



**SOC 1301.01E
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
Spring 2020**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Professor: William E. Thompson, Ph.D.

Office Location: Ferguson Social Science 229

Office Hours: T/R 8:00-9:25 a.m.; 1:00-2:30 p.m. & by appointment

Office Phone: 903-886-5332

Office Fax: 903-886-5330

University Email Address: william.thompson@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Response Time: Within 24 hours except for Email received after noon on Friday. Emails received after noon on Friday or over the weekend will not receive a response until the following Monday.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

TEXTBOOK REQUIRED: *Society in Focus: An Introduction to Sociology* (9th ed.) by William E. Thompson, Joseph V. Hickey and Mica L. Thompson, Rowman & Littlefield, 2019, ISBN: 978-1-5381-1622-7. The book should be available in the university bookstore and from a variety of sources online. It is a very good idea to bring the textbook to class as the professor will periodically refer to page numbers, boxes, text, and graphics during classroom presentations.

Course Description

This course is designed to help students better understand the social world in which they live as well as provide a foundation for other courses in sociology. It provides an overview of major concepts and principles of sociology, including globalization, diversity, socialization, social control, social order, social stratification, ethnicity, social deviance, and social change. This course emphasizes global dynamics (issues, trends, processes, and systems) from a sociological perspective, and helps students view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES/COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

This introductory course is part of the QEP Global curriculum and can be counted for University Studies credit in Social and Behavioral Sciences and is a required prerequisite for nearly all other course in sociology. After completing this course students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a sociological perspective based on critical thinking skills in order to better understand the social world in which they live and interact on a daily basis.
2. Define and give examples of basic sociological terms and concepts that will help them better understand their social world and to lay a solid academic foundation for future courses in sociology and/or related fields.
3. Explain the scientific method and specific sociological research methods to illustrate how sociologists collect and analyze data to develop sociological theories on human social behavior.
4. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics including global issues, processes, trends, and systems.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Be able to use a computer.

Instructional Methods

CLASS FORMAT: Every effort will be made to provide the best possible learning experience by blending brief lectures with Power Point slides, discussions, videos, group work, writing assignments, reading assignments, and other materials. This course is web-enhanced. Students can login to D2L to check grades and to review power point presentations.

Because we will be dealing with controversial contemporary social issues, an open mind and a mature attitude are important requirements for this course. Students are expected to be polite and courteous and conform to classroom etiquette at all times.

POWER POINTS ONLINE: The Power Points used in class will be posted online through D2L. Although they do not contain all of the material covered or discussed in class, they do provide a general outline of topics,

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

concepts, theories, etc., covered in class, so it may be helpful to review them before exams. If you miss class for any reason, it would be a good idea to view the Power Point for that class and look up the information related to them in your textbook. Viewing Power Point slides online is NOT a substitute for reading and coming to class!

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

There are no secrets to doing well in this class. Come to class every session. Read all assignments before coming to class. Review the power points online. Participate in class discussions. Complete all assignments on time. Read, review, study, review, and study.

GRADING

GRADING

Final grades will be based on the five exams worth 100 pts. each, the globalization paper worth 20 points, and attendance/participation worth 30 pts.

5 Exams @ 100 pts. ea.	500 pts.	A= 90 – 100% (540-600 pts.)
Globalization Paper	30 pts.	B= 80 – 89 % (480-539pts.)
5 Assignments @ 10 pts. ea.	40 pts.	C= 70 – 79 % (420-479 pts.)
Attendance/Participation	<u>30 pts.</u>	D= 60 – 69 % (360-194 pts.)
Total Points	600 pts.	F= less than 60 % (< 360 pts.)

Assessments

EXAMINATIONS: There will be five major exams (worth 100-pts. ea.) Check the tentative course schedule for dates of all exams. If a student misses an exam for any reason the make up exam will be given the week before finals week. If a student misses more than one scheduled exam, they should drop the course. If you know ahead of time that you must miss an exam for a university-related excused reason, please let the professor know in advance, as it may be possible to take the exam early. ***If you miss more than 1 exam, you should consider dropping the course.***

GLOBALIZATION PAPER: Since this course is designated as a “Global” course, students will write a paper on globalization (based on material in chapter 9) for 30 points. The paper should be approximately 2 pages in length (typed, 12 pt. font, double-spaced), and should address one of the

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

subtopics of global stratification as outlined in Chapter 9. The paper should be submitted electronically through D2L in the appropriate assignment space (Week 9). It will be graded and returned and then can be uploaded by the student to an e-portfolio.

ASSIGNMENTS: There will be five assignments during the semester worth 10 points each (50 pts.). Only four of the assignments are counted in the possible point total, so if a student only completes four of the assignments, they still can receive 100% of the possible points (40). If a student completes all five assignments, they can get up to 10 points of extra credit. Assignments might be spontaneous in class assignments or may be given in advance as homework assignments. All of them will be made in class. If a student misses the class period when the assignment is made or fails to turn in an assignment, a grade of zero (0) will be entered. Since there are 5 opportunities to turn in 4 assignments, missed assignments cannot be made up under any circumstances.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION: Good attendance and participation are essential for doing well in this course. While a student can borrow someone else's notes, there is no way to gain the information from questions, discussions, group work, etc., when a class period is missed. Attendance will be taken each class period and 1 point will be earned for each day of class attended; miss class (regardless of the reason) and you do not earn the point. ***Realistically if you anticipate missing the equivalent of two week's worth of classes or more (4 or more class sessions) you should consider dropping the course.***

TARDINESS: Please come to class on time! Classroom doors will be closed at the beginning of class time. Classroom doors lock automatically when closed. If you arrive late, you will not be allowed to enter and disturb the class, so you will be counted absent. Lateness communicates a "don't care" attitude, and also is extremely disruptive. ***If you cannot come to class on time, you should drop the course!***

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
--------	------------------	---------	------------------------------

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) (version 17 or later) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
 - [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.



System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The most effective way to communicate with the professor will be to come to class. The professor will be in his office during posted office hours and by appointment. The best way to make an appointment is to communicate directly with the professor immediately prior to or after class. Appointments can also be made via e-mail.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION: I will communicate with the class through MyLeo e-mail in. I will send out reminders about assignments, changes in syllabus, etc., to the entire class through e-mail using your official “My Leo” university e-mail address. Consequently, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check your e-mail regularly for messages from me. If you contact me via e-mail, please tell me your name and the course in which you are enrolled as part of your e-mail.

Note: I will attempt to respond to all e-mails in a timely fashion (usually within 24 hours). However, since there is no such thing as a “sociology emergency,” any e-mails received after noon on Friday or over the weekend will not receive a response until the following Monday.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

INCLEMENT WEATHER: In case of inclement weather, if the university is open, you can expect this class to meet. If the university cancels classes, then it will not. The university announces all closings on the university website, through PAWS alerts, and the information is generally broadcast on KETR (88.9) as well as most of the metroplex media. There is no need to e-mail the professor as all university closing decisions are made and announced by the President. The professor finds out the same way as you.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)
<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

DATE: ASSIGNMENTS:	TOPIC:	READING
T, 14 Jan.	Introduction, Course Syllabus, etc.	
R, 16 Jan.	Discovering Sociology/Critical Thinking	Ch. 1
T, 21 Jan.	Discovering Sociology	Ch. 1
R, 23 Jan.	Doing Sociology	Ch. 2
T, 28 Jan.	Doing Sociology	Ch. 2
R, 30 Jan.	EXAM 1	Ch. 1,2
T, 4 Feb.	Culture and Society	Ch. 3
R, 6 Feb.	Culture & Society	Ch.3
T, 11 Feb.	Socialization	Ch. 4
R, 13 Feb.	Socialization	Ch. 4
T, 18 Feb.	Social Interaction in Everyday Life	Ch. 5
R, 20 Feb.	EXAM 2	Ch. 3,4,5
T, 25 Feb.	Social Groups, Organizations, Bureaucracy	Ch. 6
R, 27 Feb.	Social Groups, Organizations, Bureaucracy	Ch. 6
T, 3 Mar.	Deviance & Conformity	Ch. 7
R, 5 Mar.	Deviance & Conformity	Ch. 7
T, 10 Mar.	Spring Break	
R, 12 Mar.	Spring Break	
T, 17 Mar.	Social Stratification & Social Class	Ch. 8
R, 19 Mar.	Social Stratification & Social Class	Ch. 8
T, 24 Mar.	Global Stratification (Paper Due)	Ch. 9
R, 26 Mar.	EXAM 3	Ch. 6,7,8,9
T, 31 Mar.	Race & Ethnicity	Ch. 10
R, 2 Apr.	Race & Ethnicity	Ch. 10
T, 7 Apr.	Sex & Gender	Ch. 11
R, 9 Apr.	Sex & Gender	Ch. 11
T, 14 Apr.	Age & Elderly	Ch. 12
R, 16 Apr.	Exam 4	Ch. 10,11,12

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

T, 21 Apr.	Families	Ch. 13
R, 23 Apr.	Families	Ch. 13

T 28 Apr.	Education	Ch. 14
R, 30 Apr.	Education	Ch. 14

R, 7 May (9:00-10:00 a.m.) Exam 5 **Ch. 13,14**

Note: Final Exam Schedule says 8-10 a.m., but it is a 1 hour final; will begin at 9 a.m.