COURSE SYLLABUS

Sociology 137.501 Introduction to Sociology

SPRING 2016

Instructor: Dr. James Standley, Professor of Sociology
Department: Social and Cultural Analysis
E-Mail address: Contact me via Desire 2 Learn e-mail
Office: Liberal Arts North 329
Course website: https://d2l.sfasu.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Catalog Course Description

SOC137. Introduction to Sociology (SOCl 1301) - General examination of culture, socialization, roles, values, social inequalities, population, social institutions and social change.

Text and Materials (variations permitted with approval of department chair)

The following text is required for the:

- Society: The Basics (13th edition) by John Macionis

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned
exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD), as early as possible in a semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Here’s what you need to do to succeed in this course:

The Learning Modules will typically be opened at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday of each week of class. When the Learning Module is opened, follow the steps described in Unpacking the Module posted in the Course Content page. Read the Lecture narrative, review the Module Objectives and follow the directions of your instructor.

Discussion After reading the lecture and reviewing the learning objectives and key terms, your first assignment in each Module will be to post to the Course Discussion (instructions to follow in this syllabus). The Discussion will open at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday following the introduction of the Module for that week and close Thursday at midnight following the introduction of the Module. You can earn up to 40 points for each Discussion. See the grading criteria in the Course Welcome. If you miss the posting deadline you can still post after the deadline via e-mail with your instructor and receive partial credit. See the course make-up policy below. See Assessment Criteria - Course Discussion for further instructions.

Quizzes There will be a MC/TF Quiz over each of the 14 Modules. Each Quiz will have 50 questions each worth 1 point. You will have 60 minutes to complete the Quiz. The Quiz will open at 8:00 a.m. on Friday of the Module for that week and close at midnight on Friday of each weekly Module.
Course Make-up Policy: **ALL MAKE-UP WORK MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE MISSED ASSIGNMENT FOR CREDIT (Discussions, Quizzes, or Course Project).** Following the no questions asked two week time-frame, an excused absence is required (See the University Class Attendance and Excused Absence Policy). All Make-up work due by Friday, May 6th at 5:00 p.m.

Perhaps you are beginning to feel the pace of the course as the Modules will be introduced on Sunday and close on Friday each week.

**The Course Calendar is the official calendar for the course.** You will find the calendar on the course Homepage. It may be modified during the semester at the discretion of the instructor should unforeseen events change the pace of the course. If there are changes you will be notified by e-mail of the changes.

**Final grades** will be based upon the TOTAL POINTS earned on the following areas.

**Here are the Components that will be the building blocks of your grade.**

**Discussion - A total of 560 Points may be earned or 44% of your grade** - Following the presentation of each Module there will be a Discussion Topics posted. The discussions are intended to be like a discussion in class that may start with a specific question, but then, based on the responses of the first few students, the discussion may evolve into something entirely different from the original question. **THEREFORE, IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT (to your grade) THAT YOU READ ALL OF THE AVAILABLE POSTS BEFORE MAKING YOUR POST(s).** If you post later in the discussion and you respond to the original question, your post will likely **NOT ADD** to the discussion and therefore you will earn 0 points on the post. As noted above the discussions are intended to assess your understanding and synthesis of the chapter materials. **Passing grades will be earned based on how well your original ideas demonstrate your understanding and synthesis of the material from the lecture, text, the postings of other students, my comments. Points for the Discussion would be earned if:** You make a post that contributes to the discussion and demonstrates a synthesis of the chapter materials including other students’ posts. You comment on another student's post. You post your “opinion” on a topic along with a rationale based on the course materials to support your opinion.

**Points would NOT be earned if:** You make a post that does not demonstrate an understanding and synthesis of the topic/concept (e.g., “I agree with Sandy…”), You make a post that does not add to the discussion. You make a post to the original question when the topic has evolved beyond the original question.

**Here are some things to avoid in your postings to the Discussion:** Steer away from “texting” language”. Though this is not a writing intensive course there is still an expectation that college level writing (this is a Junior Level course) will be used including appropriate spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, etc. The HTML editor has a built in spelling and grammar checker.
Please use them. Let’s avoid conventions such as “decartes had a good point. i think he was interested..” or “B4 making a statement”, “LOL”, “i think u hv mde a gd pt.” In all cases where there is multiple texting conventions used, 0 points will be earned. Great “speak” in some contexts but not for displaying your knowledge of this juvenile delinquency course!

Alternatively, and this is what I’d recommend: Compose your post in a word processor, check it for spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc., save the file, then copy and paste your writing from your word processor file into the discussion. That way you have a backup copy on your own computer in case of an emergency.

Here’s How Your Discussion Will be Graded:
You will receive a grade of "Pass", "Pass/Fail", or "Fail" (Pass=31-40 pts., Pass/Fail=21-30 pts, and Fail=20 or fewer pts per Discussion for each Module). Contributions that are marginally better than a Fail, but not achieving a Pass grade will earn a Pass/Fail grade. Earning too many of these Pass/Fail grades will have a negative impact on the number of points earned. I encourage you to respond directly to other students’ posts for Pass points. You can post late (after the closing time for the Discussion period) and you can receive up to half credit. READ THE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR COURSE DISCUSSIONS IN THE COURSE WELCOME FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Quizzes: A Total of 700 Points May be earned of 55% of your grade - See above for specifics on the Module Quizzes.

Extra credit (30 points) The total number of points you can earn in the course is 1230. Up to 30 bonus points may be added to your final earned total. Extra credit may be awarded at the discretion of the instructor to students who consistently make significant and meaningful contributions to the Discussions and have completed all Quizzes and the Course Project. This will be the only extra credit available in the course.

Grading Scale The total number of points you can earn in the course is 1230. Up to 30 bonus points may be added to your final earned total consistent with the above stated guidelines. Your total points will be posted weekly after each Module is complete. Here is the grading scale converted from points earned.

A - at least 1134-1260 Points

B – at least 1008-1133 Points

C – at least 882-1007 Points
Many misconceptions exist about grades in the university. Perhaps the most common is that grades are given based upon student effort. Rather, grades are meant as evaluations of student performance not as a reward for effort. This is the "real world" that you will face after leaving the university. Some students can earn good grades with little or no effort. Other students work very hard and receive poor grades. A second common misconception about grades is that a "C" is a "bad" grade. To the contrary a "C" grade is given to work that meets the criteria of average or "satisfactory" college work. You are expected to actively participate in the activities of this course. I am not specifying the amount of time, but your grade is heavily dependent upon it and I will monitor it. In the past, students that have actively participated have done well; those that did not participate did not do so well. DO NOT PROCRASTINATE!!!!

CONTACTING YOUR INSTRUCTOR: E-mail me via the Mail option in Desire 2 Learn. I will try to respond to your email and discussions as soon as possible. I will respond to all substantive email (most within 24 hours) during the official class time Monday-Thursday. Email received after Thursday at midnight will receive a response at the latest by the following Monday. I will monitor the activity in the discussion board since a large part of your grade is dependent upon it. PLEASE email using the course email system if you have any questions or are having any problems with the information being covered. If you are having trouble with the Desire 2 Learn platform, please contact the help desk in the Office of Information Technology (936-468-1919 M-F 8 – 5).

Here’s To A Great Semester For Us All!

Standley 2016