

PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY
SOC 131 (section 5)
3 credit hours
Fall 2009

Class location: CHSS, Room 110
Class meeting times: T/TH 12:30 – 1:50

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Office hours

Tuesday/Thursday: 8:00 – 9:00, and by appointment; Wednesday 1:00 – 2:00.

Course Description

Principles of Sociology is designed to provide an introduction to the science of Sociology. This course will introduce students to the fundamental theories (both classical and contemporary), research methods, and concepts in the discipline.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of SOC 131, students will have increased their understanding of:

- the different theoretical perspectives that are used to guide the study of society;
- the numerous research methods that are used in the study of society;
- the various sociological concepts that are pertinent to the study of society; and,
- the assorted historical and contemporary issues associated with the study of society in the United States and throughout the world.

In addition, students will have:

- gained factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends);
- learned fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories; and,
- learned to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions).

Lastly, students will have demonstrated their ability to download computer files, create Word files, send files as attached documents, and search the internet.

Course Books

Students are expected to purchase the following books:

de Saint-Exupéry, Antoine. [1943] 2000. *The Little Prince*, translated by Richard Howard. Orlando: Harcourt, Inc.

Carl, John D. 2010. *Think Sociology*. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall.

Requirements and Grading

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at SHSU. Detailed information on the class attendance policy will be provided during the first class meeting.

Part of the tradition of higher education is the need to evaluate performance. Each student's final course grade will be based upon his/her performance on the following requirements:

Quizzes (20 points each)

Five quizzes will be administered throughout the semester. Types of quiz questions may include multiple-choice, true/false, short answer, and/or essay. Detailed information on the quizzes will be provided during the first class meeting.

Exams (100 points each)

There will be two in-class exams. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. Detailed information on the exams will be provided during the first class meeting.

NOTE 1: Quiz and exam questions will be drawn from the textbook, the videos/films, and the in-class discussions.

NOTE 2: Make-up date for ALL missed quizzes and exams is December 10, 2009.

Grades

Grades will be based on a total of 300 points.

270 – 300 = A

240 – 269 = B

210 – 239 = C

180 – 209 = D

0 – 179 = F

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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.pdf

Religious Holy Days

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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

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.

Instructor Evaluations

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

Classroom Rules of Conduct

A classroom serves as a backdrop for interaction between instructor and student and between/among students. Facts and opinions rooted in knowledge are exchanged in a classroom; opinions rooted in ignorance should not be shared.

Students are expected to act professionally at all times in the classroom. The use of laptop computers is permitted for note-taking purposes only. Students wishing to use a laptop computer will be instructed to sit in 'laptop row.' The use of cell phones and other communication devices in the classroom is PROHIBITED at all times. Students caught 'text messaging' during class with his/her cell phone: first offence - the student will be asked to leave the classroom; second offense - the student's final grade will be dropped by one full letter grade; third offense - see second offense and repeat. Detailed information on the use of laptop computers and cell phones will be provided during the first class meeting. The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.

Schedule of Discussions and Reading Assignments (Course Outline)

August 25 & 27 Introduction and Overview Chapters 1 & 2	October 27 & 29 Chapter 11
September 1 & 3 Chapters 1 & 2 Book review of <i>The Little Prince</i> (due on or before September 3; worth up to 20 extra credit points)	November 3 & 5 Chapter 12 (November 3) Chapter 13 (November 5)
September 8 & 10 Chapter 3	November 10 & 12 Chapter 13 (November 10) Chapter 14 (November 12)
September 15 & 17 Chapters 4 & 6	November 17 & 19 Chapter 14 (November 17) Chapter 15 (November 19)
September 22 & 24 Chapter 5 (September 22) Chapter 7 & 8 (September 24)	November 24 Chapter 15
September 29, October 1 Chapter 7 & 8	December 1 & 3 Chapter 16
October 6 & 8 Chapter 9 (October 6)	December 8 Chapter 17
October 13 & 15 Catch up (Chapters 1 – 9) Mid-term Exam (October 15)	December 10 Make-up day
October 20 & 22 Chapter 10	December 15: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Final exam

NOTE 3: This syllabus does not constitute a contract between student and instructor. It may be necessary to change the sequence of topics and/or dates of quizzes/examinations. Any changes will be repeatedly announced in class.