

SOC 131.04 CID#4070
PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY
3 Credit Hours
Fall, 2009

CLASS LOCATION AND TIME: CHSS 110, Mo We Fr 10:00 – 10:50

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Olena Leipnik
Office location: CHSS 270 J
Office hours: Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr 8:30-9:30 am, or by appointment
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COURSE DISCRIPTION

Principles of Sociology is an introductory course designed to introduce students to basic sociological ideas and theories about society, its development and contemporary characteristics, social institutions and social processes.

The history of sociological thought is shown through leading theories that have become classics. The course begins with general principles of sociological knowledge and research, then covers issues of social inequality, and finishes with analysis of social institutions.

Methods used in this course will be lectures, reading assignments, brief in-class exercises, group discussions (in-class and online via Blackboard), viewing videos related to the course, testing (exams and quizzes).

No prerequisites to SOC131 course required, but this course is a prerequisite to other courses taught in the Sociology Department at SHSU. It is required of all Sociology majors and minors.

OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course students will:

- Understand basic sociological ideas on contemporary society, sociological principles, theories, and research methods;
- Have a working knowledge of the sociological imagination, thus develop an understanding of social reality, and its relevance to their own lives;
- Have the ability to discuss crucial social issues in order to develop a deeper understanding of those issues, as well as the ideas of others.

REQUIRED TEXT

Carl, John C. Think Sociology. Pearson Prentice Hall. 1 ed. 2010.
ISBN: 9780131754591

GRADING

Exams. There are **three exams**, each of them is worth 100 points. Exams are based on the material in the textbook and that which is discussed in class.

If you are tardy for an exam, you will be allowed to take it, but only if you start before the first person in the class completes it. **Make-up exams** will be allowed in extraordinary cases if you contact the instructor prior the exam, and provide a documentary evidence. Make-up exams are different from the regular ones.

Quizzes. There will be three 10 point quizzes with 5 multiple choice questions (see the Course Outline & Calendar for dates of quizzes).

Blackboard Discussion. There will be a Blackboard based discussion worth up to 20 points based on **up to 5** points for each item posted during the course of the discussion for up to 4 items. You may post more than 4 items, however only first 4 will be graded.

Extra credit. Opportunities for extra credit may be announced during the semester.

Grade chart:

In general it is possible to get 350 points.

A – minimum 315 - 350

B – minimum 280 - 314

C – minimum 245 - 279

D – minimum 210 - 244

F – less than 210 (I hope you **won't** get it!)

COURSE / INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

Toward the end of the semester students are asked to complete the course and instructor evaluation. Any suggestions and feedback that you think can improve the collaboration in the classroom are highly appreciated anytime during all the semester. E-mail me at oxl001@gmail.com , or come by office.

ATTENDANCE POLICY¹ & LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

A roll is going to be taken at every class meeting as is required by university policy. Try not to be late to class. If you are late, you still may come in. If you need to leave early, it is better to get the instructor's permission prior to the class.

Classroom rules of conduct²

¹ According to *SHSU Academic Policy Statement 800401*
http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf/www/aps/documents/800401_001.pdf

² According to the *Code of Student Conduct and Discipline*
<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.

All students with no exceptions are expected to know and follow the rules of conduct for students at SHSU.

The rules of conduct in a classroom are simple and reasonable:

- Show respect for other students' personalities, opinions and feelings.
- Participate in class activities and do assignments.
- Do not have side conversations. Although questions and comments during discussions are very welcome.
- Do not use electronic devices, including cell-phones.
- Maintain cleanness and order in a classroom. No food/drinks are allowed in the CHSS building classrooms.

All this comes down to a one powerful word: **respect**

Academic Honesty

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. Penalties may include but are not limited to receiving no points on the assignment with which the academic dishonesty was associated, reduction of one or more levels in the ultimate course grade (say from a B to a C or D) , or in serious cases receiving a failing grade in the course.

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 that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holydays

Section 51.911(b) of 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 under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors In The Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

COURSE OUTLINE & QUIZ / EXAM / DISCUSSION CALENDAR

| Date | Topic | Book chapter |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| Week 1 Aug 24 – 28 | SOCIOLOGY | 1 |
| Week 2 Aug 31 – Sep 4 | SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH | 2 |
| Week 3 Sep 8 -11 | CULTURE <i>Quiz 1</i> (Chapter 2) | 3 |
| Week 4 Sep 14 – 18 | SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND INTERACTION | 4 |
| Week 5 Sep 21 – 25 | SOCIALIZATION | 5 |
| Week 6 Sep 28 – Oct 2 | GROUPS AND SOCIETIES <i>Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5)</i> | 6 |
| Week 7 Oct 5 – 9 | SOCIAL CLASS IN THE UNITED STATES | 7 |
| Week 8 Oct 12 – 16 | GLOBAL STRATIFICATION <i>Quiz 2 (Chapter 7)</i> | 8 |
| Week 9 Oct 19 – 23 | RACE AND ETHNIC STRATIFICATION | 10 |
| Week 10 Oct 26 – 30 | GENDER STRATIFICATION | 11 |
| Week 11 Nov 2 - 6 | AGING AND HEALTH <i>Exam 2 (Chapters 6, 8, 10, 11)</i> | 12 |
| Week 12 Nov 9 -13 | CRIME AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM <i>On-line Discussion (Chapter 13)</i> | 13 |
| Week 13 Nov 16 - 20 | MARRIAGE AND FAMILY <i>Quiz 3 (Chapter 13)</i> | 14 |
| Week 14 Nov 23 - 24 | EDUCATION AND RELIGION Nov 25, 26, 27 – Thanksgiving Holydays | 15 |
| Week 15 Nov 30 – Dec 4 | ECONOMY AND POLITICS | 16 |
| Week 16 | SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR, | 17 |

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| Dec 7 – 11 | AND SOCIAL CHANGE | |
| Week 17 Dec 14,15,16,17 | <i>Exam 3 (Chapters 12, 14, 15, 16, 17)</i> | |

The course outline is tentative and may be a subject to revision