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. Sociology investigates virtually every aspect of human social life; it critically examines 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 different 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 aspects of contemporary society, focusing on the United States (although, these tools can be used to analyze any social groups from nuclear families to businesses, to countries, to international communities, as well as subgroups that exists within and across each 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 (WEIGHT FOR GRADE):

Text:

Section Exams (50% of your final grade):
There are a total of three exams. Exam I covers Chapters 1 and 2 and is worth 15% of your grade. Exam II covers Chapters 10 and 11 and is worth 15% of your grade. Exam III covers Chapter 7, 5, and 6 and is worth 20% of your grade.

Each exam consists of two parts; the format is the same for each exam. Part I is worth 50% of your grade and comprised of six short answer questions; you will be expected to answer five of them. If you answer all six questions, the five highest scoring answers will be used to calculate this portion of your grade. Part II is worth 50% of your grade and is comprised of two essay
prompts. You MUST answer one prompt. If you answer both prompts, only the first answer will be graded. Each portion of your grade will be scored on a 100-point scale.

You are responsible for all material presented in class and all assigned readings.

**Papers (20% of your final grade):**
There are a total of four papers—one addressing culture, one addressing education, one addressing social class, and one address race/ethnicity. Each paper is worth 5% of your grade. A hard copy of your paper is due within the FIRST ten minutes of class on the assigned due date.

**ELECTRONIC COPIES OF PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!**
If you are not going to be in class, you will need to submit a hard copy of your paper early if you wish to avoid late-paper penalties.

If you submit a paper late, for the first 24-hour period it is late, a ten-point penalty will be assigned to your final grade. For the second 24-hour period the paper is late, an additional ten-point penalty will be assigned. Papers more than 48 hours late WILL NOT be accepted. Late-paper penalties are NON-NEGOTIABLE.

The assignments will be based upon performing, listening, viewing/observing, or reading assignments relevant to a particular section/chapter of the textbook. These are formal papers. You will be required to cite from the text 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 three to five pages in length; 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. I will deduct up to TEN points off your overall grade for not following format requirements.

**Quizzes (15% of your final grade):**
There are a total of 14 reading quizzes. Reading quizzes will take place during the first ten minutes of class on the day an article is listed on the reading calendar. You will need to get 60% of the answers correct to receive full credit on the quiz. You will receive either a zero, a 50, or a 100 on each quiz. The three lowest quiz grades will be dropped. There are NO MAKE UPS for this portion of the grade.

**Midterm Reflection (5% of your final grade):**
Detailed instructions will be provided to you as the assignment deadline nears.

**Final Portfolio (10% of your final grade):**
Detailed instructions will be provided to you as the assignment deadline nears.
Grade Template

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Tool</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Weight of Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
<td>October 29</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam III</td>
<td>Day of the Final</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 1: Norm Violation</td>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 2: Education</td>
<td>October 15</td>
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<td>Paper 3: Facts &amp; Figures</td>
<td>December 7</td>
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<td>1st 10 min of class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 4: Movie Trailers</td>
<td>December 3</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1st 10 min of class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Portfolio</td>
<td>December 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Grade</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
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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

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 short-answer portion of the exam will not be returned. If you would like to review the short-answer portion, you can come to my office during my office hours to do so. I will keep exams not picked up on the day they are distributed. If you have questions regarding the grade of your exam, you can come to my office to discuss those with me. Be aware that I reserve the right to modify your grade UP or DOWN, after reviewing your exam.

Missed Exams:
Every effort should be made to be present for ALL scheduled exams. The dates of the exams are posted on the calendar. Students will be permitted to make up exams; however, 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, AFTER you’ve completed your last section exam.

The syllabus and calendar are subject to revision.
Absences:
Attendance is expected but will not be taken. 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.

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

Electronic Devices:
LAPTOPS are not permitted in my class; however, electronic recording devices are. Should you wish to record the lectures/discussions, you are more than welcome to do so. All cell phones, ipods, mp3 players, and the like should be turned off prior to class beginning. You are not allowed to photograph my slides during lecture. A general power point is made available on blackboard. I encourage you to print the ppt and bring it to class with you.

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, will not be allowed to retake the exam/assignment or resubmit the reaction paper, and can be assigned an F for the semester. 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](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](http://newuser.tamucc.edu) for your new email account. For more information call 825.5618.