SOC 1301 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY  
(Simpson, Spring 2021, both online sections)

Virtual Contact Hours: M 9-11am & TR 6-10pm (via Blackboard Collaborate)

Dr. Shirley Simpson  
Office: Academic Building, A 104A  
Phone: (325) 486-6395 (try virtual contact & email first as I have reduced on-campus presence due to Covid concerns)  
Email: ssimpson7@angelo.edu

No on-campus office hours except by appointment  
(If you email, please include “SOCIntro” in subject line)

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, SEVENTH 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

<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 Section Tests</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Learning to apply course material</td>
<td>4 &amp; 6 Cyberlectures/Learning Modules, Discussions</td>
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<tr>
<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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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 = 270-300 points
B = 240-211 points
C = 210-239 points
D = 180-209 points
F = 0-179 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 metal just because they were 1/100 sec behind the winner.

EVALUATION AND GRADES
Available points are distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSESSMENT</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section Quizzes</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions/Homework</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL COURSE GRADE</td>
<td>300</td>
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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 Biweekly Chapter 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: A discussion may be added to the forum to ask general questions. If you don’t get a response within 24 hours, please email rather than post multiple times about the same issue.

Written communication via email: All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. Start your subject line with “SOCIntro” so your message does not get buried. I can search by that term instead of sifting through hundreds of irrelevant emails.

Be polite: “I think there has been a mistake...” is a good approach. The following is NOT: “Why didn’t you give me a grade for...”,”Explain to me how it is that I got a D when I...”, and “I know I uploaded that work so why didn’t you give me credit for it...?

Virtual communication: Cyber "Office hours" will be via Blackboard’s Collaborate (and by appointment 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 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 (& discussions) are only available for the times/dates indicated and will disappear after the deadline, just as such items would in an on-campus class after time expires. Be sure you give yourself sufficient time to complete a quiz or forum post before the deadline. If an item is marked late you risk getting a zero or, if accepted, a reduction of up to 50% of the total value of the assessment.

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 FIVE 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

On-Campus: Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students in Class at ASU

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct. See video: https://youtu.be/4uecCBgaCGQ
All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- Angelo State University Student Handbook
- Angelo State University Catalog

**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](#).

**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. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#). 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  
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](#) for more information.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s [Academic Integrity policy](#) 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](#).
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 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
Face to face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
Phone: 325-942-2022
Email: 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 in the jurisdiction 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.
COURSE SCHEDULE

The following schedule is included to help students plan ahead during the session. See Learning Modules on Blackboard for discussion/homework due dates within modules. Chapter tests are worth 10 points per chapter and only the first exceeds 20 questions. Abbreviations: GD (Graded Discussion) or CQ (Chapter Quiz).

Part 1 (Jan 25-Feb 14): Introduction- to the Field [DUE: Self-Intro; GD1, CQ1]

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: Soc Research Methods

CQ1 Covers Chps 1-2: Due Feb 12

Part 2 (Feb 15-Mar 14): Social Cohesion (What holds society together?) [DUE: GD2; CQ2, CQ3, HW1]

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

CQ2 Covers Chps 3-4: Due Feb 26
CQ3 Covers Chps 5-6: Due Mar 12

Part 3 (March 15-28): Social Tension & Inequality (What threatens to tear society apart?) [DUE: GD3; CQ4, CQ4]

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

CQ4 Covers Chps 8-9 Due Mar 26

Part 4 (Mar 29-Apr 25): Social Institutions (Where can one find social ideals?) [DUE: GD4; CQ5, CQ6, HW2]

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

- Chapter 10: Soc Institutions: Politics, Ed, & Religion
- Chapter 11: The Economy and Work
- Chapter 12: Life at Home: Families and Relationships
- Chapter 13: Leisure and Media
- Chapter 14: Health and Illness

CQ5 Covers Chps 10-11: Due Apr 9
CQ6 Covers Chps 12 & 14 only: Due Apr 23

Part 5 (Apr 26 - May 12): Social Change (How do societies change?) [DUE: GD5; CQ7]

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.

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

7CQ8 Covers Chps 15-16: Due May 12

*NOTE: No “final” per se; just a 20-question quiz covering the last two chapters (30-50 minutes max, not two hours).