SOCI 1301 Syllabus Fall 2026

Principles of Sociology

"Either the United States will destroy ignorance or ignorance will destroy the United States." **Dr. W.E.B. DuBois**

"I could shelter myself from conflict by leaving the conversation, but I have come to believe that the comfort we feel when we avoid hard conversations is a dangerous comfort, one that seduces us into ignorance about the experiences of others and about the full meaning of our own lives." **Dr. Mari Matsuda**

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education." **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Professor: Dr. Daniel J. Delgado

Office Location: 350A Central Academic Building (CAB)

Office Hours: 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. M/W online and in-person available by appt.

Office hours virtual meeting room: https://tamusa.zoom.us/j/5041505844 (https://tamusa.zoom.us/j/5041505844)

Email: ddelgado@tamusa.edu (mailto:ddelgado@tamusa.edu)

Phone: 210-784-2241

Meeting Room: CAB 210

Meeting Day/Time: M/W 11 am to 12:15 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology is a large and diverse discipline with a body of knowledge that provides theoretical, analytical, methodological, and empirical tools for understanding the social world. It is the study of human interaction, groups, societies, and institutions. Sociologists ask questions like: to what extent and how are our everyday lives guided by organizations and institutions (i.e. religion, family, education, politics, media, and the economy)? In turn, how do we shape these institutions? How do we make sense of our lives, understand our feelings and beliefs, and make certain choices given a particular cultural and political context? Sociology offers frameworks for understanding the most far-reaching and global social phenomena while at the same time allowing you to understand how you, as an individual, act, react and interact with society.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. **Explore** sociological theories, evidence, concepts and ideas that help explain underlying social, cultural, political, & economic phenomena.

2. **Understand** the underpinnings of sociological research.
3. **Interpret** sociological perspectives that explain social, cultural, political, and economic phenomena.

EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCCESS

- Attend face-to-face meetings.
- It's critical that you complete all readings and assignments; ask questions and participate; ensure confirmation of any uploaded assignments.
- Review your materials – e.g., any personal notetaking, professor lecture slides/chapter outlines that are shared with you by the professor.

REQUIRED TEXT

- Introduction to Sociology 3 (file:///Users/ddelgado/Downloads/•%09https:/openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e)rd (file:///Users/ddelgado/Downloads/•%09https:/openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e) edition by Tonja Conerly, Kathleen Holmes, Asha Lal Tamang (click title or link below for free access to textbook)
- https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e (https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e)

BLACKBOARD

- Points, grades, course documents, relevant links, or course/syllabus updates & announcements are generated in Blackboard.
- Blackboard Assignments – Please make sure you receive confirmation of a submitted assignment. Blank documents and/or links to cloud documents are not accepted and/or will be counted as late work.
- For this class all relevant reading materials will be under Course Content tab for your convenience.

COURSE POLICIES & CONDUCT

GenAI SOFTWARE POLICY

- Developing your own skills and fostering creativity in (writing, argumentation, and critical thinking) are a major focus of this course, you must complete *all* assignments for this course entirely on your own. You may not copy from any online sites (e.g. Course Hero or Chegg) or utilize composition technologies (e.g. ChatGPT or other GenAI software).
- For the purpose of this course, any use of these GenAI sites or tools will be considered academic misconduct (e.g. plagiarism) and consequences will follow University policies. If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, contact your instructor before submitting any assignments.

BE PREPARED

- Assigned readings on a specific day must be completed by the following class meeting. Assignments must be completed by due date.

EXECESSIVE ABSENCES

- If you miss class, please try to provide me with official documentation as this may affect your attendance and/or participation. If you encounter an emergency (sickness or death in the family) during the semester, please keep me updated on your situation as you can.

LATE SUBMISSIONS & MAKEUP WORK

- Late work is generally not accepted unless proper notification and/or justification has been provided. Blank documents and cloud linked documents submitted/uploaded to Blackboard will be given zero credit. If you have problems with submission I encourage you to email me your document to document its completion. You will still be required to upload/complete the assignment online in Blackboard even if it was emailed to me.

GRADE CONCERNS

- You may set up an appointment with me to discuss any concerns about your grade(s). I do not view grades or grading as a process of negotiation.

CIVIL ACADEMIC DIALOGUE

- Sociology covers difficult, controversial, and at times, challenging topics. My expectation is that you will meaningfully and respectfully engage in discussion with your classmates and myself.
- The purpose of the course is not to agree with all the materials presented, but your task is to demonstrate a sociological understanding of the various perspectives and phenomena at hand.

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

- All correspondence between professor and students must occur via university email account. However, I strive to respond back to students within 24-48 hrs. during the week. I do not normally check my email over the course of the weekend.

CELL PHONES

- Please make sure to silence cell phones as this is disruptive for me and your peers.

A&M-SA CONDUCT RULES, POLICIES, & SERVICES

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters.

- University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, a grade of 'F' on the particular paper or assignment, a failing grade in the course, or possible expulsion from the University. Academic Dishonesty falls under Acts of Dishonesty in the Student Handbook's Code of Conduct (Page 37): http://www.tamusa.edu/studentengagementsuccess/TexasA&MSanAntonioStudenthandbook.pdf (http://www.tamusa.edu/studentengagementsuccess/TexasA&MSanAntonioStudenthandbook.pdf)
- Use of AI to write, create or complete assignments is considered plagiarism and specifically falls under academic dishonesty. I will consider not only zero credit for the assignment in question but also for the entire course for one violation of this requirement.

A&M-SA OFFICE OF DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities.
- If you believe you have a disability that may require accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. DSS is located at the Main Campus on the 2nd floor of the Central Academic Building in room 210. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is **dsupport@tamusa.tamus.edu** (mailto:%20dsupport@tamusa.tamus.edu).
- If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion, please notify me as soon as possible to rectify the issue.

A&M-SA JAGUAR WRITING CENTER

- This Center provides writing assistance to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments.
- Students can make individual or group appointments with a writing tutor. The Writing Center location: Central Academic Building, Suite 208; Email: tutoring@tamusa.edu (mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu) or Call: (210)784-1332.

TEXAS SIX DROP RULE, SENATE BILL 1231

- You are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits you a maximum of 6 non-punitive drops during your undergraduate career.
- Please be aware of your drops because they can be punitive. Further information can be found: http://www.tamusa.edu/registrar/registration/adddropwithdrawprocess/sixdroplimit.html (http://www.tamusa.edu/registrar/registration/adddropwithdrawprocess/sixdroplimit.html).
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COURSE GRADE ASSESSMENTS

Exams (Critical Thinking & Reasoning Skills)

There are 2 major exams comprised of 60 questions each. Each exam will be given online (see Course Schedule below for exact dates). You will have one hour and 30 minutes (more than the length of a class period) to complete them once started. These exams may be comprised of multiple choice and true/false. Exam 1 will be comprised of questions stemming from Chapters 1-5. Exam 2

will be comprised of questions stemming from Chapters 11, 12 and 14 -16. **There will NOT be a cumulative final exam.**

Photography Midterm (Application and Critical Thinking skills)

There is only one midterm. It will require you to take photos and interpret them using sociological concepts and ideas discussed in this classs.

You will apply a sociological perspective to interpret human interactions, relationships, patterns, and agency

- Develop an awareness of the social processes that influence the way humans think, feel, and behave
- Show the relevance and reality of structural factors in social life
- Place social phenomenon in larger context and identify social patterns
- Think critically about individualistic explanations of human behavior

Essays (Analytic & Communication Skills)

There are a total of four essays. Your submission will be via Blackboard located in Exams & Quizzes tab. The writing responses will be a **minimum of 200 words per question, you must also respond to another student, and the essays are due by Sunday of the week they are assigned at 11:59 p.m.** The purpose of these writing exercises is to get you using your own words to describe how you understand sociology. **You must use concepts and ideas from our textbook to receive credit for both the essay and on your comment to your classmate.** I will provide some specific feedback, but mostly collective feedback for class via Face-to-Face discussion. Only use Microsoft Word or PDF for Weekly Analytic Prompt submissions. Please check Course Schedule below for exact dates of Weekly Analytic Prompts.

Quizzes (Comprehension and Understanding Skills)

These quizzes are designed to help you understand concepts, ideas, and theories. There will be seven quizzes worth 10 points each. They will open the Monday morning (12:00 am) of the week they are assigned on the syllabus and be due the following Sunday by 11:59 pm.

PARTICIPATION

A student's participation grade is assessed as follows[1]:

1. **High Participation** = 20 pts (A student *frequently* participates in meaningful & productive discussion regarding lecture/textbook during class meetings)

2. **Moderate Participation** = 15 pts (A student *periodically* participates in meaningful & productive discussion regarding lecture/textbook during class meetings)

3. **Low Participation** = 10 pts (A student *seldomly* participates in meaningful & productive discussion regarding lecture/textbook during class meetings)

4. **No Participation** = 0 pts (A student *never* participates in any meaningful & productive discussion or exchange throughout entire semester).

GRADING

350 – 315 = A

314 – 280 = B

279 – 245 = C

244 – 210 = D

209 or less = F

Exam 1	60
Exam 2	60
Photography Midterm	60
Essays (4 X 20 pts each)	80
Quizzes (7 X 10 pts each)	70
Participation	20
Total Points	**350**

Course Schedule: Readings, Exams, & Due Dates

WEEK 1 8/24 - 8/30

Sociology & the Real World

- **Happy MLK Day/Class canceled due to weather**
- **READ Textbook:** Chapter 1
- Course Introduction & Syllabus
- **Lecture:** Chapter 1
- **Watch Youtube:** "C. WrightMill's The Sociological Imagination" By Dr. Debra Marshall (13 minutes) URL: https://youtu.be/takesFh_2us?si=8JgPMJr-asM07joS (https://youtu.be/takesFh_2us?si=8JgPMJr-

asM07joS)

WEEK 2 8/31 - 9/6

Quiz 1/ Sociological Research

- **NO CLASS MONDAY - Happy Labor Day**
- **READ Textbook:** Chapter 2
- **Lecture:** Chapter 2
- **Watch YouTube:** "Stanford Prison Experiment" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_LKzEqlPto (https://youtu.be/760lwYmpXbc?si=8DFIrtmLECiOuO47). (https://youtu.be/760lwYmpXbc?si=8DFIrtmLECiOuO47)
- **Complete:** Quiz 1 online

WEEK 3 9/7 - 9/13

Quiz 2/Culture and Society

- **READ Textbook: Chapter 3**
- **Watch YouTube: "Rip!: a Remix Manifesto"** https://youtu.be/quO_Dzm4rnk?si=Vf2Nn2Ge0fAtbQzC
- **Lecture: Chapter 3 and Rip: a Remix Manifesto**
- **Complete: Quiz 2**

WEEK 4 9/14 - 9/20

Essay 1/Society, Socialization, and Social Interaction

- **READ Textbook: Chapters 4 and 5**
- **Watch YouTube Film:** "Genie Wiley TLC Documentary" URL:http://amara.org/en/videos/doXnriWsAEgx/en/543498/ (http://amara.org/en/videos/doXnriWsAEgx/en/543498/) (Closed Captioning and/or transcript Offered)
- **Lecture:**Chapters 4 and 5
- **Complete:** Essay 1 by Sunday at 11:59 pm.

WEEK 5 9/21 - 9/27

Exam 1/ Groups and Organization

- **READ Textbook: Chapter 6**

- **Lecture:Exam Review and Chapter 6**
- **Complete: Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3,4,5) online by Sunday night 11:59 pm**

WEEK 6 9/28 - 10/4

Quiz 3/Deviance, Crime, and Social Control

- **READ Textbook: Chapter 7**
- **Lecture: Chapter 7**
- **Complete: Quiz 3 by Sunday night 11:59 pm**

WEEK 7 10/5 - 10/11

Quiz 4/Media and Technology

- **READ Textbook:** Chapter 8
- **Lecture:** Chapter 8
- **Complete Quiz 4 online by Sunday night 11:59 pm**

WEEK 8 10/12 - 10/18

Essay 2/Social Stratification: Social Class

- **READ Textbook:** Chapter 9
- **Watch YouTube:** "Why you don't care about inequality,"https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYgH5QLJCzQ (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYgH5QLJCzQ) (Closed Captioning and/or transcript Offered).
- **Complete Essay 2 online by Sunday night 11:59 pm**

WEEK 9 10/19 - 10/25

Photography Midterm/Population, Urbanization, and The Environment

- **READ Textbook:** Chapter 20
- **Lecture:**Photography midterm review & Chapter 20
- **Complete: Photography Midterm (Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 20) online by Sunday night 11:59 pm**

WEEK 10 10/26 - 11/1

Quiz 5/Race and Ethnicity

- **READ Textbook:** Chapter 11
- **Lecture:** Chapter 11
- **Watch YouTube Film:** "The Myth of Race Debunked": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnfKgffCZ7U (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnfKgffCZ7U) (Closed Captioning and/or transcript Offered).
- **Complete:** Quiz 5 online by Sunday night 11:59 pm

WEEK 11 11/2 - 11/8

Essay 3/Gender, Sex, and Sexuality

- **READ Textbook:** Chapter 12
- **Complete:** Essay 3 online by Sunday night 11:59 pm
- **Lecture:** Chapter 12
- **Watch YouTube Film:** "Two-Spirit Identity":https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8N7JcYbdlmo&t=32s (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8N7JcYbdlmo&t=32s) (Closed Captioning and/or transcript Offered).

WEEK 12 11/9 - 11/15

Quiz 6/Education

- **READ Textbook:** Chapter 16
- **Lecture:** Chapter 16
- **Complete:** Quiz 6 online by Sunday night 11:59 pm

WEEK 13 11/16 - 11/22

Quiz 7/Relationships, Marriage, and the Family

- **READ Textbook:** Chapter 14
- **Complete:** Quiz 7 online by Sunday night 11:59 pm
- **Lecture:** Chapter 14

WEEK 14 11/23 - 11/29 Thanksgiving Holiday

No Class Meetings

WEEK 15 11/30 - 12/4

Essay 4/Religion

- **READ Textbook:** Chapter 15
- **Lecture:** Exam Review and Chapter 15
- **Complete:** Essay 4 online by Sunday night 11:59 pm

WEEK 16 12/5 - 12/11

Finals Week (No class meeting)

- **Last day of classes 12/4**
- **Exam 2 Review**
- **Complete: Exam 2(Chapters 11, 12, 14, 15, 16) online due Sunday 12/11 by 11:59 pm**

**** Changes to the Syllabus****

I reserve the right to change any part of this syllabus at any time during the semester. I will do my best to provide adequate notification if changes are made via Blackboard and in class.

[1] **Note:** Meaningful in this context refers to its relevance to the subject/topic as embedded in class lecture and the textbook. Productive in this context refers to input that illustrates critical thinking and can potentially positively elevate the subject matter in an evidence-based direction. Participation is not solely focused on whether a student is present, although that is a major factor. I assess Participation also by the engagement level of the student in class discussion and the frequency that students contribute their thoughts, ideas, reflections etc on the topic at hand; all this is based on my assessment of the student throughout the semester.