SOCI 1301.003
Human Societies
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
Fall 2013
Wednesdays 4:20 – 6:50
Bay Hall 206

Instructor: Dr. Michael Ramirez
Office: Bay Hall 344
Office hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays 12:15 – 1:30 and 3:15 – 4:00
Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:30
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:
This course has five distinct yet compatible goals:

- To define and understand basic concepts in sociology
- To differentiate among competing theoretical perspectives in sociology.
- To explore complementary social research methods and understand their strengths and limitations.
- To appreciate the contributions of sociology to our understanding of social phenomena.
- To recognize the reciprocal relations between individuals and society.
Course Requirements

Texts:

Additional readings available on BlackBoard.

Recommended:

Assignments:
Exams:
We will have four exams throughout this course, each of which is worth 20% of your final grade. 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.

Assignments:
To encourage your thinking on the issues we will cover in class, I will periodically give you assignments and/or activities to complete. Some will be assigned for homework, while others will be completed during class. 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.

If you miss class on days on which we complete in-class assignments and activities, you will not be able to make up this work. These assignments will be averaged and will count for 20% of your final grade.

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](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 116 Corpus Christi Hall, 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.

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 = ___
Assignments ___ X .20 = ___
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.

**iSoc:** *Introduction to Sociology Reader*

**RW:** *The Real World*

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>iSoc 1</th>
<th>iSoc 2</th>
<th>iSoc 3</th>
<th>RW: Chapter 3</th>
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<th>RW: Chapter 14</th>
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<td>Benibo</td>
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### The Sociological Perspective

**Sept 4:**
- iSoc: 1 Mills
- iSoc: 1 Clarke
- RW: Chapter 1
- RW: Chapter 2 (pgs. 37-57)

### Methods of Social Research

**Sept 11:**
- RW: Chapter 3

### Culture / Socialization

**Sept 18:**
- iSoc: 2 Caplow
- iSoc: 2 Benibo et al.
- RW: Chapter 4
- iSoc: 3 Davis
- iSoc: 3 Furstenberg et al.
- RW: Chapter 5

### Deviance / Media

**Oct 2:**
- iSoc: 4 Adler and Adler
- iSoc: 4 O’Neill
- RW: Chapter 7
- iSoc: 11 Kull
- RW: Chapter 14 (pgs. 380-392)

### Stratification

**Oct 9:**
- iSoc: 5 Social Class Tables and Figures
- iSoc: 5 Johnson
- iSoc: 5 Raasch
- iSoc: 5 Tyson
- RW: Chapter 8
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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| Oct 16     | Race and Ethnicity | iSoc: 6 McIntosh  
|            |                 | RW: Chapter 9   |
| Oct 23     | EXAM           |           |
| Oct 30     | Gender         | iSoc: 7 Martin  
|            |                 | iSoc: 7 Ramirez |
|            |                 | RW: Chapter 10 |
| Nov 6      | Family         | iSoc: 9 Giddens  
|            |                 | iSoc: 9 Gerson   |
|            |                 | RW: Chapter 13 |
|            |                 | iSoc: 8 Thompson |
|            |                 | RW: Chapter 12 |
| Nov 20     | EXAM           |           |
| Nov 27     | Education      | iSoc: 10 Jackson  
|            |                 | iSoc: 10 Lareau   |
|            |                 | RW: Chapter 11 (pgs. 299 – 308) |
| Dec 4      | Health         | iSoc: 12 Farmer et al.  
|            |                 | iSoc: 12 Yin |
| Dec x      | EXAM           |           |
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: ______________________________