

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus
Introduction to Sociology – Soci1301
Revised December 2019

Department: Behavioral Science

Discipline: Sociology

Course Number: Soci1301

Course Title: Introduction to Sociology

Available Formats: conventional and internet

Campuses: Levelland, Reese, Plainview, Lubbock Center, Dual-Credit

Course Description: The scientific study of human society, including ways in which groups, social institutions, and individuals affect each other. Causes of social stability and social change are explored through the application of various theoretical perspectives, key concepts, and related research methods of sociology. Analysis of social issues in their institutional context may include topics such as social stratification, gender, race/ethnicity, and deviance.

Prerequisite: No prerequisite for conventional sections; must be TSI compliant in reading for Internet sections including dual credit.

Credit: 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 0

Textbook: *The Real World*, 6th edition, Norton Publishing. See instructor's course information sheet for textbook and on-line publisher content requirements.

Supplies: Computer and Internet access for all course formats and campuses.

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Component Area (080)

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:

- **Communications skills**—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Empirical and quantitative competency skills**—to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- **Social Responsibility**—to include the demonstrated knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Compare and contrast the basic theoretical perspectives of sociology.
2. Identify the various methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data in sociology.
3. Describe key concepts in sociology.
4. Describe the empirical findings of various subfields of sociology.
5. Explain the complex links between individual experiences and broader institutional forces.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: See instructor's course information sheet for information on assessment that may include the following: pretests and posttests, quizzes, discussions, essays and/or other types of assessment tools.

Course Evaluations: Refer to instructor's course information sheet for specifics on coursework and grading.

Attendance Policy: As per the *SPC General Catalog*:

Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

See instructor's course information sheet for additions to the attendance policy.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;

3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Diversity Statement: In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Disability Statement: Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

Nondiscrimination Policy: South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement: If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To [activate](#) accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or [email cgilster@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

Campus Concealed Carry: Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry

a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>
Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

SPC Bookstore Price Match Guarantee Policy:

If you find a lower price on a textbook, the South Plains College bookstore will match that price. The difference will be given to the student on a bookstore gift certificate! The gift certificate can be spent on anything in the store.

If students have already purchased textbooks and then find a better price later, the South Plains College bookstore will price match through the first week of the semester. The student must have a copy of the receipt and the book has to be in stock at the competition at the time of the price match.

The South Plains College bookstore will happily price match BN.com & books on Amazon noted as *ships from and sold by Amazon.com*. Online marketplaces such as *Other Sellers* on Amazon, Amazon's Warehouse Deals, *fulfilled by Amazon*, BN.com Marketplace, and peer-to-peer pricing are not eligible. They will price match the exact textbook, in the same edition and format, including all accompanying materials, like workbooks and CDs.

A textbook is only eligible for price match if it is in stock on a competitor's website at time of the price match request. Additional membership discounts and offers cannot be applied to the student's refund.

Price matching is only available on in-store purchases. Digital books, access codes sold via publisher sites, rentals and special orders are not eligible. Only one price match per title per customer is allowed. Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.

Course Information Sheet

SOCI 1301-Introduction to Sociology-Spring 2020

Instructor: Brant Farrar

Sections (MW-Reese campus, TR-Levelland campus):

- **SOCI 1301.003 (TR 11:00AM to 12:15PM-Room AD149-Levelland)**
- **SOCI 1301.201 (MW 9:30AM to 10:45AM-Room 407-Reese Center)**
- **SOCI 1301.203 (MW 11:00AM to 12:15PM-Room 407-Reese Center)**

Office Hours:

- **Monday and Wednesday-8:30am to 9:30pm; 2:15pm to 3:30pm (Reese Center)**
- **Tuesday and Thursday-8:30am to 9:30am; 2:15pm to 3:30pm (Levelland)**
- **Friday-By Appointment ONLY: Call or email me and we will find a time that works for you if my posted office hours do not fit your schedule (do be sure to keep appointments as my time is just as valuable as yours). All appointments will be held at my Reese campus office unless otherwise noted.**

**Office Location: Reese campus, Building 4, Room 405E (primary office)
Levelland campus, Administration Bldg., AD152**

Email Address: bfarrar@southplainscollege.edu (preferred method of contact)

Office Telephone: (806) 716-4657

Classroom Behavior:

I have few classroom rules but feel obligated to discuss disruptive behavior* and what it means in a college classroom. First, we are all adults therefore I would appreciate having your attention when I lecture and when another student is speaking. That means that you will direct comments to the entire class and not just to those seated near you. Do not get “personal” when discussing topics (this entails that a student should not verbally attack or be attacked by anyone in the classroom). Secondly, it is very rude to send text messages, read papers or sleep in class. If you feel the need to do any of these you may be asked to leave and return the next class day after meeting with me to discuss the matter in question. Lastly, cell phones are commonplace but are inappropriate in class. If you have one, please mute or turn it off during class. If you feel the need to use your cell phone in any manner (calling, texting, checking the time) you should be aware that this is not appropriate and will not be tolerated. If you are texting in class I will ask you to leave and you will be counted absent for that day as you cannot concentrate on two things at once. If you are expecting a phone call for emergency reasons please notify me BEFORE class. SMART WATCHES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED DURING EXAMS. Such devices MUST be put away before the exam begins. Failure to do so may result in a zero for that exam. Tobacco products of any kind may not be used during class including but not limited to pipes, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, SNUS, and/or electronic cigarettes.

*Disruptive behavior includes but is not limited to being rude to an instructor or other students, walking out of class before class ends, making “side comments” to other students, or any other non-adult behavior as defined by the instructor. See the Student Guide for details regarding SPC policy concerning student conduct.

Mental Health Services:

Free counseling services are available through the Student Health and Wellness office in building 8 on the Reese campus. Counseling if available for ANY issues students may be experiencing. If you have any questions do not hesitate to speak to me. I have interest in your success as a student AND an individual!

([http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=46&navoid=1130#Health and Wellness](http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=46&navoid=1130#Health_and_Wellness))

Attendance:

Absences:

- **If you miss five or more class periods, you may be dropped from the course with an “X or an F” for the course (depending on your grades accrued at the time of the drop). THIS IS IMPORTANT: It is your responsibility to withdraw from the course if you do not attend.**
- There are no “excused absences” in this course. It is the student’s responsibility to attend class and get lecture notes from classmates if a class meeting is missed.
- IF you are sick and contagious when an assignment is due, DO NOT COME TO CLASS and risk getting your fellow students (and me) sick. Email me your assignment BEFORE the beginning of class.

- You must attend the class you have enrolled in to receive attendance credit, if issues arise related to work schedules or child care please speak to me about possible ways we can deal with such matters.
- If a student misses **TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS OF CLASS** the student may be dropped from the course. In classes that meet on M/W or T/R, this would mean four consecutive class meetings.
- If you are going to miss class communicate with the instructor before you miss class or immediately following your absence.

Tardiness:

Two tardies or early exits will count as one (1) absence. Being late to class is very disruptive and rude. It is suggested (strongly) that you allow enough time in your schedule to arrive a few minutes early to class. If you leave class early, that may count as a tardy or an absence depending on the time you leave and the way you leave class. If you are tardy it is your responsibility to approach me after class and make sure that you are on the roll for that day to be counted as tardy and not absent. Attendance will be taken every class. You are enrolled in this course and it is your JOB to attend class regularly, thus you should do your best to be in your seat prepared for class before the appointed class start time.

Role is taken by students signing a role sheet in EVERY class meeting. Failure to sign in will result in being counted absent. It is the STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to ensure they sign in for EVERY class. Having a classmate sign in for you when you are not present may result in you being DROPPED from the class an "X" or "F"! The same goes for students who themselves fill in missed class periods following and absence. If there is an issue with your attendance please discuss such matters with the instructor. A student who is tardy must use a "T" with a circle around it for attendance instead of their initials on the roll sheet.

South Plains College email and Blackboard:

Your official SPC email will be the official way that I contact you. *Outline versions of the PowerPoint will be provided in class. Blackboard may be utilized during the semester at the instructor's discretion.* Provision of the PowerPoint notes is so that you can concentrate on what I am saying rather than only writing down what is on the PowerPoint.

***When emailing professors you should use correct spelling, grammar and punctuation. Do not use text speak or computer shorthand. This will increase the clarity of your message/question and give the impression that you care about the course. Also, if you email a professor you should expect a response within a reasonable timeframe so act accordingly. Students **MUST** check their email and blackboard accounts on a **REGULAR BASIS** (this means daily or at least every other day).

Grading and Testing:

- **3-Exams (100 points each, 300 points total):**

Exams will be based on a combination of lecture, assigned readings, videos and class discussions. If you miss class you will miss vital information. Tests must be taken during your scheduled class time. Exams may be a combination of true/false, multiple choice and essay questions designed to test your knowledge and understanding of concepts covered during the course of this class. The final exam is **NOT** cumulative.

If you miss a test, that is considered a “0”. If you experience an extreme emergency or conflict prior to an exam and notify me BEFORE the exam one attempt will be made to allow the student to complete the missed exam following provision of documentation (speak to me regarding what will constitute valid documentation). If the student misses this makeup exam the student will have earned a zero for the missed exam. **If there is a conflict with a religious holiday, please let me know now. All exam dates are listed in the syllabus.**

- **Special Requirements:** If you miss an exam you may take a make-up exam within one week of the original exam date. You must contact your professors and provide appropriate documentation for your absence to take this make-up exam. If you will miss class longer than a week following the exam you should contact the professor so that arrangements can be made for your make-up.

- **1-Major Assignments (150 points):**

The primary writing assignment in this class will be a social breach assignment which will require students to submit a proposal, then following approval of your proposal you will break a social norm (numerous times) then complete a write-up of your experience. A detailed assignment will be given to students with sufficient time to complete the assignment by the corresponding deadlines. **Assignments are not accepted late, so be aware of class deadlines.**

- **Chapter Quizzes (10 quizzes at 10 points apiece for a total of 100 points):**

Students will be required to complete a chapter quiz for each chapter we cover in class. Each chapter quiz will be taken by students before the chapter discussion is begun in class. Each chapter quiz will be worth 10 points. If more than ten chapters are covered during the semester, the ten highest grades for each student will be used to calculate this grade. If we do not have ten quizzes throughout the semester the missing points will be disregarded from the grading scheme. (Ex. If there are eight quizzes we will only have 80 points for this category.) This should be an easy grade for students and should also encourage students to actually read the course material. This practice can help maximize student learning and improve exam grades.

- **Journal Submissions (Two assignments worth 75 points apiece for 150 points total):**

Over the course of the semester students will be required to make journal entries pertaining to chapter readings, videos viewed inside or outside class, discussion questions, key concepts, reactions to certain topics, or other class related issues. Journals will be submitted online via Blackboard. Deadlines will be stated in class and listed on Blackboard. Topics and corresponding due dates for journal assignments will be announced in a timely fashion. Students MUST check their email and blackboard accounts on a REGULAR BASIS (this means daily or at least every other day).

- **Participation (100 points):**

Attendance is vital to your success in this class. **Attendance will count toward your final grade with selected class meetings being worth 5 points apiece. If you are tardy to class (leave early or arrive late) you will only receive 2 points for attendance. This entails that most class periods will earn you credit, though you will not know which classes will be counted towards your final grade until you attend class, thus encouraging you to attend ALL class meetings.** If students are not prepared to participate in class discussion the attendance grade may be taken in the form of quizzes based on the assigned reading for corresponding class days. Also, the instructor reserves the right to select activities (in or out of class) which will count towards the student participation grade. Students will be notified in a timely manner in such situations.

• **Point breakdown:**

▪ Three exams 100 points each (3*100):	300
▪ One assignment 150 points (1*150):	150
▪ Two journal assignments 50 points each (2*75):	150
▪ Ten chapter quizzes (10*10):	100
▪ Attendance (20*5):	100
TOTAL POINTS:	800

Your grade will be based upon the accumulation of points. The grading breakdown is as follows:

720 to 800	A
640 to 719.9	B
560 to 639.9	C
480 to 559.9	D
479.9 and below	F

Students are encouraged to come by during office hours to discuss their grades and any other class related questions as I do not discuss grades through email.

Tentative Lecture Schedule (subject to change):

Weeks 1-5	Chp1-Sociology:Persepective, Theory and Method; Chp2-Culture; Chp3-Socialization:From Infancy to Old Age; Chp4-Social Interaction in Everyday Life
Weeks 6-10	Chp5-Groups and Organizations; Chp6-Sexuality and Society; Chp7-Deviance; Chp8-Social Stratification; Chp9-Global Stratification
Weeks 11-16	Chp10-Gender Stratification; Chp11-Race and Ethnicity; Chp12-Economics and Politics; Chp13-Family and Religion; Chp14-Education, Health, and Medicine; Chp15-Population, Urbanization, and Environment; Chp16-Social Change: Modern and Postmodern Societies

SEE Course Calendar on Blackboard for important dates

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE:

- **SOCI 1301.003 (MW 11:00AM to 12:15PM)**
 - **Final Exam time→Tuesday, May 5th, 10:15AM-12:15PM**
- **SOCI 1301.201 (TR 9:30AM to 10:45AM)**
 - **Final Exam time→Wednesday, May 6th, 8:00AM-10:00AM**
- **SOCI 1301.202 (TR 1:00PM to 2:15PM)**
 - **Final Exam time→Monday, May 4th, 10:15AM-12:15PM**

Readings for Class:

Students are expected to read the chapters before the corresponding lecture. There are two reasons for this. First, you will have some familiarity with the material and therefore the lectures

will have a lot more meaning for you. Second, if there is something that you didn't understand in the text you can point it out to me and I can clarify it to you. You will be tested over the lectures as well as the readings. The first thing you should read in each chapter is the visual summary located at the end of the chapter. Next go through the chapter noting highlighted words. You are responsible for the higher level concepts covered in the text, but it is impossible for you to understand these if the book is using words you don't understand! Use the glossary of the book and a sociological dictionary if this will help you. The people who read and comprehend well think and read at the same time. Read the questions at the end of the chapter first and then read the chapter looking for the answers as you read. Write in your book if it helps. Examples of the concepts that you can remember: What you understand, what you don't, anything to help!

Writing Expectations for Class:

All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. Writing instructors and professors in courses across the campus expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in their written work, whether it is in-class exams or take-home essays.

Writing Tips:

- **All written work should be typed (or computer generated), double spaced, with one inch margins (all around), Times New Roman font and in a standard 12 point font. Please use Word for attachments.**
- Any references used should be listed at the end of the paper using one of the widely accepted format styles. This should not be an issue in this class, but IF you happen to ever use an outside source keep in mind: **Using ANY outside material without proper documentation constitutes plagiarism which is a serious academic offense.** Wikipedia is not considered a valid academic source. Do not use it!
- **All definitions should be drawn from the text book (or lecture).**
- **DO NOT USE ANY "ESSAY" websites for this course that provide prepared responses to assignments.**
- Assignments should be written in paragraph format unless instructed otherwise.
- For the assignments in this class, it is better to write using first or third person pronouns. Therefore it is appropriate to use "I, me, mine" or "he, she, their, we." It is not appropriate to use "you" or "your." Please avoid writing in 2nd person.
- Tutoring services are available on both the Levelland campus and the Reese campus and you are encouraged to utilize these services at no charge.

Additional Information:

- Students will need access to and will be required to use a word processing program for this course. If you do not such access at home there are many computers for you to use across the Levelland and Reese campuses.
- Online study tools are available for your text. You are encouraged to use these, especially as preparation for the class exams.

- **EXTRA CREDIT will be given solely at the instructor's discretion** (do NOT ask for extra credit ESPECIALLY at the end of the semester, hence no "is there anything I can do to increase my grade..." or other such emails at the end of the semester). The answer will be "NO". The time to be concerned about your grade is now. Your steadfast attendance, studious habits and preparation for class should facilitate your success in this, and other, college courses.
- Be sure to proofread your work for grammatical and spelling errors. Use the "enable html" button within the email, assignments, and discussion functions to run a spell check. Also, remember that "healthy" paragraphs are usually comprised of at least three sentences organized around a central idea, though a paper filled with three sentence paragraphs would be awkward.
- Do not attempt to add me as a friend via Facebook during the semester. This is an attempt to circumvent any issues which might arise from such connections. Following the semester you are more than welcome to add me as a FB friend.
- Guests are NOT allowed in class unless the instructor gives approval. Prior notice should be provided if at all possible.
- If you have any medical or other condition I should be aware of I would appreciate you discussing this matter with me under the assurance of confidentiality.
- Computer use in class is prohibited unless discussed with the instructor. If a computer is allowed in class and a student is believed to be using this device for any purpose not directly related to class the student may be required to abstain from future computer use during class.
- The course agreement MUST be signed by the deadline or you will be penalized for your inability to follow instructions. This penalty may include dismissal from lecture, inability to earn attendance points or being dropped from the course. It is absolutely necessary that you officially recognize your rights and responsibilities as a member of this class.
- ****This course involves controversial topics which may challenge or conflict with your existing beliefs and may require you to go outside your comfort zone. We will examine oppression privilege and inequality from a variety of expert, academic, and research perspectives. Although you are not expected to accept or concur with the perspectives, attitudes, and beliefs of the instructor, authors, or fellow classmates, you must at least consider other perspectives and interact with others respectfully.
- ***I am open to any concerns you have during this course. Confidentiality is guaranteed.***
- ***LASTLY...thank you for selecting this course and ensuring I have a job! I look forward to a wonderful semester...I hope you do too!***

Course Agreement

I have received a copy of the course syllabus. I have reviewed the syllabus thoroughly. I understand the course format, attendance, drop policy, classroom behavior, Blackboard, SPC email, assignment and examination system. I further understand my responsibilities and rights as explained by the instructor. I also understand that this course deals with controversial/difficult topics. I understand I do not have to agree with the professor or the course materials but that I must demonstrate an understanding of the material. I will discuss any issues I have concerning the class material and/or discussion with the professor. I agree to all the course requirements as stated in the syllabus.

Course and section number _____

Student's name (PRINT) _____

Student's local telephone number _____

Student's preferred pronouns (circle one set or fill in your desired pronouns):

They/Their/Them She/Her/Hers He/Him/His

Pronouns as specified: _____

Date _____

Student's Signature _____

***This sheet must be filled out in the professor's office within the first three weeks of class. Failure to submit this syllabus agreement may result in a student being counted as "absent" until this form is submitted. This information will be kept until the completion of the corresponding semester. Following this period this sheet will be shredded and disposed of properly to ensure the confidentiality of this information.