



SOC 1301.01W & 1301.02W, Introduction to Sociology

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Mica Thompson

Online

Department Office Phone: 903-886-5332

Department Office Fax: 903-886-5330

University Email Address: mica.thompson@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Office: Remote

Office Hours: Email, Telephone, or Virtual by Appointment

Communication Response Time: M-Th within 24 hours, emails received after noon on Friday will be answered the following Monday. ***Always include your name the way you are enrolled in the class as well as the course number and section with all e-mail correspondence.***

COURSE INFORMATION

This course meets: Online Only

Materials –

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 virtually impossible to do well in the course without the most recent edition of the textbook.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

Student Learning Outcomes

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. Demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics including global issues, processes, trends, and systems.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Use of D2L learning management system, use of Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, use of basic presentation and graphics programs, etc.

Instructional Methods

This course is entirely online. Every effort will be made to provide the best possible learning experience by blending reading assignments, Power Point slides, online discussions, selected videos, writing assignments, and other materials. Students should login to D2L on a regular basis and check their university e-mails every day Monday through Friday in order to keep up with class assignments, to review power point presentations, and participate in online discussions.

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 and the university code of conduct at all times. For detailed rules on "netiquette" go to the website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html> A summary of netiquette rules are provided below.

Rule 1: Remember the Human

Rule 2: Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life

Rule 3: Know where you are in cyberspace

Rule 4: Respect other people's time and bandwidth

Rule 5: Make yourself look good online

Rule 6: Share expert knowledge

Rule 7: Help keep flame wars under control

Rule 8: Respect other people's privacy

Rule 9: Don't abuse your power

Rule 10: Be forgiving of other people's mistakes

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Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

In order to be successful in this course, you will need purchase and READ the required textbook. You are expected to complete all discussions, submit any assignments on time, and take exams when they are scheduled. It is recommended you put all due dates and exam dates on your calendar. The PowerPoints will be posted online through e-college. Although they do not contain all of the material covered in the textbook, they do provide a general outline of topics, concepts, theories, etc., covered, so it may be helpful to review them before exams. It also is a good idea to review them after reading the chapters.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 720- 800 Points

B = 640- 720 Points

C = 560- 640 Points

D = 480- 560 Points

F = 480 & > Points

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Assessments

Assignment Type	# of Assignments	Point Value	Total Points
Discussions	6	20	120
Writing Assignments	1	100	100
Quizzes/Exams	6	100	600
		TOTAL	820

Grades will be posted in D2L

NOTE: We will NOT be negotiating for grades at the end of the semester. You have plenty of opportunities to earn points throughout the semester. A few “bonus” points are built into each exam. At the end of the semester, your total points will be applied to the scale on this syllabus. That is the grade you have earned, and that is the grade you will be assigned. (There is a big difference between a percentage point and a raw point. For example, if you earn 69% of the 560 total points, you are not 1 point away from a C—you are actually 1 percentage point from a C which is 6 points). **EARN your points during the semester, don't try to BEG for them at the end of it.**

DISCUSSIONS/PARTICIPATION: Reading all assignments and participating in all online discussions is essential for doing well in this course. Please refer to your syllabus or eCollege for Discussion windows.

In order to earn 20 points you must enter the discussion early and post often. To get full credit, you must have at least:

- (1) one post that responds to the question(s) posted by the instructor using key terms, concepts, and theories from the required reading (10 pts.)
 - (2) one post that poses a relevant question to your classmates (5 pts.)
 - (3) two posts responding to questions posed by your classmates (5 pts.)
- (these are minimum requirements; hopefully you will engage in discussion and post more; it takes at least 4 posts to earn all 20 points).

NOTE: Keep all discussions civil and academic/intellectual in nature. We may discuss with controversial topics. It is essential to treat these subjects seriously and courteously. The discussions should focus on ideas, research, data, facts, and information from the textbook and class. You will have strong personal opinions about some of these topics. That is fine, but you need not share them with the class. Before you post, read what you have written. Any sentence beginning with the words “I feel . . .” or “I believe . . .” are probably better deleted.

These are academic discussions, NOT attempts to convince somebody else to think like you. Every discussion should reflect that you have read the material and are applying critical sociological thinking to the topic. Online discussions should NOT be viewed as

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similar to a discussion around the dinner table with friends or family where everybody expresses their views, opinions, and beliefs on some topic often which they know absolutely nothing about. This is an academic course and your discussion topics are directly linked to the PowerPoints and reading assignments in your textbook.

Consequently, your posts should reflect a certain amount of knowledge on the topic based on research, facts, and data. It is fine to critique, interpret, and *occasionally* interject an opinion or two, but for the most part, this should be an academic and intellectual discussion of the topic at hand.

Response Papers: You will have 1 response paper. This essay is considered formal writing – this means that I expect you to do all of the following: Write with purpose. Each sentence should contribute to your overall writing (no fillers like very very very very interesting). Additionally, you should use the same glossary of terms that the readings' authors use; do not make up your own descriptors or tell the reader "Basically..." Your tone should be literal and formal using proper English spelling and grammar. Do not use clichés, text speak (e.g. ROFL), emoji, non-text characters, or non-scholarly sources. You should write in paragraphs which are organized to fit together.

Your paper must use APA or ASA formatting for in-text citations and reference list and be free of spelling and grammatical errors. The assignment should be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font.

EXAMINATIONS: There will be six major examinations worth 100 pts. each. The exams will include multiple choice and short answer questions. The exams are scheduled in the course outline and will be taken online on designated days. **Adjust your schedule now--do not make plans that conflict with exam dates!** There is a 48-hour window to take the exam, but once the exam is started, you have only 1 hour to complete it. If you log off for any reason, the exam is over, and you cannot log back in.

You are expected to take exams without the aid of your textbook, notes, or any other type of help or aid from anything or any other person. You are on the honor system to take the exams just as if you were taking them in a classroom with the professor present.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements:

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).

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- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

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

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

Interaction with Instructor Statement

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR: The best way to contact the professor will be through campus e-mail (mica.thompson@etamu.edu). Every effort will be made to reply to inquiries made Monday thru Thursday within a 24-hour period. **E-mails received on Friday, or over the weekend may not receive a response until the following Monday.** Please include the course number in the subject of your email to expedite response times. I teach more than one course so it helps me best answer you if I know in which course you're enrolled.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION: I will communicate with the class through the online course and/or MyLeo e-mail. Consequently, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check your e-mail regularly for messages from me. I will **attempt** (*not guarantee*) to respond to any e-mail you send to me within 24 hours of receiving it unless the e-mail is received Friday-Sunday. If that is the case, it more than likely will be the following Monday afternoon before you receive a response. If you have a class-related issue that occurs over the weekend, DO NOT PANIC. There is no such thing as "sociological emergency" and I guarantee we can work it out as soon as I can address it.

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Remember, this is not an adversarial relationship. I want you to be successful and am here to help you. If you do not receive an email from me in a timely matter, please try again. Sometimes emails get sorted/filtered and I may miss them.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

All assignments need to be completed and turned in on time. Exams need to be taken on the days assigned. Makeup exams are offered for special circumstances which you must work out with the instructor.

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.

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](#).

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#).

Academic Integrity

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

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

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, complicity in cheating, multiple submissions (or substantial portions) of the same work for credit without authorization, submitting

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another's work, submitting past work, plagiarism, submitting algorithmically (AI) plagiarized work, and other acts that may reasonably be called academic dishonesty.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
East Texas A&M University
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

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

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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

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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.

Counseling Center Services

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

DATE:	TOPIC:	READING ASSIGNMENT
<u>Week 1</u> Aug 25-29	Discovering Sociology Discussion 1 opens Monday at 12:00 AM	Ch. 1
<u>Week 2</u> Sep 1-5	Monday: Labor Day/NO CLASS Doing Sociology Discussion 1 closes Friday at 11:30 PM	Ch. 2
Sep 4-5	EXAM/Quiz 1 (Opens Thursday at 8:00 AM; Closes Friday at 11:30 PM)	Ch. 1,2
<u>Week 3</u> Sep 8-12	Culture and Society Discussion 2 opens Monday at 12:00 AM	Ch. 3
<u>Week 4</u> Sep 15-19	Socialization Discussion 2 closes Friday at 11:30 PM	Ch. 4
Sep 18-19	EXAM/Quiz 2 (Opens Thursday at 8 AM; closes Friday 11:30 PM)	Ch. 3,4
<u>Week 5</u> Sep 22-26	Social Interaction in Everyday Life Discussion 3 opens Monday at 12:00 AM	Ch. 5
<u>Week 6</u> Sep 29-Oct 3	Social Groups, Organizations, Bureaucracy Discussion 3 closes Friday at 11:30 PM	Ch. 6
Oct 2-3	EXAM/Quiz 3 (Opens Thursday at 8 AM; closes Friday 11:30 PM)	Ch. 5,6
<u>Week 7</u> Oct 6-10	Deviance & Conformity Discussion 4 opens Monday at 12:00 AM	Ch. 7
<u>Week 8</u> Oct 13-17	Social Stratification & Social Class Discussion 4 ends Friday at 11:30 PM	Ch. 8
<u>Week 9</u> Oct 20-24	Global Stratification EXAM/Quiz 4	Ch. 9
Oct 23-24	(Opens Thursday at 8 AM; closes Friday at 11:30 PM)	Ch. 7,8,9

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<u>Week 10</u> Oct 27-31	Race & Ethnicity Discussion 5 opens Monday at 12:00 AM	Ch. 10
<u>Week 11</u> Nov 3-7	Sex & Gender Discussion 5 closes Friday at 11:30 PM	Ch. 11
<u>Week 12</u> Nov 10-14 Nov 13-14	Age & Elderly EXAM/Quiz 5 (Opens Thursday 8 AM, closes Friday at 11:30 PM)	Ch. 12 Ch. 10,11,12
<u>Week 13</u> Nov 17-21	Families Response Paper Due Friday at 11:30 PM	Ch. 13
<u>Week 14</u> Nov 24-28	Education Discussion 6 opens Monday at 12:00 AM THANKSGIVING BREAK 11/27-11/28	Ch. 14
<u>Week 15</u> Dec 1-5	Families and education Discussion 6 closes Friday at 11:30 PM	Ch. 13,14
<u>Finals Week</u> Dec 8-12	Quiz 6 Opens Monday 8 AM; closes Wednesday at 11:30 PM	Ch. 13,14

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