 Text, Videos, Articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories</td>
<td>3 &amp; 5 Homework, Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Learning to apply course material</td>
<td>4 &amp; 6 Lecture, Discussions</td>
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<td>4. Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing</td>
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<td>5. Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view</td>
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TEACHING STRATEGIES

- Students are encouraged to stay current on the readings and turn assignments in on time. This will benefit them and others as they seek to participate meaningfully in the course.
- Students are expected to be “active learners.” It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved (beyond the materials and lectures presented in the course) discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles, researching additional information and examples on the Internet, and discussing course material and experiences with their peers.
- Students are asked to seek help early if they have problems, questions, or concerns during the semester. Every student has something unique to offer to the discourse. If students don’t come to class or refuse to engage others while in class, that decreases the diversity of the dialog for everyone.

GRADING SYSTEM

Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes. The following grading scale is in use for this course:

A = 500-450 points  
B = 449-400 points  
C = 399-350 points  
D = 349-300 points  
F = 0-299 points (Grades are not rounded up)

EVALUATION AND GRADES

Graded assignments, activities and percent of the overall course grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>% OF GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Assessment</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Practice Tests</td>
<td>160 (16 x 10 points each)</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>250 (5 x 50 points each)</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

TOTAL COURSE GRADE  500

OTHER GRADE-RELATED TOPICS

EXTRA CREDIT: There will be ONE chance for extra credit during the semester (TBA).

BONUSES:

- All exams (not chapter tests) have at least one bonus question, meaning it is possible to get more than 100% on each one.
- Excellent attendance will be rewarded (Sign in every time or you will lose or decrease your bonus!)
  - 0 absences:  10 points
  - 1-2 absences:  5 points

PENALTIES: Attendance/Participation is MANDATORY.

If you have 6 or more unexcused absences, you will fail the course.

(“Excused” means you had a documented illness/death/ASU event/disability-related absence—NOT just a routine medical appointment, court date, faulty alarm clock/vehicle, spring fever, alien abduction, or “my grade is fine without coming to class, thanks” – we need you to participate, not just pass. Excused also means you presented documentation to the professor as soon as you could. **Excused absences that are not documented within a week of your return will be counted as unexcused.** Don’t come to me at the end of the semester to explain that this or that absence was excused because...)
ASSIGNMENT/ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

**Lectures/Discussion/Activities** are designed to give you an opportunity to learn, engage, clarify, and grapple with the basic concepts & principles of sociology.

**Supplemental Material like Videos/Articles/PPTs** are presented online (mostly) and in class to help clarify and enrich your understanding of sociology and to provide more examples than we can cover in a 50-minute class.

**Homework** is designed to make you think critically about how course concepts relate to one another and to you. What forces have shaped who you are, what you believe, and how you live? How might your perspective differ from others? Do you strongly agree or disagree with this or that statement (in the book or otherwise)? Good, that’s the passion I want to see from you. Now, explain why you (dis)agree and support your own statements with good data, not just personal experience.

**Practice Tests/Exams** are designed to test your competence in the essential concepts & principles of sociology AND your ability to apply those concepts & principles to real world situations. Why are there five of them? The number of chapters you would have to study would be overwhelming if I just gave you a midterm and final. This way you can focus on each part of the book as a related whole, rather than studying chapters. And, it should serve to keep you on track throughout the semester.

**COMMUNICATING WITH THE PROFESSOR**
In most cases, Dr. Simpson will respond to your email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

*Written communication via Blackboard:* There is a discussion on the forum to ask questions.

*Written communication via email:* All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. Please start your subject line with “SOC Intro” so your message does not get buried. I can search by that term instead of sifting through 300-400 emails.

*Virtual communication:* Office hours will be via Blackboard’s Connect! for now.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY & ATTENDANCE**
Students are expected to engage in course activities and submit work by due dates and times. The hope is that students will make substantive contributions which reflect integration of assigned materials as well as any outside readings as appropriate. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. For planning purposes, this class will probably require a minimum of 6-9 study hours per week on average.

**ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION**
In this class, all assignments need to be submitted through the Assignments link in the Blackboard course site. This is for grading purposes. Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email the professor at shirley.simpson@angelo.edu and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. This lets her know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work. Remember though, **once the problem is resolved, you MUST submit your assignment through the appropriate link in a timely manner or you will get a zero.**

Please note that the professor can, at her discretion, reject assignments sent to her email, especially if the student continually submits his or her work in this way or habitually has problems with work submitted on or near the due date. If she rejects your assignment or you send it late, you will receive a zero.
LATE WORK OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS POLICY

The course is divided into modules that follow the structure of the required text. For the purpose of clarity, a week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. Assignment due dates are shown on the calendar/schedule and/or posted within Blackboard. **Late assignments will not be accepted without PRIOR approval of faculty.** Your professor reserves the right to deduct points for late assignments that are accepted past the original due date. Under no circumstance will an assignment be accepted more than a week past due. If you completed work and wait more than a week to inform the professor that a grade is missing or incorrect, the zero or incorrect grade will become the permanent grade.

*Note: Keep in mind that missed assignments, even one for 5 or 10 points, can mean the difference between one grade and a lower one at the end of the semester. It happens a LOT. Don’t ask to do extra credit to make up for required work you did not complete. Do not wait until the last week or two of the semester to scour the grade book for missing or incorrect grades. You should check grades as you go along. If you get a zero for an assignment you did or get a score you think is incorrect, you only have a week to point it out. After that, the grade becomes permanent. This policy is to prevent point “fishing” at the end of the semester when some students realize how close they were to a higher grade and are desperate to find points.*

PROBLEM WITH A BLACKBOARD GRADE?

Check your grades regularly. If you do not have a score within a week of submission, receive a zero on an assignment you completed, or get a score you think is in error, please do NOT wait until the end of the semester to point it out. Send an email or speak to me in class so I can check it for you.

*Note: Since your assignments in this course will be digitally submitted, it is unlikely you will find errors on graded homework. Occasionally, though, computer-graded fill-in and short answer questions on quizzes need to be double checked, esp. if you misspell a word or use alternate terminology.*

GENERAL POLICIES RELATED TO THIS COURSE

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in the following documents:

- ASU Undergraduate Catalog located on the ASU website [https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/16795-201213-undergraduate-catalog](https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/16795-201213-undergraduate-catalog)

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is expected on all work. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their online experiences. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The Psychology, Sociology & Social Work Department adheres to the academic honesty statement as set forth in the Angelo State University Student Handbook (2011-2012) [http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/code-of-student-conduct/misconduct.php](http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/code-of-student-conduct/misconduct.php). The University "faculty expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience both in and out of the classroom setting and may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials."

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism at ASU is a serious topic. The Angelo State University’s Honor Code gives specific details on plagiarism and what it encompasses. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.
In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word for word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. We use the *APA Style Manual of the American Psychological Association* as a guide for all writing assignments. Quotes should be used sparingly. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Bb Safe Assignment or Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center [http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php](http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php).

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

1. “Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.”

2. The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Office of Student Affairs, University Center, Room 112 at (325) 942-2047 or (325) 942-2211 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Office of Student Affairs will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students determined to be disabled or who have documented disabilities.

**INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY** *(OP 10.11 Grading Procedures)*

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required.

**STUDENT ABSENCE FOR OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS**

“A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence.” Please see ASU Operating Policy 10.19.

**COPYRIGHT POLICY**

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

**SYLLABUS CHANGES**

The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of such changes by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement. It is the student’s responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.