

**South Plains College Common Course Syllabus**  
**Introduction to Sociology – Soci1301**  
**Revised January 2023** (updated 7/5/2023)

Department: Behavioral Science

Discipline: Sociology

Course Number: Soci1301

Course Title: Introduction to Sociology

Available Formats: conventional and internet

Campuses: Levelland, Reese, Plainview, Lubbock Center, Lubbock Downtown, Dual-Credit

**Course Description:** The scientific study of human society, including ways in which groups, social institutions, and individuals affect each other. Causes of social stability and social change are explored through the application of various theoretical perspectives, key concepts, and related research methods of sociology. Analysis of social issues in their institutional context may include topics such as social stratification, gender, race/ethnicity, and deviance.

**Prerequisite:** No prerequisite for conventional sections; must be TSI compliant in reading for Internet sections including dual credit.

Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

**Textbook:** OER textbook from OpenStax, “Introduction to Sociology 3e”

[https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Sociology/Introduction\\_to\\_Sociology/Introductory\\_Sociology\\_3e\\_\(OpenStax\)](https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Sociology/Introduction_to_Sociology/Introductory_Sociology_3e_(OpenStax))

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Component Area (080)

**Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:**

- Communications skills—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- Critical thinking skills—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Empirical and quantitative competency skills—to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- Social Responsibility—to include the demonstrated knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

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**Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:**

1. Compare and contrast the basic theoretical perspectives of sociology.
2. Identify the various methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data in sociology.
3. Describe key concepts in sociology.
4. Describe the empirical findings of various subfields of sociology.
5. Explain the complex links between individual experiences and broader institutional forces.

*Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: See instructor's course information sheet for information on assessment that may include the following: pretests and posttests, quizzes, discussions, essays and/or other types of assessment tools.*

**Course Evaluations:** Refer to instructor's course information sheet for specifics on coursework and grading.

**Attendance Policy:** As per the SPC General Catalog:

Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first-class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through Texan Connect. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or

participated the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

*See instructor's course information sheet for additions to the attendance policy.*

**Academic Integrity: As per the SPC General Catalog:** It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

**Cheating:** Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the textbook or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating.

Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of whatever length, as well as to final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers.

**Plagiarism:** Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, reports or other writings of fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.

**More Information About Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

**Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:**

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.

**Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:**

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

**Student Code of Conduct Policy: As per the General Catalog:** Rules and regulations relating to the students at South Plains College are made with the view of protecting the best interests of the individual, the general welfare of the entire student body and the educational objectives of the college.

As in any segment of society, a college community must be guided by standards that are stringent enough to prevent disorder, yet moderate enough to provide an atmosphere conducive to intellectual and personal development.

A high standard of conduct is expected of all students. When a student enrolls at South Plains College, it is assumed that the student accepts the obligations of performance and behavior imposed by the college relevant to its lawful missions, processes and functions. Obedience to the law, respect for properly constituted authority, personal honor, integrity and common sense guide the actions of each member of the college community both in and out of the classroom.

Students are subject to federal, state and local laws, as well as South Plains College rules and regulations. A student is not entitled to greater immunities or privileges before the law than those enjoyed by other citizens. Students are subject to such reasonable disciplinary action as the administration of the college may consider appropriate, including suspension and expulsion in appropriate cases for breach of federal,

state or local laws, or college rules and regulations. This principle extends to conduct off-campus which is likely to have adverse effects on the college or on the educational process which identifies the offender as an unfit associate for fellow students.

Any student who fails to perform according to expected standards may be asked to withdraw.

Rules and regulations regarding student conduct appear in the current Student Guide.

In addition to the above policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

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## **Course Information Sheet**

### **SOCI 1301-Introduction to Sociology**

### **Instructor: Brant Farrar**

First, I would like to say **THANK YOU!** I consider it an honor that you have chosen to be in my course. I want to thank you in advance for the time and hard work that you will put into this learning experience. One of the keys to being successful in college is to maintain communication with your instructor. Feel free to call, e-mail, or to make an appointment if I can help you be successful in this course. I hope that your grade in this course will reflect the effort you put into it. – Brant Farrar

**\*\*\*Note: Deadlines for this semester course are *multiple times per week*. Late work is not accepted for grading. Be sure to download and print the course calendar/checklist.\*\*\***

*All deadlines are at 11:59PM unless otherwise noted.*

#### **Office Hours and Location:**

- **Mon/Tue/Wed: 9:00AM-10:45AM and 2:15PM-3:00PM**
- **Thursday: 9:00AM-10:45AM**
- **Friday: 8:30AM-10:00AM**

**Primary Office Location: Lubbock Downtown Center, #2003**

**Email address:** [bfarrar@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:bfarrar@southplainscollege.edu)

Note that course work must be submitted in Blackboard and will NOT be accepted if sent to the SPC email address. The exception to this is the introduction email assignment which you will send to my SPC email.

**Telephone:** (806) 716-4657, if you leave a message include your name, class you are in, phone number, and a short message. Be sure to speak clearly and leave your number slowly.

*Contact method: I will typically respond to all student email messages within 24 hours on weekdays and within 48 hours on weekends and/or holidays unless I have notified you differently.*

### **\*\*Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resource Policy\*\*:**

There are now websites that will generate semi-unique material that somewhat resembles original material. Since technology is available to create this content, technology is also available to detect this content. Make no mistake, this is plagiarism. The instructor is not asking AI to write any written portion of this course's requirements, but is asking you the student, to create this content.

If the student submits work obtained by using AI or is suspected of utilizing AI, it will be considered plagiarism and receive a grade of zero for the work. This course policy will be provided as feedback for said coursework, letting the student know that AI is suspected, or plagiarism has occurred. It is the student's responsibility to follow up with the instructor within 7 days (one week) of the posted grade if work has been incorrectly flagged for AI use. The student can discuss the coursework in question with the instructor by virtual appointment in order to earn credit. In these cases, the student will need to verbally provide mastery of concepts related to the work in question. Any further attempts at using artificial intelligence as one's own work will continue to earn zeroes for those attempts or may result in a course drop with an F by the instructor. The incidents may also be detailed to the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions.

### **Attendance Policy:**

See Common Course Syllabus section. Since this course is a virtual classroom, attendance will be taken according to the following:

- Participating in class discussion by posting to the discussion board.
- Submitting exams and assignments on or before the due dates.
- Submitting EdPuzzles on or before the due dates.

**Note:** Simply logging into the course or logging into the course and sending an e-mail is NOT considered attendance for this course. You MUST participate in the course by submitting work during any given week to be considered "in attendance".

### **Late work:**

All deadlines are at **11:59pm**. **Note: Deadlines are DUE dates but you need to set your DO date ahead of the official DUE date.** It is a best to work ahead of the deadline.

**No work will be accepted for grading after the deadline.** Excuses such as "The network was down," or "I could not figure out how to send the assignment through the assignments function" or "I got really sick and had to go to the ER last night" are not acceptable. In short, plan ahead, work ahead of the deadline, and do not wait until the last minute to submit your assignments. It is best practice to turn in assignments, submit quizzes and post discussion messages early.

## **Administrative Drop Policy:**

Due to Financial Aid and South Plains College **requirements for participation/attendance a student who fails to submit 6 EdPuzzle assignments or fails to participate in 2 grading periods for discussions, or fails to participate by submitting course work in the course for 14 consecutive days during the session may be dropped with a grade of "X" or "F" from the course.** Your professor is here to assist you during this semester, but you need to be responsible for your work and effort in this course.

Note: Logging into the course does NOT count as attendance in this course. If you miss course work after the final drop date the grade earned will be the final grade.

## **Course Technology:**

Since this course are entirely online, participants are expected to have at least an elementary knowledge of their microcomputer operating system and basic knowledge of software and tools such as a word processor, e-mail, an Internet browser, and search engines.

### **Required hardware:**

- Computer available for download/installation of software and plug ins
- Speakers / Sound card

### **Required software:**

- Microsoft Office (Word) – Acceptable files are .docx, .rtf or .pdf. Do NOT submit .pages, google docs or other types of files. Points will be deducted if you use a file that is not on the acceptable file list.
- Blackboard (see note below)
- Internet access – regular, dependable, fast enough to watch videos
- Web browser – a **current** version of one of the following – Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome. The use of Edge or Internet Explorer is not recommended. Downloads for the newest browser versions are available free of charge from their websites.
- Virus protection
- Latest version of Java [Available here](#)

### **Blackboard:**

Blackboard is an electronic learning resource that is designed to provide students with information requirements related to the courses. This includes up-to-date announcements, course information, assessment, assignments, deadlines, and the like. For this resource to function to its full potential, it is important that students log in multiple times during the week. **Students will post their responses to discussion prompts on the Discussion Forums through Blackboard.** Students can also monitor their progress in the course by using the “My grades” link on the left-hand side of the course page.

**Blackboard can be accessed via an Internet link:**

<https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/ultra/course>

You may also use the link to Blackboard in the upper right-hand side of the SPC Homepage by using the Login to...link. It is recommended that you bookmark the Blackboard page. Your log-in is the same as you MySPC log-in.

**Technical support:**

If you have any questions or need assistance, you are to contact Blackboard technical support at [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu) or call 806-716-2180. A note, contact your instructor for any questions you have about course content as technical support is only for issues concerning computers or Blackboard performance.

**What to do if you experience technical problems:**

If you are unable to submit an assignment, complete a quiz, or otherwise participate in our course because of an issue with Blackboard, it is YOUR responsibility to notify me via email when the problem occurs. It is also YOUR responsibility to notify technical support (contact information is in the box above) for assistance and to document your attempts to resolve the problem. In addition, take a screenshot to document your problem and submit this with your email to me and to technical support. If Blackboard outage is verified by the Division of Instructional Technology staff, I will work with you to make alternative arrangements. However, you are responsible for your technology and ability to submit work (including your access to an Internet connection). I strongly recommend that you submit your work early to avoid last minute problems. I also strongly recommend that you save a copy of your discussions and/or assignments to the course in case of technology disruption. Also, I strongly recommend that you have a back-up plan in case you have technical issues. Technical issues other than a Blackboard outage are not reasons for late work to be accepted.

Open Computer Lab: There is an Open Computer Lab located on the Levelland campus in the Technology Center. It is available to all students, with priority given to those students enrolled in computer classes. Computers are also available on the Reese Center, Lubbock Downtown Center, and Plainview campuses. Check with libraries and labs for hours.

***I recommend that you DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TURN ASSIGNMENTS IN OR YOU MAY HAVE PROBLEMS! Remember the saying "TECHNOLOGY HAPPENS" and as stated above, late work is not accepted.***

Anti-virus Software: Please make sure that your computer has an up-to-date antivirus software program installed.

**Course work: See the course calendar for deadlines.** If you work or have class in the morning, I recommend that you set your personal deadline at midnight the night before the deadline. Better yet, work a day or two ahead of the deadline and avoid the stresses and risks that may come with working close to the deadline. The deadline listed on the calendar/checklist is the FINAL time that course work can be submitted but you can ALWAYS submit ahead of the

deadline. I don't accept late work for grading. **The choice is yours when it comes to how close you work to a deadline.**

### **EdPuzzle Assignments**

EdPuzzle assignments consist of a video with embedded questions. Students will watch the video and answers questions along the way. When the video is over, the assignment is complete. Students will be able to have two attempts at each EdPuzzle, except one assignment at random allows only one chance, **SO DO YOUR BEST THE FIRST ATTEMPT, YOU MAY NOT GET A SECOND CHANCE.** Each EdPuzzle is worth 25 points.

### **Short Assignments**

Topics and instructions for these assignments may change from semester to semester. These should be clearly outlined in Blackboard. Examples of assignments include: discussion of social norms, sharing experiences with culture shock, examining death penalty statistics, and reflecting on your experiences in the course. If you have any questions or feel any assignment needs additional instruction or clarification, please feel free to contact the instructor.

### **Discussion Board information and grading rubric**

*Note: You MUST post your original message before you will be able to view the posts of other students.*

This course includes an Introduction Discussion that will help us get to know a little about each other and Discussions for each module that will include a video, article, or other material related to information that is covered in that section of the textbook.

Each Substantive Discussion (Disc) is worth 50 points and includes one Original Discussion and at least two Reply Discussions. Each Original Discussion is worth 20 points and the Reply Discussions are worth 15 points each. For each Disc, you will be graded on (1) your original post and (2) your replies to classmates' discussion of that same discussion topic.

The Online Discussion component of this course is comprised of weekly Discussion topics and is an important part of the class. Each week there will be discussion related to the course material. The faculty member posts weekly main discussion prompts that may include questions, videos, articles, or other resources related to a topic that is being covered for that week. Students are expected to respond to ALL Discussions.

Online discussion is a very important part of online learning. Through your responses to weekly discussions, you will learn to integrate class material into your thoughts and learn more about how others view the topics that are covered in the course. Additional discussion with classmates



and the professor help us all learn more about the material. As such, each week you are also expected to make at least two thoughtful and substantial responses to classmates.

I suggest that members participate at least two times per week. It is a good idea to check in early in the deadline period and again closer to the final day of the deadline period. This assures that you are an active member of the class throughout the week and have ample opportunity to interact with other members. Discussions will be due at 11:59PM, so if you work or have classes in the mornings, you may need to set your personal deadline at midnight the night before the noon deadline. See the course calendar/checklist for deadlines.

Discussion posts are not accepted for grading after the deadline. Drop policy is if you fail to participate in 2 discussion grading periods you may be dropped from the course.

**Online Discussions will be graded as follows:**

Discussion Grading Rubrics

Original discussion posts – worth up to 20 points (first round of grading). See note below rubric.

Late original posts will not be graded. However, you may post an original post after the deadline so that you can see the posts of others and reply to at least two others to earn the reply portion of the grade.

<b>Grading category</b>	<b>Unacceptable</b>	<b>Acceptable</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
Demonstrates understanding of connection between video/prompt and textbook material. (Recap of the video does not meet this area of grading.)  <b>Up to 10 points</b>	Post shows no to little evidence of the understanding of the connection between video/prompt and textbook. Mainly a recap of the video.  <b>0 – 4 points</b>	Post shows some evidence of the understanding of the connection between video/prompt and textbook. Some recap of the video with some textbook information.  <b>5 – 9 points</b>	Post shows understanding of the connection between video/prompt and textbook. More textbook information discussed along with applicable text information compared to the amount of video information discussed.  <b>10 points</b>
Page citation(s) included for required textbook information and citation for optional outside information if used.  <b>Up to 5 points</b>	No page citation given for required text information or outside information if used.  <b>0 points</b>	Page citations given for some but not all textbook information or outside information if used.  <b>1 – 4 points</b>	All textbook information used cited. Cited any outside information used.  <b>5 points</b>

Spelling and grammar	Post contains multiple errors, uses text-messaging shortcuts and/or hard for readers to follow. Fails to use capitalization and/or punctuation.	Post contains minor errors that do not cloud the meaning. Contains 3 to 5 grammar, spelling, punctuation and/or capitalization errors.	Post is clear and articulate. Has 0, 1 or 2 grammar, spelling, punctuation and/or capitalization errors.
<b>Up to 5 points</b>	<b>0 points</b>	<b>1 - 4 points</b>	<b>5 points</b>

**Note:** The first round of grading is by the grading rubric above. As per the section below the rubric that is in the syllabus, there are additional requirements for the length of the post and use of the sociological perspective. Points will be deducted from the grade earned in the grading rubric for short posts or for posts that do not use the sociological perspective.

Original discussions should:

- You must post your original discussion message before you will be able to see the posts of other students.
- Be made before the deadline stated on the course calendar/checklist.
- Contain a minimum of 200 words.
- Be thoughtful, organized, and analyze the information in the video/prompt.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the questions/video/prompt and the course material. Each question/video/prompt is chosen because it illustrates at least one topic related to criminology. You are to identify and discuss the topic(s) that are shared content of the question/video/prompt and the course material. Base your discussion post on the material you have read in the textbook as well as information you find on credible websites. Show me you have read and understand the course material in your posts.
- Contain more than just your opinion: justify your statements using course materials as well as information from credible websites.
- Do NOT simply state a recap of the video if a video is provided. Everyone should have watched/read the material and I am looking for a deeper level of thought than just stating what was in the video/prompt.
- Incorporate ***and cite information from the textbook***, outside academic sources, credible websites, etc. Textbook citations should include the page number(s) and other sources should include citations to show where you located the information. Note: Wikipedia is NOT an academic source.
- You may include personal experiences and/or reactions. CAUTION: Remember to use the sociological perspective in all of your course work as per the syllabus.
- Discussion forums are public so don't post anything that you don't want everyone else to read.
- Utilize appropriate language, grammar, and spelling

Reply discussion posts – worth up to 15 points each for a total of 30 points (first round of grading). See note below rubric.

<b>Grading category</b>	<b>Unacceptable</b>	<b>Acceptable</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
<p>Interaction with others</p> <p><b>Up to 10 points per reply post</b></p>	<p>Replies do not contribute to the discussion in a meaningful way. Reply is inappropriate for an academic setting. The student makes a personal attack; language might suggest bias toward a group member or others. The student appears unaware of cultural differences in conducting discussions.</p> <p><b>0 – 3 points</b></p>	<p>Replies attend to the discussion but contributes little new knowledge or ideas. Most of the reply is a restatement of what was posted in other messages. Some awareness of cultural differences is shown but shows some bias. Disagreement is respectful but no invitation to respond is extended.</p> <p><b>4 – 9 points</b></p>	<p>Replies are thoughtful and reflective and carry the discussion forward in a meaningful way. Replies to others are responsive to the statement and indicate that the student understood it and thought about it. When disagreeing, the student does it respectfully. The nature of the disagreement is stated and an invitation to respond extended. The student is aware of cultural differences in social interactions and behaves in an appropriate fashion.</p> <p><b>10 points</b></p>
<p>Spelling and grammar</p> <p><b>Up to 10 points per reply post for a total of 20 points overall</b></p>	<p>Replies contain multiple errors, uses text-messaging shortcuts and/or hard for readers to follow. Fails to use proper grammar, spelling, capitalization and/or punctuation.</p> <p><b>0 – 1 point</b></p>	<p>Replies contain minor errors that do not cloud the meaning. Contains 3 to 5 grammar, spelling, punctuation and/or capitalization errors.</p> <p><b>2 – 4 points</b></p>	<p>Replies are clear and articulate. Has 0, 1 or 2 grammar, spelling, punctuation and/or capitalization errors.</p> <p><b>5 points</b></p>

**Note:** The first round of grading is by the grading rubric above. As per the section below the rubric that is in the syllabus, there is additional requirement for the length of the post. Points will be deducted from the grade earned in the grading rubric for short posts.

Responses to Original discussions should:

- Be made before the deadline stated on the course calendar/checklist.
- Contain a minimum of 75 words.

- Include at least two responses to classmates.
- Add to the overall value of the discussion (simply posting a statement similar to “I thought this week’s ideas were interesting” or “I agree”) will not count towards your points for a grade.
- Ask questions to encourage other students to think more deeply. Just asking, “What do you think?” will not earn full points here.
- Share your own experiences that relate to the topic of discussion.
- Constructively and/or respectfully disagree at times.
- Refer to class course work (text or video information) and apply the information or ask other students how they are applying course information.
- If you repeat yourself in your reply messages you will not earn full points.
- Utilize appropriate language, grammar, and spelling.

### **ON-LINE ETIQUETTE:**

A few words about communication and online discussion are in order. As you imagine, some conversations easily become emotional, especially if we touch on people's deeply held beliefs. Unfortunately, online postings can mislead one into thinking that cyberspace is an "anything goes" kind of forum. This isn't the case. Civil interaction is as much expected here as in the "traditional" classroom. Below I provide some guidelines for communicating more effectively online. I will deduct points from posts that violate the spirit of these suggestions.

Keep in mind:

- There may be disagreement and this is okay.
- Disagreement can be very constructive; it encourages us to reconsider our own positions and either recommit, expand, or discard them.
- I must at all times hear/see you debating the IDEA and not making a personal attack on an individual. Note that this is a skill to learn like any other so learn how to debate and get your point heard.
- Personal insults and attacks impede the development of critical thought. Avoid "you" statements, which can be more easily interpreted as accusations ("you don't know what you're talking about", "the problem is people like you," etc., etc.). Try, instead, to use "I" statements ("I disagree with your position on "X" and then explain your viewpoint using course material to validate that viewpoint or "I find that Durkheim was actually saying ...").
- In addition, people have to be given the benefit of the doubt on occasion. Because this is an online class and we cannot see each other's facial expressions or hear the tone in our voices, it is important to clarify issues that are confusing. Before jumping to a conclusion and putting words in someone's mouth, ask them to clarify their point. And if someone asks you to restate your opinion, do not be afraid to restate it.
- Finally, I will be most impressed with individuals who can incorporate course materials into their posts. A key skill you should leave college with is the ability to support your positions; this online forum is an appropriate place to hone this skill. Refer to readings and module material to support your points.

\*Adapted from Soc 101: Introduction to Sociology An Online Course, by Professor Marisol Clark-Ibanez, Ph.D.

**All written assignments including discussions should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. (This means no "texting" abbreviations or shortcuts!) You are expected to use correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, contractions and capitalization.**

**Academic Integrity:** See Common Course Syllabus. Students found guilty of plagiarism in this course will receive a grade of zero (0) for the work in question for the first offense and will be dropped from the course with an "F" should a second offense occur.

- This course requires students to submit only their OWN WORDS for all parts of assignments and discussions. Give proper citation for any information taken from any source including textbook, Internet sites or any other source
- I know students want to help each other but when another student provides you with past questions and/or answers, however, that is a violation of academic integrity and could result in failure for the class. The same is true if you provide another student with questions and/or answers.
- Using on-line websites that provide questions and/or answers is also a violation of academic integrity and could result in failure for the class.
- If there is a concern about improper usage of A.I. on an assignment (including, but not limited to, presenting A.I. created work as your own), all previous work, including previously graded items, will be reviewed and considered for grade adjustments. If it is deemed that the student has used A.I. inappropriately, there will be a discussion with the professor and student. Administration may be brought in, as well. Penalties for improper A.I. usage can range from redoing an assignment, reduction in points, an "F" in the course, and/or student disciplinary action as deemed appropriate under SPC student code of conduct.

**Student Appeals:** See Common Course Syllabus section.

**Student Conduct:** See Common Course Syllabus section. Also, please note that this is an online environment and others will see your comments posted to the discussion board area and/or in e-mail communications. Do not post any pictures, comments or data that others may find offensive. Since this is an on-line classroom, any e-mails or correspondence sent by the instructor to a student or students are considered lawful directions.

**Equal Opportunity:** See Common Course Syllabus section. In addition, in this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world, and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

South Plains College strives to accommodate the individual needs of all students in order to enhance their opportunities for success in the context of a comprehensive community college setting. It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment

opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age. In addition, this instructor will not tolerate remarks nor gestures that can be construed to be sexist, racist, heterosexist or in any way disparaging to another person in this classroom. Students who exhibit such behavior will be dropped from the class with a semester grade of "F" regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, religion, or sexual orientation. . In short, "Bigotry will not be tolerated."

**Sociological perspective:** Students will use what is termed the Sociological Perspective since you are now students of Sociology. This perspective stresses the social context in which people live and steps away from what is termed "person blaming." Sociologists look beyond individuals and individual experiences. This perspective strives to understand human behavior by placing it within its broader social context. Depending on a person's characteristics such as gender, age, race, sexual orientation and religion among others, we each have different experiences. Sociologists using this perspective (and that includes you, the student) evaluate people and behaviors in terms of what is typical or atypical (or not typical) by studying society and finding general patterns of behavior. They do NOT judge others or their behaviors with terms such as good/bad, moral/immoral or right/wrong. Do NOT use these terms in your assignments or discussion posts or you will lose points.

**Accommodations:** See Common Course Syllabus section. Please note: Instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided.

## **Grading criteria for student's final grade in the course:**

**Grades:** It is possible to earn up to 1050 points in this course.

### **Point Distribution:**

Online Participation Agreement Quiz	= 25 points
Introduction Message Assignment	= 25 points
14 EdPuzzles @ 25 points each	= 350 points
3 Exams @ 100 points each	= 300 points
3 Assignments @ 50 points each	= 150 points
<u>3 Discussion postings (1 original and 2 replies each) @50 points each</u>	<u>= 150 points</u>
Total points possible	= 1000 points

Your grade will be calculated on a cumulative point total based on the following scale:

A= 900 – 1000 and above;

B= 800 – 899.9;

C= 700 – 799.9;

D= 600 – 699.9;

F= 0 – 599.9.

**Averages are NOT automatically rounded up.** For example, an 89.99% is a B and not automatically rounded up to an A.

**Course Calendar/Checklist:** See the “Course calendar” link on the left side of the Blackboard course for the full course calendar with checklist.