Instructor: Dr. Michael Ramirez  
Office: Bay Hall 344  
Office hours: Mondays 6:00 – 7:00  
Tuesdays/Thursdays 12:15 – 1:15 and 3:15 – 4:15  
and by appointment  
Phone: 361-825-2388  
E-mail: Michael.Ramirez@tamucc.edu

Course Description:  
Sociology is the study of social behavior and human groups. It is much more than simply a discipline—it is a way of engaging with and examining your world. This course is designed to introduce you to sociological perspectives and its major theories, as well as the research methods employed by sociologists to understand how society works. We will discuss the core concepts and theories that sociologists use, but will also review classic and contemporary studies on particular aspects of social life. We will focus primarily on the influence of social relationships on people’s attitudes, behaviors, identities, and life outcomes. Topics we will discuss include culture, socialization, the media, race, gender, social class, education, deviance, family, work, health, and social change.

Learning Outcomes:  
By the end of the semester students should be able to:  
1. To describe the basic concepts and theories used in sociology  
2. To understand the relationship between technology and social change  
3. To recognize the reciprocal relations between individuals and society

Course Requirements  
Text:  

Additional readings available on WebCT.
Assignments:

Exams:
We will have four exams throughout this course, each of which is worth 20% of your final grade. They will consist of a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. Each exam will focus only on those materials read or studied since the last exam, although we will be building concepts and theoretical understandings that will be drawn upon throughout the course. It is only in this sense that they will be cumulative.

Homework Assignments:
To encourage your thinking on the issues we will cover in class, I will periodically give you homework assignments to complete. These activities serve a dual purpose. First, they will help you organize your thoughts on particular topics we will cover in class. Second, they will help spur class discussions. Completing these assignments will not only provide you credit for this portion of your grade, but will also help prep you for discussions. There will be a total of 5 assignments for the semester. They will be distributed in class a week before the due date and will be available on WebCT as well.

Missing class on days I assign homework does not grant you an extension. It is your responsibility to check WebCT for assignments. Assignments will be due at the beginning of class on the days listed in the course calendar. I will not accept them by email. If you are going to miss class on a day on which an assignment is due, make sure I get a copy of your assignment before the deadline. You can drop it off at my office or leave it with the administrative assistant. Assignments will accrue a penalty of 10 points for every 24 hours they are late. The average of your scores on these assignments will count for the remaining 20% of your final average (each assignment worth 4%).

Note: Late work will only be accepted in extreme circumstances (such as auto wrecks, hospitalization, and family emergencies). Sick days and doctor visits do not constitute extreme circumstances.

Course Policies
Attendance Policy:
Regular attendance is essential to doing well in this course. I will be checking attendance regularly. It is your responsibility to make certain you have signed the attendance sheet. If you are not in class at the point that the sheet is passed around, you will be marked absent for that day.

If you need to arrive late or leave early because of an appointment or such, please talk to me before class and make your arrival/departure as quietly as possible. This is as much, if not more, for your classmates as it is for me. Many students find it very distracting to keep focused on lecture when others are coming and going at odd times.

Lastly, if you choose to come to class, I expect you to be mentally as well as physically present. Sending/reading text messages, getting on the internet, and reading newspapers or other texts during class is unacceptable. If you need to get work done for another class, then just skip this class. We all have to make choices about where to put our energy on any given day.
Classroom Ground Rules:
In this class, we will discuss both abstract theoretical ideas and concrete, practical information about different social groups and social behaviors. I hope that these materials will challenge you intellectually and personally. Because this class may touch on controversial social issues, I propose the following ground rules, which I would like you all to agree to and assume while in this classroom.

1. Acknowledge that all of us have learned misinformation about our own social group and about members of other groups, whether we belong to a majority or minority group.

2. Agree not to blame ourselves or others for the misinformation we have learned in the past, but accept responsibility for not repeating misinformation after we have learned otherwise.

3. Be respectful. Class discussion time is a critical point of showing respect and intellectual growth. We need to make our discussions “safe” for everyone. We all need to make this happen together. Listen carefully to comments. Do not interrupt. Use words (nonverbal and guttural sounds are not acceptable forms of communication). Frame your responses in civil terms (verbal attacks are not acceptable). If you want to take issue with someone else’s response, first summarize what you heard them say. Then discuss why the “idea” (not the person) is problematic.

4. You speak for yourself. You own your opinion and you get to keep it. The voices that we speak with are often indicative of larger narratives that have been a part of our particular social experience. We do not speak for all members of a group to which we belong. I strive to present research that is methodologically and theoretically sound. Your opinion may not be supported by research that I present in class. That dissonance may make you uncomfortable or even angry. Note those emotions. They are important.

Academic Dishonesty:
It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the University’s codes on academic dishonesty. In general, any form of academic dishonesty (including but not limited to cheating and plagiarism) will not be tolerated. Such instances will be reported to the Department Chair, as well as to Student Affairs. Sanctions can include: receiving a zero on the assignment/exam, receiving an F for the final course grade, and/or recommendation for dismissal from the University. For more information, refer to: http://studentaffairs.tamucc.edu/JAffairs/index.htm.

Notice to Students with Disabilities:
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.
Academic Advising:
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty member, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E and can be reached at 825-3466.

Grade Appeal Process:
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Important Dates:
This schedule is tentative and is subject to change.
Exam 1: Sept 26
Exam 2: Oct 31
Exam 3: Nov 21
Exam 4: Dec __

Grading:
Your final grade will be calculated as follows:
Exam 1 ___ X .20 = ___
Exam 2 ___ X .20 = ___
Exam 3 ___ X .20 = ___
Exam 4 ___ X .20 = ___
Homework Assignment 1 ___ X .04 = ___
Homework Assignment 2 ___ X .04 = ___
Homework Assignment 3 ___ X .04 = ___
Homework Assignment 4 ___ X .04 = ___
Homework Assignment 5 ___ X .04 = ___
Final Grade = sum of these totals ___

Final Letter Grades:
A = 90.00% to 100.00%
B = 80.00% to 89.99%
C = 70.00% to 79.99%
D = 60.00% to 69.99%
P = below 60.00%
**Course Calendar**

Materials should be read **before** coming to class.

**RW:** *The Real World*

**AR:** Additional Reading (available on WebCT)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Assignments</th>
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| **Aug 29** | The Sociological Perspective | RW: Chapter 1  
            |                                   | RW: Chapter 2 (pgs. 37-57)  
            |                                   | AR: Clarke’s “Panic: Myth or Reality” |
| **Sept 12**| Methods of Social Research | RW: Chapter 3   
            |                                   | *Homework #1 distributed in class* |
| **Sept 19**| Culture / Socialization | RW: Chapter 4  
            |                                   | AR: Peterson’s “Roll Over Beethoven: There’s a New Way to be Cool”  
            |                                   | RW: Chapter 5  
            |                                   | *Homework #1 due at beginning of class* |
| **Sept 26**| EXAM                | **EXAM**                                                                 |
| **Oct 3**  | Deviance            | RW: Chapter 7  
            |                                   | *Homework #2 distributed in class*  
            |                                   | *(This assignment is based on an in-class viewing of a film today. You must be present today to complete Homework #2.)* |
| **Oct 10** | Media               | RW: Chapter 14 (pgs. 380-392)  
            |                                   | *Homework #2 due at beginning of class*  
            |                                   | *Homework #3 distributed in class* |
| **Oct 17** | Stratification      | RW: Chapter 8                                                                 |


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<tr>
<th>Oct 24</th>
<th>Homework #3 due at beginning of class</th>
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<td>Race and Ethnicity</td>
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<td>RW: Chapter 9</td>
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<td>AR: Berbier’s “Why Are There So Many ‘Minorities’?”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 31</td>
<td>EXAM</td>
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<td>Homework #4 distributed in class</td>
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<td>RW: Chapter 10</td>
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<td>AR: Risman &amp; Schwartz’s “After the Sexual Revolution: Gender Politics in Teen Dating”</td>
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<td>RW: Chapter 13</td>
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<td>AR: Qian’s “Breaking the Last Taboo: Interracial Marriage in America”</td>
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<td>Homework #4 due at beginning of class</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>RW: Chapter 11 (pgs. 299 – 308)</td>
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<th>Dec 5</th>
<th>Health / Social Change</th>
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<tr>
<td>AR: Berkman’s “The Health Divide”</td>
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<tr>
<td>RW: Chapter 16</td>
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<td>AR: Meyer’s “How Social Movements Matter”</td>
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<th>Dec __</th>
<th>EXAM</th>
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SOCI 1301 INFORMATION SHEET

Name: _______________________________

Name by which you wish to be called: _________________________

Email address: _________________________

Major: ________________________________

What career do you plan to pursue in the future?

Briefly, why does this line of work interest you?

____________________________________________________________________________________

COURSE CONTRACT

In order to remain in this class, you must read the syllabus, complete this form, and return it to the instructor.

Statement of Understanding Course Requirements

I have read the syllabus for SOCI 1301, and I understand the course requirements including the policies on grading, coursework, classroom ground rules, attendance, absences, make-up exams, and academic dishonesty.

Name: ________________________________ (print)

Signature: _____________________________