



## SOCIOLOGY 131 – Principles of Sociology

Sections 07

Fall 2009

Internet Course

3 Credit Hours

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

PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY helps you answer these questions and others. This course teaches you how sociologists analyze the social world around us.

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### Instructor/TA

**Dr. Karen Manges Douglas, Ph.D.**

**Office: CHHS 210K**

**Email: [kmd007@shsu.edu](mailto:kmd007@shsu.edu)\***

**Office phone: 936-294-1513**

**Office fax: 936-294-3573**

**Office Hours: Mon & Wed 11:30-1:30**

All other times By Appointment Only

**\* I will respond to emails requesting a response within 24 hours (weekends and holidays excepted).**

**TA: Nikki Miller**

**Office: CHHS Suite 210F**

**Phone: 936-294-4114**

**Email: [nmm006@shsu.edu](mailto:nmm006@shsu.edu)**

**Office hours: MW: 9:30-12:00 or by appointment**

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### Required Text



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

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## Course Objectives

By the end of the course you should be able to:

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

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## 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.

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## The Internet

This course is entirely internet-based. **There are NO IN-CLASS MEETINGS.** You are required to have a Sam Houston email account in order to enroll in this class. *Blackboard* is the software used in the course. All necessary information about tests and assignments is contained in this syllabus. Reminders of tests and assignments will also be posted on the course website, as well as emailed to your Sam Houston email account.

Because the course is entirely internet based, it is important to be a “self-starter,” and keep up with readings, assignments and testing materials independently. This means logging on to the course **at least two-to-three times a week**, or as often as you might attend an in-person class.

To log on, you need to type your SHSU e-mail ID and your SHSU password. Once in Blackboard, click on SOC 131.07, and you will enter the menu environment. Click on the item that you would like to see to get the necessary information. For this class, the Get Started tab will introduce you to this course and the course syllabus. After you are familiar with the course requirements, the Weekly Units tab is where you will spend most of the rest of the course. The Announcements tab is where you can keep up with day to day information about the class including any deadline changes, and/or other pertinent information for the course. I will give you reminders of when the exams are to be taken and when the extra credit opportunities are due. Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the Blackboard environment. **Remember , all the necessary information concerning the assignments and tests can be found in the Syllabus.**

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## Classroom Meetings

There will be no actual classroom meetings. This is a full internet course. That said, this course has weekly deadlines so if you are not able to log in 2-3 times per week to complete the weekly assignments, this is NOT the class for you. I repeat, there are weekly requirements for this

class that **MUST** be completed within the week. Missing too many of these requirements will negatively impact your final grade.

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## Exam & Grading Plan

- (1) **Exams.** There will be **three (3)** exams during the course of the semester. Each exam will be equal to one hundred (100) points. These are fifty (50) question- multiple-choice exams that cover material assigned during the class period preceding each exam. These are **NOT** comprehensive examinations. Also, these exams are **open book exams** . Please note that if you log off before completing the exam, you cannot go back and re-start it. Accordingly, an advanced internet connection is recommended. **Students need to log on to Blackboard to take each of the three exams** (see course schedule for the exam dates). **Students will have sixty minutes to complete each of the exams. Those who take more than the assigned time to complete the tests will be assessed a two point penalty for each additional minute used. Students are required to keep time when taking the tests and are responsible for it. No time warnings are provided.**

**In the event that your computer freezes during the exam, you will have to email me to schedule an alternate exam. EXAMS will NOT be RESET.**

The exams will be administered on **Thursday** of the exam week.

The exam dates are:

October 1, 2009 (available from 9 am through midnight)

November 5, 2009 (available from 9 am through midnight)

December 14, 2009 (available from 9 am through midnight)

- (2) **Quizzes.** There will be weekly quizzes that cover the material in the text. Over the course of the semester you will take approximately 12 quizzes – your top 10 quiz scores will count towards your grade.

These quizzes count 10 points each and cumulatively will be worth the equivalent of one exam or 100 points. **In the event your computer freezes during the course of the quiz, time permitting (meaning if you did not wait until the last minutes of the last day), we will reset your quiz but no more than twice during the entire semester.**

**In the event your computer freezes while taking the quiz, email BOTH the instructor (me) and the course Teaching Assistant (Nikki). Our email addresses are: [kmd007@shsu.edu](mailto:kmd007@shsu.edu) and [nmm006@shsu.edu](mailto:nmm006@shsu.edu). This will maximize (but not guarantee) the probability that your quiz will be reset before the deadline. Once the quiz has been reset, you have until the normal expiration period (midnight Friday) to complete the quiz. No additional time will be allowed.**

**The weekly quizzes will be available beginning on Tuesdays at 9 am and will be available thru midnight Friday.**

There are no quizzes scheduled during the same week as an exam.

- (3) **Assignments.** There will be five assignments that apply the course material. These assignments are worth 20 points each for a total of 100 points. The assignments and their due dates can be found in Weekly Checklists.

Final Grades will be awarded according to the following point distribution:

- A 450-500
- B 400-449
- C 350-399
- D 300-349
- F <= 299

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## Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities will be offered periodically. The requirements and points allotted will be announced in Blackboard. Extra credit is just that – EXTRA – do not expect to flunk every exam and rely upon extra credit to pass. It should be thought of as a way to supplement your quiz grades.

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## Make-up Exams

There will be **NO SCHEDULED MAKE UP EXAMS**. In the event that a student could not take the test during the scheduled time window, s/he must notify Dr. Douglas prior to the exam. Dr. Douglas reserves the right to deny a make up exam.

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## Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Cheating on an exam, quiz and/or assignment is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat will automatically receive the grade of zero (0) for the exam, quiz or assignment in question. Students who cheat more than once will receive an automatic F in the class. See *Student Syllabus Guidelines* <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Plagiarism is also not acceptable and will not be tolerated. 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.

All student papers will submit their paper to the Turnitin database to check originality. This system compares the document with online sources and the Turnitin database. Turnitin then scores the paper for originality.

Plagiarized papers will be returned to the student to be rewritten and will docked a full letter grade. Additional incidents will result in an F for the class and your conduct will be reported to the appropriate university personnel.

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## **American with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

Requests for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) must be initiated by the student. If you are seeking such accommodations you should go to the Counseling Center for certification of the disability in a timely manner.

*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.*

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## **Religious Holidays**

Absences for the observance of religious holidays will be respected and excused provided that I am notified of the absence at the beginning of the semester.

*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.*

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## Instructor Evaluation

Towards the end of the semester, you will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form. These are very important to me and provide me with invaluable information for improving the course. The evaluation form will be available online for you to complete and submit.

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## Course Outline

<i>Aug 24-28</i> Introduction and Overview Chapter 1	Chapter 1 Quiz (Practice quiz – Available online in Blackboard) Must be completed by midnight Aug. 28
<i>Aug 31-Sep 4</i> Chapter 1 Intro to Sociology	Chapter 1 Quiz (online in Blackboard) – Available thru midnight Sep. 4
<i>Sep 7-11</i> Chapter 2 Soc Research	Chapter 2 Quiz (online in Blackboard) – Available thru midnight Sep 11
<i>Sep 14-18</i> Chapter 3 Culture	Chapter 3 Quiz (online in Blackboard) – Available thru midnight Sep. 18
<i>Sep 21-25</i> Chapter 4 Social Structure	Chapter 4 Quiz (online in Blackboard) – Available thru midnight Sep. 25
<i>Sep 28-Oct 2</i>	<b>Exam 1 – THURSDAY, Oct. 1</b> <b>Chpts. 1-4</b> <b>Available between 9 am and midnight</b>
<i>Oct 5-9</i> Chapter 5 Socialization	Chapter 5 Quiz (online in Blackboard) – Available thru midnight Oct. 9
<i>Oct 12-16</i> Chapter 6 Groups and Societies	Chapter 6 Quiz (online in Blackboard) – Available thru midnight Oct. 16
<i>Oct 19-23</i> Chapter 7 Social Class	Chapter 7 Quiz (online in Blackboard) – Available thru midnight Oct. 23
<i>Oct 26-30</i> Chapter 8 Global Strat.	Chapter 8 Quiz (online in Blackboard) – Available thru midnight Oct. 30
<i>Nov 2-6</i>	<b>Exam 2 – Thursday, Nov. 5</b> <b>Chpts. 5-8</b> <b>Available between 9 am and midnight</b>
<i>Nov 9-13</i> Chapter 9 Pop & Environment	Chapter 9 Quiz (online in Blackboard) – Available thru midnight Nov. 13

<i>Nov 16-20</i> Chapter 10 Race/Ethnic Stratification	Chapter 10 Quiz (online in Blackboard) – Available thru midnight Nov. 20
<i>Nov 23-27</i>	Thanksgiving week
<i>Nov 30-Dec 4</i> <i>Chapter 11</i> <b>Gender Strat</b>	Chapter 11 Quiz (online in Blackboard) – Available thru midnight Dec. 4
<i>Dec 7-11</i> Chapter 12 Aging and Health	Chapter 12 Quiz (online in Blackboard) – Available thru midnight Dec. 11
Dec 14 Exam 3	<b>Exam 3</b> (Chpts 9-12) – Available between 9 am and midnight <b>Dec. 14</b>

Extraordinary circumstances may cause the schedule to change.