Instructor: Dr. Michael Ramirez  
Associate Professor of Sociology  
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Phone: 361-825-2388  
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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.

This fully online course is taught via the Web at a distance and is available at http://Bb9.tamucc.edu. The learners will have to provide PowerPoint, spreadsheets, word processing, and other software as needed to complete some requirements of this course.

There are no prerequisites for this course and the course may be taken as an elective.

Student Learning Objectives:  
By the end of the semester students should be able to:
- 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

Student Learning Outcomes:
- Students will apply interdisciplinary knowledge to address and analyze real-world issues
- Students will interpret and evaluate various research materials and/or perspectives

Instructional Methods and Activities
The following instructional methods and activities will be used: online lecture notes/videos, discussion boards, data analysis assignments, and exams.

**Course Requirements**

**Text:**

**Exams:**
We will have five exams throughout this course, each of which is worth 7% of your final grade (for a total of 35% of your final average). Each exam will be comprised of 50 multiple-choice questions. Exams will be taken via BlackBoard, and you will have a 100-minute time limit to complete it. 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.

**Data Workshop Assignments:**
To encourage your thinking on the issues we will cover over the semester, you will complete a series of data analysis assignments and activities for each unit covered. There will be one assignment for each of the five units of the course. Each assignment will be worth 6% of your final grade (for a total of 30% of your final average).

**Paper:**
You will be assigned one paper over the course. It will be worth 10% of your final grade. I will be using the Safe Assign program which detects plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Make sure your work is entirely your own. Papers found to constitute plagiarism will receive a zero. Further possible penalties may include action taken by the University, which may include receiving a zero on the assignment, receiving an F for the final course grade, and/or recommendation for dismissal from the University.

**Participation:**
Regular participation is crucial for this class. I will post a series of questions for you to respond to on the discussion board. You will be required to contribute to every topic covered in class (organized by chapter). Posts will be gauged on your thoughts, level of detail, synthesis of class material, and thoroughness of ideas presented. Participation will be worth 25% of your final grade. See the rubric for additional criteria.

**Grading**
Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Exam 1 \[ \text{__} \times 0.07 = \text{__} \]
Exam 2 \[ \text{__} \times 0.07 = \text{__} \]
Exam 3  \[ \_ \_ \_ \times 0.07 = \_ \_ \_ \]
Exam 4  \[ \_ \_ \_ \times 0.07 = \_ \_ \_ \]
Exam 5  \[ \_ \_ \_ \times 0.07 = \_ \_ \_ \]
Data Workshop 1  \[ \_ \_ \_ \times 0.06 = \_ \_ \_ \]
Data Workshop 2  \[ \_ \_ \_ \times 0.06 = \_ \_ \_ \]
Data Workshop 3  \[ \_ \_ \_ \times 0.06 = \_ \_ \_ \]
Data Workshop 4  \[ \_ \_ \_ \times 0.06 = \_ \_ \_ \]
Data Workshop 5  \[ \_ \_ \_ \times 0.06 = \_ \_ \_ \]
Paper  \[ \_ \_ \_ \times 0.10 = \_ \_ \_ \]
Participation  \[ \_ \_ \_ \times 0.25 = \_ \_ \_ \]
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%
F = below 60.00%

Course Schedule:
*All assignments are must be completed by 10:00 pm on the day on which they are due.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Textbook</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Sociology and the Real World</td>
<td>Discussion Board Participation: Personal Introductions to Class</td>
<td>1/23</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Sociological Imagination</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Studying Social Life</td>
<td>Discussion Board Participation</td>
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<td>Data Workshop Assignment</td>
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<td>Discussion Board Participation</td>
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<td>Exam on Chapters 1 and 2</td>
<td>2/6</td>
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<td>*exam available from 6:00 am to 11:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 2</td>
<td>Chapter 3: Cultural Crossroads</td>
<td>Discussion Board Participation</td>
<td>2/11</td>
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<td>Chapter 4: The Self and Interaction</td>
<td>Discussion Board Participation</td>
<td>2/16</td>
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<td>Data Workshop Assignment</td>
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<td>Chapter 6: Deviance</td>
<td>Discussion Board Participation</td>
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<td>Exam on Chapters 3, 4, and 6</td>
<td>2/27 *exam available from 6:00 am to 11:30 pm</td>
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<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Social Class</td>
<td>Discussion Board Participation</td>
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<td>The Inequalities</td>
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<td>Data Workshop Assignment</td>
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<td>Chapter 8: Race and Ethnicity as Lived Experience</td>
<td>Discussion Board Participation</td>
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<td>Chapter 9: Constructing Gender and Sexuality</td>
<td>Discussion Board Participation</td>
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<td>Exam on Chapters 7, 8, and 9</td>
<td>3/27 *exam available from 6:00 am to 11:30 pm</td>
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<td>Unit</td>
<td>Chapter 11: The Economy, Work, and Working</td>
<td>Chapter 12: Life at Home</td>
<td>Discussion Board Participation</td>
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<td>Unit 5</td>
<td>Chapter 15: City and Country</td>
<td>Chapter 16: Social Change</td>
<td>Discussion Board Participation</td>
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**Course Policies**

**Grading Criteria:**
Evaluation criteria for all assignments will be available in the form of grading rubrics. Rubrics will be posted along with the assignment descriptions to ensure your awareness of grading criteria prior to completing and submitting assignments.

**Turning in Assignments:**
To turn in assignments electronically, name any file with your name and the assignment.
Example: When Stacy Smith turns in her paper, she would call it SmithStacyPaper. Include your name and the project on the subject line when you submit your work. In addition, include your name in the heading of any documents that you turn in.

**Time Requirements:**
Regular 3-credit undergraduate courses require approximately 3 hours of class time per week plus 9 hours of study time. Therefore, expect to spend a minimum of 12 hours each week on this class. Because this is an online course, you may have to spend even more time than 12 hours some weeks.

**Late Work:**
Assignments are due on the dates indicated in the syllabus and schedule. Late work will be accepted (for all assignments except for exams), but will be penalized. I will deduct 10 points for every 24-hour period in which your assignment is late.

**Missed Exams:**
Under only extreme circumstances will you have the opportunity to make-up missed exams, and only after I have received proper documentation. Such instances include family emergencies, auto wrecks, or major health emergencies.

**Disabilities Services:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 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 call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**Grade Appeal Process:**
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the
process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamu.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

Copyright / Plagiarism:
The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By "handouts," I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to self-assessments, exams, lab problems, Course Content materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these materials are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy them, unless I expressly grant permission.
As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., that belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which ideas and research cannot be safely communicated. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the university rules at the above website.

Academic Integrity with Course Products and Evaluations:
The guiding principle of academic integrity is that a student's submitted work must be his/her own. Since the course objectives focus on the processes of developing course related materials, as well as the materials themselves, it is expected that all course products will consist of work done specifically for this course. Products completed for previous or concurrent course credit cannot be used for assignments for this course. If you wish to continue a theme or content area used in another course, inform the instructor and supply any requested existing materials at the start of this course. Any intended projects relating to other courses should be approved at the start by all instructors and should reflect unique elements and sufficient development effort for all courses involved.

Shared work is intended to allow students to learn from each other in projects. Any problems in working together should be brought to the attention of the instructor immediately so that solutions may be enacted to ensure that all members benefit from the experience.

Related Issues:
Online courses require time management and planning on your part. You cannot afford to get behind since many topics and assignments are based on the skills and products of previous assignments; there is no meaningful way to “cram.” Contact me if you are having any problems with assignments.

There is a reliance on technologies in this course that impacts the need to have assignments done on time. Having ample time to complete an assignment will be the responsibility of the student. It is also the student’s responsibility to find solutions to technical problems with sufficient time to complete the required tasks. Do not wait until a due date is near to discover/report lack of access to software, inability to connect to a network, etc. While the instructor will help wherever possible, it is the students’
responsibility to maintain his or her network. However, technical problems can originate on the TAMU-CC campus, in which case you will not be responsible to complete work that you can not complete due to TAMU-CC network or software problems. You are responsible for contacting me as soon as you detect a problem so that we can arrange a way for you to meet the course objectives.

**Starfish:**
Starfish is a software communication program used to connect you (the student) to your “Success Network” of instructors, advisors, and other academic support programs on campus. If you receive an email from starfish@tamucc.edu, this means I have raised a Starfish “communication” item useful for connecting you to campus resources and course progress guidance. Starfish “communication” items include:
* Flags: Early Alerts regarding Course Effort/Progress
* Kudos: Commendation for Course Effort/Progress
* Referrals: Recommended utilization of services: tutoring, mentoring, coaching, advising, etc.
* To-dos: Assigned tasks, such as “Meet with me”
Acting on these messages in a timely manner is vital to your success as a student at TAMUCC. The purpose of Starfish is to help instructors communicate information with their students, and connect students with campus resources available to them. For Starfish assistance, please call 361-825-3653 or email Starfish@tamucc.edu

**Syllabus Disclaimer:**
This syllabus has been created as a guide to the class and is as accurate as possible. However, all information is subject to change. Any changes will be posted on the Blackboard Learning System’s Announcements.

**Technical Support and Requirements**

**Blackboard Learning System Help:** [http://iol.tamucc.edu](http://iol.tamucc.edu)
“Help” At the bottom of the Blackboard Course Management Control Panel in the course menu on the left hand column of the course interface. Phone: Help Desk (361) 825-2825

**Island Online Student Resources Webpage:**
[https://distance-education.tamucc.edu/student_resources.html](https://distance-education.tamucc.edu/student_resources.html)

**Getting Technical Help**
If you are having difficulties accessing course materials from your home computer, first let your instructor know, then contact the IOL Helpdesk at (361)825-2692 or submit a request via email to iol.support@tamucc.edu

**Technology Requirements**
To prepare your computer for using Blackboard 9.1, go to [https://iol.tamucc.edu/techreq.php](https://iol.tamucc.edu/techreq.php) for computer requirements.
Navigating Blackboard 9.1

Once you are in the course, read the “Announcements” on the home page. Check this each time you enter your course. You will see a Course Menu on the left of the page. The menu is a list of links that connect to materials and tools associated with the course. Blackboard has several features and tools for communicating content delivery that you should use almost daily. Links to information about how to use these tools include: Bb Help, which contains a complete guide to learning how to use the many tools and features in Blackboard, and Bb Video Tutorials, which links to a page with videos to show you how to do tasks such as submitting an assignment.

Library resources (including print, electronic, and human) can be accessed through the Mary and Jeff Bell Library website that supports electronic searches of articles, books, journals, course reserves, and databases. It includes information such as Ask a Librarian, research tools, remote access information and tutorials, information about plagiarism and copyright, and interlibrary loan (http://rattler.tamucc.edu/distlearn/). The library is a member of TexShare which provides you with a card that allows you to checkout materials from libraries across Texas. Librarians’ contact information is also on the website and you are encouraged to contact librarians for assistance.

In the event of a campus evacuation I will make every effort to continue teaching your course. Should such an event occur, I will continue to interact with you by using the Blackboard Announcement, Messages, Collaboration, Discussions, Blogs, Journals, and/or Wikis tools. If you have access to the Internet, you will be able to continue your coursework by posting assignments and interacting with me as well as each other online. You will also be able see your grades on assignments, quizzes, and tests using the My Grades tool.

Online Course Guidelines:

Students will practice respect and responsibility as a part of this learning community. Here are some things you can do to exhibit an attitude of respect and responsibility:

- Post assignments on time. Early is even better.
- Work extra hard to get to know other classmates.
- Reach out through email Blackboard Messages, Discussions, and Wikis to support each other. If you have good info/tips on what is working for you/resource ideas, please share with the group so we can help each other out.
- Respect other classmates by watching what you say.
- Add your opinions to/participate in the discussions.
- Check the assignments every week. Don’t wait until the last minute.
• Be helpful to other students
• Don’t get behind. If you get behind in an online course it is harder to get back on track than it is in a traditional course.
• Stay focused and stay connected.
• Keep up with your assignments and your grades. It is not the teacher’s responsibility to tell you what you have or haven’t turned in. Your grades will be available in Blackboard so all you have to do is regularly check to make sure you have grades posted for all work.
• In general terms, students are expected to "demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction and ability to manage their own affairs" and to "conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty." Instances of plagiarism will be handled in accordance with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi General Academic Policies and Regulations as listed in the current catalog.

**Delivery of instructor feedback – During the week (exclude weekends)**, Instructor response to online requests usually occurs within a 24-hour period, but you can expect a response within 3 days.

**Student login expectations** - Students are required to login often – once every other day at a minimum. It is recommended that students check daily for announcements and updates.

**Faculty availability to support students** - I maintain a consistent web presence and am available to meet online in the Blackboard asynchronous or synchronous environment or via phone.