

ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY

Introduction to Sociology

SOC 1301

Fall 2019

Jennifer Shoemake B.S.; M.S.



ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Psychology, Sociology

COURSE NUMBER

SOC 1301

COURSE TITLE

Introduction to Sociology

CREDITS

Three Semester Credit Hours (3-0-0)

Online Class: Meets completely online using Blackboard

Prerequisite Courses

None

Co-requisites

None

Pre-requisite Skills

Accessing internet web sites, use of ASU Library resources, and proficiency with Microsoft Word and/or PowerPoint are expectations of the Sociology, Psychology program. Computer access requirements are further delineated in the Undergraduate Handbook. Tutorials for ASU Library and for Blackboard are available through RamPort. The ASU Undergraduate/Graduate Student Handbook should be reviewed before taking this course.

<https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/25821-2018-2019-handbook>.

Course Delivery

This is an online course offering. The course will be delivered via the Blackboard Learning Management System. The course site can be accessed at [ASU's Blackboard Learning Management System](#)

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>) Select "**Test your Browser**" option.

FACULTY

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday Virtual Office Hours 9:00-11:00A.M.

Tuesday Office 204A 10:00A.M-11:00A.M.; 12:00P.M-12:30P.M.

Wednesday Virtual Office Hours 9:00-11:00A.M.

Thursday Office 204A 10:00A.M-11:00A.M.; 12:00P.M-12:30P.M.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introduction course to the field of Sociology. You will be graded on your overall understanding of sociology and its various components.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student Learning Outcome	Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:
By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:	
To learn what Sociology is as a field of study and what it has to offer to society as a whole	Research/Reflection Assignment Chapter Discussion Forums
To gain an understanding of the ways that social factors influence the various dimensions of behavior.	Midterm, Final Examination
Discussion and understanding of the major concepts of Sociology, as well as an overall understanding of sociological research and exploration.	Research/Reflection Assignment Chapter Discussion Forums

Required Texts and materials

Macionis, J (2017). *Sociology*. 16th Edition. Pearson.

ISBN 10: 0-13-420631-2

ISBN 13: 978-0-13-420631-2

To participate in one of ASU's distance education programs, you need this technology:

- A computer capable of running Windows 7 or later, or Mac OSX 10.8 or later
- The latest version of one of these web browsers: internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari
- Microsoft Office Suite or a compatible Open Office Suite
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- High Speed Internet Access
- Ethernet adapter cable required (wireless connections can drop during tests and Collaborate sessions)
- Webcam

Refer to Angelo State University's Distance Education website for further technology requirements: [Angelo State University's Distance Education Website](#)

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 = 90.00-100%

B = 80.00-89.99%

C = 70.00-79.99%

D = 60.00-69.99%

F = 0-59.99 %

Evaluation and Grades

1. Examinations (2): 50%
2. Reflection Paper/Writing Assignment (1): 25%
3. Message Board Responses (4): 25%

Total: 100%

EXAMINATIONS (50%): There will be two exams during this semester: A midterm exam, which covers Chapters 1-6, and the final exam, which will cover Chapters 7-11. The exams are composed of multiple-choice and true-false questions. There will be 50 questions (worth 2 points

per question), and you will have 3 hours to complete it. The test for a given week will be available until 11:59 PM, of the assigned week and may be taken three times. After the third attempt has been used, exam access will lock.

Access to exams will be through Respondus Lockdown Browser and will be video recorded via Respondus Monitor [See Other Required Materials for a list of needed equipment]. Use of another electronic device is prohibited.

There are two practice quizzes: a) one is a Webcam test and b) a short 10 question practice quiz over ASU trivia that is not graded. These tools will be available to the student to assure accessibility. Students are highly encouraged to go through these practice quizzes in advance of taking a graded quiz. This process will allow you to become familiar with the technology associated with testing and improve the testing environment. These quizzes, instructional videos, and more information regarding Respondus Monitor can be found under the Respondus Monitor Help tab in your Blackboard course.

Technical Assistance: If you have any technical problems associated with the test (i.e. webcam problems, lock down browser problems) you should contact the IT Department. The IT Service Department is open M-F from 8-5 and the number is (325) 942-2911. If you call any time after 5 or on the weekend, most likely you will not be able to get assistance until the following week day, so please plan accordingly.

Other Notes: -Be sure not to mute your microphone. It is important that the audio be on.
-Be sure to have a light source in front of or next to your computer monitor. If your image is dark and difficult to see on the “Student Photo” step, please add lighting to the front of your computer and retry.
-Make sure that on the “Student Photo” step, you are nicely framed so your face and shoulders can be seen as well as some of the background.
-*****Use an Ethernet cord to “hard wire” your computer to the router helping to ensure you will not lose connection with Blackboard.

REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT (25%): Each student will be required to complete a research/writing assignment taken from specific course content. The paper requirements and topic can be found on Blackboard, and is worth 100 points possible; 25%.

5 MESSAGE BOARD RESPONSES (25%): Along with the assigned readings, during the weeks assigned, you are to contribute to the discussion board. The general topics will be conducted in groups. You are to respond to the general topic then respond to the posts of those in your group. Message board posts, (general and responses) must be 1) relevant to the topic at hand, 2) free of any profanity or vulgar vocabulary, and 3) at least 4 sentences in length.

Initial responses will be due on Fridays of the assigned week, and responses within your group will be due on Sundays by 11:59PM.

*See the detailed discussion grading rubric at the end of this syllabus.

TEACHING STRATEGIES

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 clinical experiences with their peers.

ASSIGNMENT/ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

***Please note: Rubrics for all assignments and activities are located at the end of this syllabus.**

Chapter Discussion Board Activities (5):

Discussion Boards provide 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. Students are expected to respond to all discussion board assessments using the “**Online Discussion Rubric**” to support individual answers to the assigned questions throughout this course.

Research/Reflection Assignment (1)

The research/reflection assignment’s purpose is to demonstrate the student’s thoughtful consideration to their personal experiences, combined with the objective, factual validation and research representation to support their belief and perspective. This paper is to be supported using at least two educational sources, and APA formatted.

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: [Angelo State University's Student Handbook](#)

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY DATES

Last Date to Drop the Course with a “W”: Thursday, October 31, 2019.

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

Faculty will respond to 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: 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.

Virtual communication: Office hours and/or advising may be done with the assistance of the telephone, email, Blackboard Collaborate.

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.

(The "netiquette" guidelines were adapted from Arlene H. Rinald's article, The Net User Guidelines and Netiquette, Florida Atlantic University, 1994, available from Netcom.)

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 me at jennifer.newman@angelo.edu and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. This lets your faculty know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. Once the problem is resolved, submit your assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work.

LATE WORK OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS POLICY

LATE WORK POLICY

The course is set up on weekly modules. The week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. Assignment due dates are shown on the calendar/schedule or posted within Blackboard. **Late assignments are not accepted without prior approval of faculty.** Faculty reserve the right to deduct points for late assignments that are accepted past the original due date.

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 **Archer College of Health and Human Services** adheres to the academic honesty statement as set forth in the Angelo State University Student Handbook: [Angelo State University's Academic Integrity Policy](#). 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: [Angelo State University's Writing Center Website](#).

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](tel:3259422047) or [\(325\) 942-2211](tel:3259422211)(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.

COURSE EVALUATION

Students are provided the opportunity, and are strongly encouraged to participate in a course evaluation at the end of the semester. Areas on the IDEA evaluation include:

- Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
- Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories
- Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing
- 10. Developing a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values

RUBRICS FOR ASSIGNMENTS

1. Research/Reflection Paper Rubric 2. Chapter/Group Discussions Rubric

1. Reflection Assignment Rubric

Clarity/Receipt by due date(25 points possible)

Novice 0 -10 points

Here are frequent lapses in clarity. Concepts are either not discussed or are presented inaccurately. Paper was not received in a timely manner.

Competent/Aware Practitioner 11–20 points

Minor, infrequent lapses in clarity- Abstract concepts are explained fairly accurately.

Proficient/Reflection Practitioner 21-25 points

The language is clear and expressive. The reader can create a mental picture of the situation being described. Abstract concepts are explained accurately.

Relevance (25 points possible)

Novice 0-10 points

Here are frequent lapses in clarity. Concepts are either not discussed or are presented inaccurately.

Competent/Aware Practitioner 11-20 points

Minor, infrequent lapses in clarity - Abstract concepts are explained fairly accurately.

Proficient/Reflection Practitioner 21-25 points

The language is clear and expressive. The reader can create a mental picture of the situation being described. Abstract concepts are explained accurately.

Analysis/Social Approach (25 points possible)

Novice 0 –10 points

Student makes attempts at applying the learning experience to understanding of self, others, and/or course concepts, but fails to demonstrate depth of analysis. Social application limited.

Competent/Aware Practitioner 11-20 points

The reflection demonstrates student attempts to analyze the experience to understanding of self, but analysis lacks depth. Social application limited.

Proficient/Reflection Practitioner 21- 25 points

The reflection moves beyond simple description of the experience to an analysis of how the experience contributed to student understanding of self, others, and/or course concepts.

Acceptable References & Formatting (25 points possible)

Novice 0 – 10 points

No mention of factual data or reference material to support factual claims. APA formatting elements missing-

Competent/Aware Practitioner 11- 20 points

References and citations minimal, and formatting contains errors, with suggestions given.

Proficient/Reflection Practitioner 21-25 points

References used are educational and valid. (No sources given from unsupported websites.

Author's names, publication year, journal titles, page numbers, etc. are provided.) APA formatting used sufficiently.

Paper Grade ____ (100 points possible)

2. Chapter Discussion/Group Forum Grading Rubric

Quality of Post (25 points possible)

Unacceptable 0 points

No posting.

Novice 15 points

Responds, but with minimum effort. (e.g. "I agree with Bill")

Competent 25 points

Appropriate comments and responds respectfully to others postings

Proficient 35 points

Appropriate comments: thoughtful, reflective, and respectful of others postings.

Relevance of Post (25 points possible)

Unacceptable 0 points

No posting.

Novice 15 points

Responds, but with minimum effort. (e.g. "I agree with Bill")

Competent 25 points

Appropriate comments and responds respectfully to others postings

Proficient 30 points

Appropriate comments: thoughtful, reflective, and respectful of others postings.

Contribution to the Learning Community (25 points possible)

Unacceptable 0 points

No posting.

Novice 15 points

Responds, but with minimum effort. (e.g. "I agree with Bill")

Competent 25 points

Appropriate comments and responds respectfully to others postings

Proficient 35 points

Appropriate comments: thoughtful, reflective, and respectful of others postings.

Discussion Grade _____ (100 points possible)

End of syllabus.