COURSE DESCRIPTION

The basic aim of the course is to increase your understanding of the modern world and your place in it by increasing your knowledge of the sociological perspective. The sociological perspective allows us to see the general patterns of society in the lives of particular people. The sociological perspective also allows us to gain a better understanding of people by examining their social situations and cultural heritage.

Sociologists use many theories as lenses for examining social phenomena. The three main theories are symbolic interactionism, social conflict theory and structural functionalism. Each theoretical perspective is different and, like a prism, provides different views of our social world. This course is designed to introduce you to the main sociological theories, basic sociological concepts, social research methods and findings. The goal is to enhance your own Sociological Imagination.

“...the individual can understand his own experience and gauge his own fate only by locating himself within his period, that he can know his own chances in life only by becoming aware of those individuals in his circumstances.”

--- C. Wright Mills

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

TEXTBOOKS

The following required books are in the Bookstore and available on-line. Please read them.


For each test, students will be provided an assignment sheet indicating the appropriate chapters to be read for each lecture topic. Each student should be prepared to discuss the readings assigned for each class period. A good strategy is to read through the material BEFORE it is scheduled for class discussion and then read it again AFTER it has been discussed. Plan ahead and pace yourself so that you do not get behind in the reading assignments. Putting yourself in control of your responsibilities now will reduce potential stress later.

EVALUATION

This course is part of the Core Curriculum; one of its goals is to show students the continuity of knowledge or connections across courses and disciplines. As Human Societies is linked with composition and seminar, your Triad instructors have made an effort to demonstrate the connections that underlie what may appear to be very different courses. In composition, you will write about sociological topics while in seminar you can discuss them. These classes share common integrative assignments.

Exams (50%) ................................................................. 400
includes four (4) exams, each worth 100 points. The exams have multiple choice, identify, and short essay questions. All exams are compulsory regardless of the number of points you earn. If you miss an exam, then you will take a comprehensive make-up (aka optional) exam. If you perform poorly on one of the first three (3) exams, you may take the comprehensive make-up/optional exam. THE OPTIONAL/MAKE-UP EXAM IS GIVEN ON DAY OF THE FINAL AND IS COMPREHENSIVE AND COMPRISED OF ALL MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS.

Learning Community Assignments (20%) .............................. 100
The course has two learning community assignments each worth up to 50 points. The written assignments are usually two to five pages in length and require proper grammar and citation protocols. Instruction sheets outlining the exercise’s requirements will be distributed during class and posted on Blackboard. The assignment is due on the assigned date and will be accepted late only with the instructor’s approval. The Learning Community assignments’ grades will be shared with seminar and composition.

- The Sociological Imagination Assignment
- Social Stratification Assignment

In-class Activities (15%) .................................................. 100
Class activities are designed to integrate information from the text, class discussions, and/or readings. Some of the in-class activities are done by groups. Each group is required to turn in written responses and each group member will receive individual points. You must be present to receive points. No make-ups are given for In-class activities.

Experiential Learning Assignment (10%) .............................. 100
You will be participating in a “Norm Busting” project.
COURSE POLICIES

CLASS ATTENDANCE
Class attendance records are not maintained daily, but daily class attendance is important. Many class sessions incorporate materials that are not in the textbook and would be difficult to get outside of class. In addition, group activities and quizzes take place during class times. There are no make-ups for missed in-class assignments and quizzes. It is the responsibility of the student to keep up with the work. It is also the responsibility of the student to personally withdraw from the course if necessary.

ACADEMIC ETIQUETTE AND HONESTY
Academic etiquette is required in universities to insure an atmosphere conducive to learning. Universities expect students to demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction and acceptable social behavior in and out of the classroom. In any class, an individual can feel anonymous and his/her behavior may seem irrelevant. As a result, an individual may feel that his/her talking with a neighbor, using a cell phone, leaving early or arriving late will not matter. Such actions, however, are distracting for both other students and the instructor. My job is to provide the best learning environment possible. If a student’s behavior interferes with others’ learning in the classroom, the student may be asked to leave the classroom.

As discussed in the college catalog, students are expected to demonstrate academic honesty. All forms of cheating, forgery, or plagiarism (presentation of the work of another as one's own) are grounds for disciplinary action. Any student caught cheating will be reported to the Department Chair and Vice President of Student Affairs.

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 mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

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 Corpus Christi Hall #116, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations for this directed independent study, please see the instructor as soon as possible.

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.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.
# HUMAN SOCIETIES TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE – FALL, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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| **8/30** PERSPECTIVE, THEORY & METHODS  
TEXT Chapter 1  
iSoc: Mills, p.3 | **8/24** INTRODUCTIONS  
**9/1** PERSPECTIVE, THEORY & METHODS  
continued |
| **9/6** CULTURE  
TEXT Chapter 2  
iSoc: Benibo, et al. p. 31 | **9/8** CULTURE continued  
Hunting and Gathering Assignment |
| **9/13** CULTURE continued | **9/15** SOCIALIZATION  
TEXT Chapter 3  
iSoc: Davis, p. 41  
iSoc: Furstenburg, et al., p.49 |
| **9/20** SOCIALIZATION continued | **9/22** TEST I  
**9/29** SOCIAL INTERACTIONS & EVERYDAY LIFE continued |
| **9/27** SOCIAL INTERACTIONS & EVERYDAY LIFE  
TEXT Chapter 4  
iSoc: Martin, p. 143 | **10/4** GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS  
TEXT Chapter 5  
**10/6** GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS continued |
| **10/11** DEVIANCE | **10/13** DEVIANCE continued  
Norm Busting Assignment due |
| **10/18** TEST II | **10/20** SOCIAL STRATIFICATION  
TEXT Chapter 8  
iSoc: Social Class pp. 85-110  
iSoc: Women at Work pp168-175 |
| **10/25** SOCIAL STRATIFICATION  
Social Stratification Assignment  
iSoc: Social Class pp. 85-110  
iSoc: Women at Work pp168-175 | **10/27** GLOBAL STRATIFICATION  
TEXT Chapter 9 |
| **11/1** GLOBAL STRATIFICATION continued | **11/3** RACE & ETHNICITY  
TEXT Chapter 10 |
| **11/8** RACE & ETHNICITY continued | **11/10** TEST III |
| **11/15** FAMILY & RELIGION  
TEXT Chapter 13  
iSoc: Giddens, p. 195 | **11/17** FAMILY & RELIGION continued |
| **11/22** READING DAY  
(no class meeting) | **11/25** THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY-  
(Gobble, Gobble!)  
(no class meeting) |
| **11/29** POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENT  
TEXT Chapter 1  
iSoc: PRB, p. 275  
iSoc: Cohn, p. 279 | **12/1** POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENT  
Continued  
Sociological Imagination Assignment due |
| **12/6** SOCIAL CHANGE  
TEXT Chapter 16  
REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM | **12/8** SOCI 1301 FINAL EXAM  
8:00-10:30 AM  
All make-up/optional exams given on this day |