MWF 10:00-10:50am  
Bay Hall 205

Professor: Isabel Araiza, Ph.D.  
Office: Bay Hall 347  
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:30-10:30am, Wednesdays 11am-Noon.  
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Email: Isabel.Araiza@tamucc.edu  
Blackboard: http://bb9.tamucc.edu

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION:  
Course Description:  
For most students, this course is their first formal introduction to sociology. Sociology is a systematic, scientifically influenced examination of the human social world. It investigates virtually every aspect of human social life, critically examining how impersonal social forces and phenomena influence various aspects of our existence: what our social institutions look like, how they operate, the choices we make in our everyday lives, the options from which we have to choose, how and why we arrive at our understanding of the world around us, why we hold the values we possess, etc.

Sociologists employ multiple theories to examine our social world. The different theories available focus their attention on a variety of aspects of our social life and can offer dramatically different, sometimes conflicting, explanations about social phenomena. This course is designed to introduce you to basic sociological concepts, theories, methods, and research findings. We will be using these tools to analyze various aspects of contemporary society, focusing on the United States (though, you should note: These tools can be used to analyze any social groups from nuclear families to businesses, to countries, to transnational organizations, as well as subgroups that exist within and across each form of human social organization).

Learning Objectives:  
- To describe the basic concepts, methods, and theories used in sociology  
- To understand the relationship between technology and social change  
- To recognize the reciprocal relations between individuals and society

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:  
Text:  
Section Exams:
There are a total of three exams. Exam I (worth 15% of your grade) covers the introduction, methods, culture and socialization. Exam II (worth 20% of your grade) covers social class, race and ethnicity, and sex and gender. Exam III (worth 25% of your grade) covers family, education, and media. The final exam day is reserved for those who need to make up a missed exam. You will have the opportunity to decide the format of the test you will take. Each exam will include 25 multiple choice items (worth 100 points) and two essay questions (each worth 100 points). You can either: A) complete the multiple choice section of the exam and write one essay or B) answer both essay questions and ignore the multiple choice section. You MUST select an option.

You will be held responsible for all material presented in class and included in the chapters. Moreover, you are still responsible for material that is in the text but not covered in class.

Assignments:
There are a total of ten assignments. Three for the first segment of the course; three for the second segment of the course, three for the third segment of the course, and one final assignment to be turned in on the last class day. You will write one paper for the first segment, one for the second, and one for the third, and the final assignment. This portion of your grade will comprise 25% of your overall grade.

**ELECTRONIC COPIES OF PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!**
**ABSOLUTELY NO late work will be accepted.**
The assignments will be based upon performing, listening, viewing/observing, or reading assignments relevant to a particular section of the textbook. All assignments will be posted on Blackboard. Most assignments is unique; you will be expected to follow the directions accompanying each assignment. You are expected to use the readings to think critically about your reactions/observations. A grading template accompanies each assignment. Thus, you are informed ahead of time regarding the expectations of the paper and how much each portion of the paper is worth. Grade yourself before submitting your paper. We use that grading template to determine the grade that you earn.

These are formal papers. You will be required to cite from the reader and discuss the links between the text and the assignment using proper grammar and citation protocols. If you are unsure about how to do so, you can visit the writing center (located in the Glasscock building) for assistance.

The **format requirements** are as follows: Each paper must be two to four pages in length and in APA format: 12 pitch font; Times New Roman; 1” margins; and double spaced. Failure to comply with these formatting requirements WILL compromise the points you earn for this assignment.

More information and expectations associated with the assignments will be posted on Blackboard and announced during class meetings.
**In-class writing**  
Throughout the semester, there will be in-class writing assignments. These will not be able to be made up. This portion of your grade will be worth 15% of your final grade.

**Bonus**  
This portion of your grade (worth 3%) is a built-in curve. These will be extra-credit opportunities throughout the semester when events that have sociological relevance present themselves.

**Grade Template**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Tool</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Weight of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam III</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments 1-10</td>
<td>See Calendar 1st ten min of class</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus</td>
<td>Unannounced</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Grade</td>
<td></td>
<td>103%*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Yes, your grade has a 3% curve built into it.

**Final Grade Scale:**

- 89.5+ pts = A
- 79.5-89.4 = B
- 69.5-79.4 = C
- 59.5-69.4 = D
- <59.5 = F

Look Past the Façade  
Syllabus and Calendar may be subject to revision
COURSE POLICIES:

Exams:
Students need to bring a pencil or a pen to the exam. Once the exam is distributed, you will be permitted to leave the classroom ONLY AFTER you have completed your exam. Those arriving after the first exam is submitted WILL NOT be permitted to take the exam. The cover page and the essay portion of the exam will be returned one week after the administration of the exam. The multiple-choice portion of the exam will not be returned. If you would like to review the multiple-choice portion, you can come to my office during office hours to do so. Exams not picked up on the day they are distributed will be left in the bin outside my office door. If you have questions regarding the grade of your exam, you can come to my office to discuss those with me. Be aware that, after reviewing your exam, I reserve the right to modify your grade UP or DOWN.

Missed Exams:
Every effort should be made to be present for ALL scheduled exams. The dates of the exams are posted on the calendar. Should a student miss a scheduled exam, he/she will be permitted to make up ONE exam. Be aware that make up exams tend to be MUCH MORE challenging than the scheduled exams and the format of the exam will be disclosed only upon the administration of the exam. Make up exams will be administered on the day of the final.

Absences:
Attendance is expected but will not be taken regularly. You are an adult, responsible for your own time and your own actions. Material will be presented and discussed in class, and that material often appears on exams. It is in your interest to attend. It has been demonstrated repeatedly that regular attendance is positively correlated with grades.

Grading:
I reserve the right to curve or NOT curve grades. If there is a particular grade that you need or want, WORK FOR IT. Essays will be graded using a letter grade system: A++ indicates you’ve received full credit (aka: 100), A+ = 98, A =95, A- = 92, A-/B+ = 90, B+ = 88, B = 85, etc. Extremely poor write ups which do not demonstrate any real mastery of the content will be assigned an F (50), and F- (25), or a zero, depending on the dearth of comments for which credit may be allocated. Remember: You earn your grades; they are not given to you.

Contacting the Professor:
Should you need to contact me, the best way to do so is via email. I check my email multiple times, daily. When you do contact me, treat your email as a formal document. Use proper grammar and punctuation. Begin your emails with a proper salutation.

Electronic Devices:
LAP TOPS are not permitted in my class. Should you wish to record the lectures/discussions, you must use a digital recorder. All cell phones, ipods, ipads, mp3 players, and the like should be turned off prior to class beginning.

Cheating Policy:
Any form of cheating will not be tolerated. Should you be caught cheating, your name will be submitted to the Department Chair, as well as to the Vice President of Student Affairs. If you are caught cheating, you will get a zero on the exam/assignment and will not be allowed to retake the exam/assignment or resubmit the reaction paper. Please see the Student Code of Conduct for the disciplinary procedures pertaining to academic dishonesty.
ACADEMIC ADVISING
The College of Arts and Humanities 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 mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located at Driftwood 203E and can be reached at 825.3466.

STUDENTS with DISABILITIES
The Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at 825.5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101.

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.

EMAIL
You have your very own Islander e-mail account. I will be using this account should any correspondence be necessary. All university notifications will be using your Islander account to contact you. To access your Islander email, first go to S.A.I.L. for your new student ID number. Next, go to http://newuser.tamucc.edu for your new email account. For more information call 825.5618.