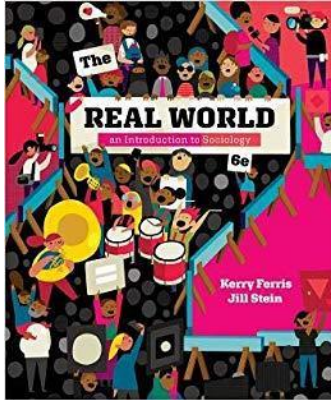


# SOC 1301 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

(Simpson, Sum2 2020)

Virtual Contact: M-F via email or the “I have a question...” forum for general questions



Dr. Shirley Simpson  
Office: Academic Building, A 104A  
Phone: see virtual contact above during the summer  
Fax: “”  
Email: [ssimpson7@angelo.edu](mailto:ssimpson7@angelo.edu)

**Online Contact Hours: MW 9-12p (via email, subject “SOCIntro”)**

## 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.

PREREQUISITES: None      SEMESTER UNITS: 3

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

*The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology*, SIXTH edition, by Kerry Ferris and Jill Stein

- Any format, access card optional. (Use any other editions at your own risk.)

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- Computer: Windows (7 or higher) or MAC (OSX 8.5 or higher) with updated browsers
- High Speed Internet Access with reliable, WIRED connection for time crucial tasks (e.g. tests)
- Access to a Webcam, Digital Camera or other recording device
- Ability to use Office software, PDF Readers, and watch/steam/download videos
- Ability to use Blackboard & features like Respondus Lockdown Browser, Turnitin & forums

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

## DELIVERY METHOD

This course is fully online and has no on-campus contact hours. The course will be delivered via the Blackboard Learning Management System. The course site can be accessed at [ASU's Blackboard Learning Management System](#)

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

- Since there are no class meetings, the professor has provided various videos/articles to add learning variety.
- These supplemental materials are used instead of PPTs because they are more in-depth & foster critical thinking instead of encouraging a “give me the answer” mentality that only works for narrow set of questions.
- Students must log in regularly 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” meaning that they need to read the book/articles, watch videos, engage one another, and challenge their assumptions about the world, themselves, and others.
- Students are expected to support claims using scientific studies/articles/sources whether in a paper or on the forum. That means they must avoid language like “I think,” “I feel,” & “In my opinion.” They must also avoid overgeneralizing from anecdotal examples and personal experiences. Sociologists use big data, data trends, and empirical studies/research to make scientific claims, not individual experiences.
- Students are responsible for keeping track of their progress, deadlines, and grades during the semester.
- Students must seek help early if they have problems, questions, or concerns during the semester.

## 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 = 180-200 points  
B = 160-179 points  
C = 140-159 points  
D = 120-139 points  
F = 0-119 points

*Note that grades are earned, not given. Students do not have a right to be bumped to the next highest grade just because they were close, anymore than Olympic athletes have a right to a gold medal just because they were 1/100 sec behind the winner.*

## EVALUATION AND GRADES

Available points are distributed as follows:

ASSESSMENT	POINTS
Section Quizzes	150
Discussions	50
<hr/>	
TOTAL COURSE GRADE	200

## OTHER GRADE-RELATED TOPICS

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION is MANDATORY but since this is an online course A/P refers to the last date you turned in an assignment, posted on the forum, or completed a section test. Logging in alone doesn't count.

## ASSESSMENT MEASURES/ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Cyberlectures 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/Charts/Etc. are presented to help clarify and enrich your understanding of sociology and to provide more examples than one usually gets in a 50-minute class.

Discussions are 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.

Quizzes (aka Section Tests) 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 within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. After 5pm response times might be longer. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

Written communication via Blackboard: There is a discussion on the forum to ask general 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 “**SOCIntro**” so your message does not get buried. I can search by that term instead of sifting through 300-400 emails.

**Please be polite.** Would you rather get an email that says “I think there has been a mistake...” or one that says, “Why didn't you give me a grade for...”, “Explain to me how it is that I got a D on...”, and “I know I did/uploaded that and you didn't give me credit...?”

Virtual communication: Contact hours will be via email (or Blackboard's Connect! if needed).

## SUBMITTING WORK

In this class, all work will be submitted through the Blackboard course website. Since technology issues do arise from time to time, be prepared. Keep copies of forum entries and attempt quizzes early, rather than waiting until the last minute on the day of the deadline. Double check to be sure the work you just uploaded actually there. Check the gradebook often. If a technology issue does occur, email me ASAP at [ssimpson7@angelo.edu](mailto:ssimpson7@angelo.edu) explaining the problem and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit if appropriate. Please contact the IT Service Center at (325) 942-2911 or go to your Technology Support tab to report the issue.

Remember though, it is your responsibility to be sure your work has been upload on time. If it is not on Blackboard, you will get a zero. Deadlines will NOT be extended nor will quizzes be reopened unless there has been a verifiable, university-wide problem.

## **LATE & MISSING WORK POLICY (Tests and discussions)**

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 unless otherwise noted. Due dates for all assessment measures are shown on the calendar/schedule and/or posted within Blackboard.

Be advised that quizzes are only available for the times/dates indicated and will disappear after the deadline, so doing them late is not an option. Please plan accordingly. The forum threads remain open after the deadline for reference but late entries will not be graded.

It is your responsibility to do your work, follow directions, and double/triple check that your quizzes and forum entries have been uploaded correctly. If your work is not there, it can't earn any points.

Note: Keep in mind that missing tests or discussions will impact your grade. There is no busy work or point padding in this course. Failing to do this or that assessment 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. Don't tell me you won't graduate if I don't pass you. Don't get some well-meaning advisor, coach, or other individual to contact me to "help you" out. Do not wait until the end of the session to scour the grade book for missing or incorrect grades. You should check grades as you go along. If you get a zero for work you did or get a score you think is incorrect, you only have THREE days to point it out. After that, the grade becomes permanent whether it was in error or not. 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 few days of submission or get a score you think is in error, do NOT wait until the end of the session to point it out. Send an email so I can check it for you.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

A schedule for this course is included at the end of this syllabus for reference. Note that all assessment measures listed are due at 11:59 pm on the due date (i.e., on the day the module concludes).

## **SYLLABUS CHANGES**

A syllabus is not a contract. It is a plan, like a speech, that one prepares in good faith about how a given class should flow. In the real world, however, plans need to be flexible and adapt to unexpected situations or problems. To that end, Dr. Simpson reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, she 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.

# General Policies Related to All Courses at ASU

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

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)<sup>i</sup>
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)<sup>ii</sup>

## Student Responsibility and Attendance

**Online:** 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.

## Academic Integrity

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

The College of Health and Human Services adheres to the university's [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).<sup>iii</sup>

## Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

ASU 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 of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at [ADA@angelo.edu](mailto:ADA@angelo.edu). For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).<sup>iv</sup> The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford  
Director of Student Disability Services  
Office of Student Affairs  
325-942-2047  
[dallas.swafford@angelo.edu](mailto:dallas.swafford@angelo.edu)  
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

## Incomplete Grade Policy

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. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 [Grading Procedures](#)<sup>v</sup> for more information.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#)<sup>vi</sup> in the Student Handbook. 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. 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. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).<sup>vii</sup>

## 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. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for [Observance of Religious Holy Day](#)<sup>viii</sup> for more information.

## 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.

## Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course

Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course. Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences.

Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

## Title IX at Angelo State University

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

Face to face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: [michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.boone@angelo.edu)

*Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator.*

**SHOULD YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE IN CONFIDENCE ABOUT AN ISSUE, WITHOUT THEM SHARING THAT INFORMATION WITH OTHERS ON CAMPUS, YOU MAY CONTACT THE UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (325-942-2371), THE 24-HOUR CRISIS HELPLINE (325-486-6345), OR THE UNIVERSITY HEALTH CLINIC (325-942-2171).** You may also choose to contact the San Angelo Police Department or Police Department where the incident occurred.

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

## COURSE SCHEDULE

The following schedule is included to help students plan ahead during the session. Work must be turned in by 11:59pm at the end of each module, except as indicated during. Abbreviations: GD (Graded Discussion) or SQ (Section Quiz). Note the GD's are worth 25 points each and quizzes are worth 10 points per chapter after the first two chapters which are worth 20 points each.

### **Week 1 (7/6-7/12)-: Introduction- to the Field** [DUE: [GD1 & SQ1](#)]

One of the most important things you will learn in this course is how to ask good sociological questions. Use your social imagination to see the world, self, and others in a new way.

- Chapter 1: Sociology and the Real World
- Chapter 2: Studying Social Life: Sociological Research Methods

### **Part 2 (7/13-7/19): Social Cohesion** (What holds society together?) [DUE: [GD2 & SQ2](#)]

As we move to the second topic in this course, our attention turns from asking questions about what sociology is and how to conduct sociological research to asking about what (re)shapes our social experience. What is society? What is culture? What are social institutions? How are individuals socialized? Where does our common experience come from and how do we pass it on to others?

- Chapter 3: Culture
- Chapter 4: Socialization, Interaction, and the Self
- Chapter 5: Separate and Together: Life in Groups
- Chapter 6: Deviance

### **Part 3 (7/20-7/26): Social Tension & Inequality** (What threatens to tear society apart?) [DUE: [GD3 & SQ3](#)]

Now that we know what society is and what unifies it, we ask what conflicts arise in society (or societies).

- Chapter 7: Social Class: The Structure of Inequality
- Chapter 8: Race and Ethnicity as Lived Experience
- Chapter 9: Constructing Gender and Sexuality

### **Part 4 (7/27-8/2): Social Institutions** (Where can one find social ideals?) [DUE: [GD4; HW3, Q4](#)]

How does the infrastructure of a society contribute to its social cohesion, tension, and/or (in)equality?

- Chapter 10: Social Institutions: Politics, Education, and Religion
- Chapter 11: The Economy and Work
- Chapter 12: Life at Home: Families and Relationships
- (Optional - Chapter 13: Leisure and Media) – not on SQ4
- Chapter 14: Health and Illness

### **Part 5 (8/3-8/5): Social Change** (How do societies change?) [EC op]\*

We end this course with an eye toward the future. What kind of society do we want to create? How does change occur? What is a population? How is it affected by births, deaths, and migration? How do we describe cities? How do environments factor into our study of sociology? What distinguishes social movements from other types of change in society? There are many such questions. One of the keys to addressing these questions is to understand how demographics and situational variables can be used to conduct sophisticated analyses of the trends and patterns that bring about change or stifle/stymie change.

- Optional - Chapter 15: Populations, Cities, and the Environment
- Optional - Chapter 16: Social Change

\*NOTE: No final, just an Extra Credit forum entry on a topic related to the last to chapters in the book.

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i <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>

ii <https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/>

iii <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

iv <https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>

v <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

vi <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

vii [https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing\\_center/academic\\_honesty.php](https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php)

viii <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>