

Sociology 131: Principles of Sociology
Section 4: Arranged (internet)
Spring 2008; 3 credit hours

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Office Hours: T/TH: 12:30 - 1:30; Monday 10:00 -12:00 or by appointment.

Required Text:

John Macionis, **Society: The Basics**. Ninth Edition.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To acquire a working knowledge of basic sociological concepts and principles.
- 2) To develop a sociological perspective.
- 3) For students to learn to apply sociological concepts to their lives and social events.

Course Description: This is an introductory level class that provides a general overview of the discipline of sociology. The class begins with an historical summary of the development of sociology and then moves on to cover the substantive areas such as theory/methods, culture, socialization, groups, and social deviance. The middle portion of the class focuses on the issue of social stratification at both the global and national levels. This section covers the topic of social class, as well as stratification by race and ethnicity and gender. The last section covers the social institutions such as marriage and the family, religion, health, education, and politics and the economy. This section concludes by looking at the issues of population and social change.

The class will be conducted entirely via Blackboard. For this class the Announcements, Course Information, Course Documents, and Discussion tabs will be used the most. For example, click on Course Information and you can find the class syllabus. **Students need to email the professor to verify that they have found and printed the syllabus.** The Announcements tab is where you can keep up with day to day information about the class. I will give you reminders of when the exams are to be taken and when the extra credit opportunities are due. The Course Documents tab is where you find short overviews of the chapters in the textbook. Be sure you know the definitions of the key terms listed at the end of each chapter. You will find discussion questions posted under the Discussion tab. These discussion questions will be useful in completing your extra credit assignments. The extra-credit opportunities are explained under the Assignments tab. Your three exams will also be available in the Assignments tab. Your grades will be available under the Online Gradebook tab. During the class students will demonstrate basic computer skills such as downloading and sending files and searching the internet.

Exams: There will be three exams worth 100 points each during the semester. Each exam will consist of 25 multiple choice questions. The exam questions are created based on the chapter reviews provided in the Course Documents tab as well as the key terms listed at the end of each chapter. Your exams will be available from 6:00 a.m. until 11:55 p.m. under the Assignments tab. The exam days are Friday, March 7th; Monday, April 14th; and Wednesday, May 14th. You will have 40 minutes to complete each exam. There is an exam grade penalty of 1 point per minute for each minute past 40 minutes that you use to take the exam. **YOU NEED TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR OWN TIME.** The exams are open-note and open-book exams. You can only take each exam once so be sure to answer all of the exam questions before you submit the exam. Also make sure you have a secure internet connection to take the exam - dial-up connections are not secure. In the event that a student cannot take one of the exams at the regularly scheduled time, s/he must notify Dr. Constance prior to the scheduled exam to make arrangements for a make-up exam. Students must provide verifiable documentation to justify their absence from the exam.

Grading: Final grades are determined by your total points in the class: A = 270 or more; B = 240-269; C = 80 210 - 239; D = 180 - 209; and F = 169 and below. There is no curve for this class.

Extra Credit: Students are allowed to complete five of seven extra credit opportunities worth five (5) points each made available during the semester. The deadlines for these extra credits are listed in the class schedule below. Extra credits assignments submitted after the deadlines will not be accepted. The specific requirements for the extra-credit papers are posted under Assignments tab. You must follow the instructions and format to get the extra credit points. The extra credits will also be posted as discussion topics under the Discussion Board tab. Students will send their extra credit papers to Dr. Constance as an email attachment on the day they are due (before 12:00 midnight). Late papers will not be accepted. Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these extra credit opportunities.

Attendance Policy: This is an internet class so no attendance records are kept.

Instructor Evaluations: Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive an F for that assignment with more severe sanctions as appropriate.

Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities must register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center and then arrange a conference with the instructor in order that accommodations can be made to assure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

Religious Holidays: The Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. Religious Holy Day means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding any missed classes due to Religious Holy Days.

Schedule of Reading Assignments, Exams, and Extra Credit.

Week of:

Jan. 14: Macionis: Ch. 1- Sociology: Perspective, Theory, and Method

Jan. 21: Macionis: Ch. 1- Sociology: Perspective, Theory, and Method

Jan. 28: Macionis: Ch. 2 - Culture

Cultural Norms Extra Credit due on Friday, Feb. 1st.

Feb. 4: Macionis: Ch. 3 - Socialization: From Infancy to Old Age

Feb. 11: Macionis: Ch. 4 - Social Interaction in Everyday Life

Feb. 18: Macionis: Ch. 5 - Groups and Organizations

Feb. 25: Macionis: Ch. 6 - Sexuality and Society

Contraception Extra Credit due on Friday, Feb. 29th.

March 3: Macionis: Ch. 7 -Deviance

Exam 1: Friday the 7th.

March 10: Spring Break

- March 17: Macionis: Ch. 8 - Social Stratification
Deviance Extra Credit due on Friday
- March 24: Macionis: Ch. 9 - Global Stratification
Changing Middle Class Extra Credit due on Friday, March 28th.
- March 31: Macionis : Ch. 10 - Gender Stratification
- April 7: Macionis : Ch. 11 - Race and Ethnicity
Tuskegee Syphilis Study or Manzanar Extra Credit due on Friday, April 11th.
- April 14: Exam 2 on Monday the 14th.
Macionis: Ch. 12 - Economics and Politics
World Trade Organization Extra Credit due on Friday, April 18th.
- April 21: Macionis Ch. 13 - Family and Religion
Covenant Marriage Extra Credit due on Friday, April 25th.
- April 28: Macionis: Ch. 14 - Education, Health, and Medicine
Macionis: Ch. 15 - Population, Urbanization, and Environment
- May 5: Macionis: Ch. 16 - Social Change: Modern and PostModern Societies
- May 12: Final Exam on Wednesday the 14th.