Dr. Shirley Simpson  
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Phone: (325) 486-6727  
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OFFICE HOURS  
On Campus: MWF 12-1p  
Virtual (BB): TTH 9-12:30p  
& By Appointment  

COURSE INFORMATION  
SOC 3327 Human Diversity and Social Inequality (3 semester credit hours)  

COURSE DESCRIPTION  
This course examines topics of human diversity, identity, and inequality from a sociological perspective. It challenges students to consider the ways in which social practices, attitudes, and values impact these critical issues and promote (or fail to promote) the life chances of various economic, social, and sexual groups, including the poor, nonwhites, women, and those who are not heterosexual.  
Prerequisites: None, but SOC 1301 is strongly recommended  

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS  

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS  
- Computer with MAC or Windows Operating System  
- High Speed Internet Access  
- Webcam  
- Refer to Angelo State University’s Distance Education website for further technology requirements: http://www.angelo.edu/distance_education/  

COURSE DELIVERY (ONLINE)  
This is an online course offering. The course will be delivered via the Blackboard Learning Management System. The course site can be accessed at http://blackboard.angelo.edu
PRE-REQUISITE SKILLS
Accessing internet web sites, use of ASU Library resources, and proficiency with Microsoft Word and/or PowerPoint are required to successfully complete this Sociology course. Computer access requirements are further delineated in the Undergraduate Handbook. Tutorials for ASU Library and for Blackboard are available through RamPort. The ASU Undergraduate Student Handbook should be reviewed before taking this course. [http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/20911-undergraduatetestudenthandbookaug2014-15pdf](http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/20911-undergraduatetestudenthandbookaug2014-15pdf)

BROWSER COMPATIBILITY CHECK
It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the browser used to access course material on his/her computer is compatible with ASU’s Blackboard Learning System. The faculty reserve the right to deny additional access to course assignments lost due to compatibility issues. Students are responsible for reviewing the guidelines posted in this course regarding accessing Blackboard assignments. Problems in this area need to be discussed with faculty at the time of occurrence, either via a phone call (preferred) during posted acceptable hours for calling, or via email notification during times outside those posted for calls.

Be sure to perform a browser test. Select the “Support” tab from the Blackboard homepage ([http://www.blackboard.angelo.edu](http://www.blackboard.angelo.edu)) Select “Test your Browser” option.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)</td>
<td>Reading, Videos, Chapter Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories</td>
<td>Reading, Videos, Chapter Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)</td>
<td>Homework, Chapter Activities, Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view</td>
<td>Discussions, Homework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquiring an interest in learning more by asking questions and seeking answers</td>
<td>Homework</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 (Self-Intro/Review, etc.)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher/Text Website Activities</td>
<td>200 (9 x 20-35 points each)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>100 (4 x 25 points each)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>100 (2 x 50 points each)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL COURSE GRADE 500

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 on popular culture. If one drops or disengages from the others, that decreases the diversity of the dialog for everyone.

ASSIGNMENT/ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Self-introduction is meant to give students an opportunity to connect with each other on a more personal level than enrollment alone allows. It is also meant to give them a jumping off point to begin a dialog with one another that can last throughout the course.

Chapter Activities [on the Publisher’s website] and Exams are designed to help students build and/or test their understanding of the sociological concepts and principles presented in the reading. Knowledge gained from each chapter will be vital in getting the most out of this course.

Short Homework Assignments provide an opportunity for students to apply course concepts to their personal lives, to aspects of the course they find interesting, and to the larger society.

Discussions offer students an avenue for synthesis of material / information. A Discussion Board is provided in this course as a way to help students’ process course materials, express thoughts, and engage others’ opinions and ideas in a healthy and productive learning environment.

GENERAL POLICIES RELATED TO THIS COURSE
All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in the following documents:
- Angelo State University Student Handbook located on the ASU website http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/
- ASU Undergraduate Catalog located on the ASU website https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/16795-201213-undergraduate-catalog
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY & ATTENDANCE

ON-LINE: This class is asynchronous, meaning you do not have to be on-line at a certain time. There are readings which you will have to complete to be able to adequately participate in individual and group assignments. In order to complete this course successfully, you do have to participate in all course activities i.e. discussion boards, course projects, reflective logs, etc. 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.

COMMUNICATION
In most cases, Dr. Simpson will respond to your email and/or telephone messages within 12-24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

Written communication via Blackboard: It is an expectation of this class that you use formal writing skills giving appropriate credit to the source for your ideas. Follow APA (2010) 6th edition (2nd Printing or higher only) guidelines for referencing.

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 DIV” 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.

Use Good "Netiquette":
• Check the discussion frequently and respond appropriately and on subject.
• Focus on one subject per message and use pertinent subject titles.
• Capitalize words only to highlight a point or for titles. Otherwise, capitalizing is generally viewed as SHOUTING!
• Be professional and careful with your online interaction. Proper address for faculty is by formal title such as Dr. or Ms./Mr. Jones unless invited by faculty to use a less formal approach.
• Cite all quotes, references, and sources.
• When posting a long message, it is generally considered courteous to warn readers at the beginning of the message that it is a lengthy post.
• It is extremely rude to forward someone else's messages without their permission.
• It is fine to use humor, but use it carefully. The absence of face-to-face cues can cause humor to be misinterpreted as criticism or flaming (angry, antagonistic criticism). Feel free to use emoticons such as J or :) to let others know you are being humorous.

Assignment Submission
In this class, all assignments, except those done on the McGraw-Hill connect site, 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. Once the problem is resolved, you MUST submit your
**assignment through the appropriate link in a timely manner or you will get a zero.** This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work.

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.*

**EXAMS [RESPONDUS LOCKDOWN BROWSER]**

The midterm and final in this class will use Respondus LockDown Browser. Please do the tutorial on the course website if you are not familiar with this testing method and/or go to the student information website at [https://www.angelo.edu/content/profiles/5052-respondus/Templates/profiles-elearning-support.php#students](https://www.angelo.edu/content/profiles/5052-respondus/Templates/profiles-elearning-support.php#students).

[NOTE: You may receive “points” for the tutorial but these are not actually part of your course grade. The “scores” are just for your own information to gauge your understanding of the material.]

**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.

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.