

# South Plains College: Common Course Syllabus

**Department:** Behavioral Sciences

NOTE: The Common Course Syllabus section of this syllabus applies to ALL Soci1301 sections taught at SPC including campus and Internet and to all instructors. It contains important information for the course but course specific information for this section of the course is noted in the Course Information Sheet beginning on page 5.

**Discipline:** Sociology

**Course Number:** Sociology 1301

**Course Title:** Introduction to Sociology

**Semester Hour Credit:** 3 Hours; 3 Lecture Hours; 0 Lab Hours (3:3:0)

**This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement:** Yes (Behavioral Science)

**Prerequisites:** none for campus; TSI reading compliance for Internet

**Available Formats:** Conventional and Internet

**Textbook:** *The Real World, 5th edition, Norton Publishing.* See instructor's course information sheet for full textbook information.

**Supplies:** Computer and Internet access for Internet courses and campus classes.

**Course Specific Instructions:** Internet classes- access Blackboard from South Plains College homepage on the first day of the semester. Campus classes may use Blackboard for course material, see instructor's course information sheet for specifics.

**Course description:** The scientific study of human society, including ways in which groups, social institutions, and individuals affect each other. Causes of social stability and social change are explored through the application of various theoretical perspectives, key concepts, and related research methods of sociology. Analysis of social issues in their institutional context may include topics such as social stratification, gender, race/ethnicity, and deviance.

**Semester Hours:** 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Lab Hours: 0

**Course Purpose/Rationale/Goal:** The purpose of the behavioral science component in the core curriculum is to enable the students to understand and apply sociological theories and concepts as they examine human society. To master sociology, students will be able to identify and apply the concepts and principles in the study of group life, social institutions, and social processes.

**Course Requirements:** To maximize the potential to complete this course, students should attend all classes, log into Blackboard multiple times per week, read required textbook/course materials, complete required homework/assignments and/or examinations. See instructor's course information sheet for specifics.

**Course Evaluations:** Refer to Instructor's course information sheet for specifics coursework and grading.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

See instructor's Course Information Sheet for additions to the attendance policy.

**Disability Services Policy:** Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland Student Health & Wellness Center 806-716-2577, Reese Center (also covers ATC) Building 8: 806-716-4675, Plainview Center Main Office: 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611, or the Health and Wellness main number at 806-716-2529. See *South Plains College General Catalog* for more information.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and

administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

- **Cheating:** Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the text- book or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating. Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of what- ever length, as well as to final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers.
- **Plagiarism:** Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identifiable expression of material taken from books, Internet resources, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, reports or other writings of a fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.

See *South Plains College Student Guide* and *South Plains College General Catalog* for more information.

See instructor's course information sheet for more information.

#### **Student Conduct Policy:**

- **Classroom Conduct:** Failure to comply with lawful direction of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a class may result in the student being dropped from that course.
- See *South Plains College Student Guide* for full policy covering other areas of conduct including penalties for misconduct and procedures for disciplinary action.

**Grade and Academic Discipline Appeals:** South Plains College provides two procedures which allow students the opportunity to address grievances of an academic nature.

- **Appeal Restrictions:** Only final grades or dismissal resulting from academic discipline will be considered. The instructor's teaching ability or expertise will not be considered during the hearing. No grade or disciplinary action can be formally appealed after a period of six (6) months from the date that the student is informed
- **Informal Appeal**
  - The student should schedule an appointment with the instructor of the course to discuss the final grade or disciplinary action.
  - 2. If the student is still not satisfied, she should schedule an appointment with the appropriate departmental chairperson to discuss the situation. The chairperson may request that the instructor also be present.
  - 3. If the student is still not satisfied, he she should schedule an appointment with the Divisional Dean to discuss the situation. The dean may request that the chairperson also be present.
  - 4. If the student is still not satisfied, he she should be advised of the formal appeal process.

- Formal Appeal: If the student is not satisfied with the results of the informal appeal, s/he should provide the following information, in writing, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs:
  - A request for a formal appeals hearing.
  - 2. A brief statement of what is being appealed.
  - 3. The basis for the appeal.
  - 4. Pertinent facts relating to the appeal.
- The agenda of the appeals hearing will include only those factors documented in the student's appeal request letter. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will determine the date, time and place of the hearing, and notify the student accordingly.
- The Hearing
  - Composition of the appeals committee:
    - Vice President for Academic Affairs will preside over the hearing.
    - Faculty member of the student's choice.
    - Faculty member and student selected by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
    - President of Student Government Association.
    - Dean of Students.
  - Other persons who should be available at the hearing:
    - The student who requested the hearing.
    - The faculty member involved.
    - Anyone the student or faculty member wishes to be present to substantiate the case.
    - Chairperson and Divisional Dean.
  - Hearing procedure:
  - The committee will hear the student's appeal during which the parties to the controversy and such representatives as desired will present all facts relating to the case. By majority vote, the committee will decide to sustain, amend or reverse the previous decision.
  - The decision of the committee is final and completes the academic appeals procedure.

See *South Plains College Student Guide* for more information.

**Equal Rights Policy:** All students are entitled to equal rights under the affirmative action and equal opportunity laws. Students are also protected against unjust or biased academic evaluation, but at the same time, they are responsible for maintaining standards of academic performance established for each course in which they are enrolled. See *South Plains College Student Guide* for more information.

### **Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Compare and contrast the basic theoretical perspectives of sociology.
2. Identify the various methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data in sociology.
3. Describe key concepts in sociology.

4. Describe the empirical findings of various subfields of sociology.
5. Explain the complex links between individual experiences and broader institutional forces.

**Core Objectives:**

- **Communication skills-** to include effective written, oral and visual communication.
- **Critical thinking skills-** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Empirical and Quantitative skills-** to include the ability to apply, analyze, and draw conclusions based on scientific and mathematical concepts.
- **Social Responsibility-** to include the demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

**Texas Coordinating Board Approval Number**..... 45.1101.51.25

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***South Plains College: Sociology 1301 Section 152  
Introduction to Sociology/Instructor: Robert Wood***

**CONTACT:**

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Office Location: Reese Campus Building 4 Room 450 Office Phone: 894-9611 ext. 4034

Office hours at Reese: Tuesday and Thursday: 8:00-11:00 AM

Office Hours at TTU, Holden Hall 169: MWF 8:20-8:50 and Mondays 2:00-3:00

Course Description: This course is a study of human behavior by placing it within a broader social context. Specifically how groups influence people and especially how people are influenced by their society.

- Course Goals/Objectives:
- An understanding of the theories and language of sociology.
- A knowledge of how the individual influences and is influenced by society
- A better understanding of how society is structured through institutions and culture.

**Course Competencies/Learning Objectives:** These are the same learning objectives as listed earlier in the common course syllabus, only reworded to be more easily understood and applicable to this particular course. There will also be examples given as to how each objective will be measured. This is not all of the ways that the objectives will be measured, simply a list showing how each may be measured

1. Students will be able to understand the sociological perspective (which will be defined on day one) and a reasonable understanding of research methods when looking at the materials you will be studying in this course. We will go over the sociological perspective and different research methods. You will be required to answer test questions about both to show your understanding. You will also use critical thinking skills when examining the course materials. Critical thinking includes but is not limited to, distinguishing between fact and fiction, identifying stereotypes, and recognizing deceptive arguments. In discussions for this class we will go over common societal perceptions and see if these are indeed correct or if they only represent a small fraction of the population. An example would be the stereotype that older people are bad drivers. Does research support this view? What have you observed? Compare those observations to other groups. This is how we will examine critical thinking. You will show competence if you recognize these fallacies in our discussions.
2. There are 3 basic sociological theories (Symbolic Interaction, Conflict, and Functionalism). You will show understanding of these in multiple ways. You will be asked to define them on test questions. You will also be given scenarios on your exams and asked to identify the proper theory for use in that scenario. Finally, you will show understanding when writing your film paper, as you correctly apply a theory to the film and explain how they work together.
3. Students will show understanding of social structure (i.e. deviance, stratification, mass media) by explaining in discussions how these things impact our daily lives. Students will also address social structure on exam questions and by applying these concepts in the graphic novel and film papers.
4. Students will show basic understanding of sociological concepts (social institution, socialization, interaction, inequality, values) by correctly answering test questions over these areas, applying these concepts in our weekly discussions and applying them in their written papers.
5. Students by the end of the course should understand that sociology is a science about people in groups, and how they influence the behavior and attitudes of these groups and how they themselves are influenced by these groups. This will be addressed mostly in the discussion topics where some amount of introspection is required to understand not only what a person believes, but why they believe that.

These learning objectives will be referenced on the individual assignments as LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4 and LO5. This is to help you as students know why we are doing certain activities or learning exercises. Certainly a quiz will be addressing all 5 learning objectives, but some of the smaller assignments will be more specific. For example a discussion topic may be LO1 and LO4. Also each learning module will have learning objectives that will relate back to these overall objectives.

**Academic Integrity- See College Catalog, p. 23.**

Unfortunately, it is necessary to remind all students that any form of cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating is cheating, whether plagiarism or copying another student's exam. Since the Internet has become a common source of information, it is important that you understand plagiarism and not neglect to include citations or footnotes on all papers. Please do not put yourself or others in the position of having cheated. If you are caught cheating at my discretion you may be removed from class.

**Classroom Behavior:**

\_\_\_Although this is an online course there are still acceptable and unacceptable behaviors. I do want you to feel the academic freedom to ask questions of myself and other students. I do want all questions though to be academic in nature and respectful. We will cover many controversial subjects (race, sexuality, class) and I want you all to feel comfortable asking questions but there is to be no name calling during discussions and all posts must be respectful of everyone in the class. Also see the Attendance section!!

**Diversity:**

In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it can be.

**Attendance:**

While this is an online class there will obviously not be the need for physical attendance. However working at regular intervals is paramount in student success so you need to be involved in the class every week either through your discussion topics, or handing in assignments. **If you are not attending or participating in the course you may be dropped. If you miss more than four assignments over the course of the semester I may drop you with an X or an F.** This includes missing discussions, papers, or tests. You have to do all of the activities in the class to be a part of the class. If you are not fully participating in discussions (doing the introductory post but not responding to others, or vice versa) and this becomes a pattern these may be counted in your missed assignments.

**Accommodations:**

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

**Grading and Testing:**

There will be four exams in this course. Because I cannot keep you from using your textbooks on the exam, I have planned for you to do just that. All exams in this course will be open book. However they will also be **timed** and you will probably not have enough time to look up all of the answers so you will need to study. You will only have one hour to answer between 50-60 questions so you must study so that you know the answers. Because this course

is online and the only way we have to communicate with each other is by writing this is a writing intensive course. There will also be four projects of varying lengths (1 to 4 pages) and weekly discussion postings in which you will all be required to participate.

**There will be 14 discussions worth 20 points apiece—280 points**

**Four tests worth 100 points apiece-----400 points**

**Four projects cumulatively worth -----460 points**

(Sports 60 points, music 100 points, graphic novel 130 points, film paper 160 points)

**Total of 1140 points for the class**

**EXTRA CREDIT: The only way to get extra credit for this course is to add your creative application to the extra credit wiki that is listed in the discussion section. There are specific instructions on the discussion thread. A maximum of 20 points is set.**

**Instructor Expectations:** While much of the syllabus details what I expect of you as a student this section deals with what you can expect of me. If you send me an email on M, T, W, R, or F (by noon) you can expect a response within 24 hours. This does not mean that I will know the answer to your question, but if I don't then I will at least respond and let you know I got your email and am working on it. If you email on Friday afternoon, Sat or Sun then I *may* get back to you that day, but you can expect to hear from me by Monday afternoon. When grading assignments I will have everything graded within a week of when it was originally due. This includes discussions and exams. The only exception to this one week rule are your papers. I will try and have those graded within a week but sometimes may fall behind. I will however have them graded and returned to you with feedback at least two weeks before the next paper is due. Feedback is very important and I will use it on the discussions as well as the papers. It is important that you read the feedback so that you do not repeat the same mistakes and lose points again for something that can be avoided. If you feel that I am not keeping up my end of the bargain as an instructor I certainly want you to feel free to speak with me about it. You can do this through email or a phone call. If for some reason you feel that you cannot talk to me about it then I would welcome you to speak with my Department Chair Dr. Peggy Skinner.

**Textbook: The Real World by Kerry Ferris and Jill Stein, 5th edition, W.W. Norton If you wish to have an electronic textbook to use a reader of some sort, or just if you prefer it that way here is a link to the publisher where the text can be purchased as well as other links to technical support from the publisher. [www.wwnorton.com](http://www.wwnorton.com)**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

**PARTICIPATION IN THIS CLASS WILL SIGNIFY YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF ALL CLASS AND SPC POLICIES. FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THESE POLICIES WILL RESULT IN EXPULSION FROM CLASS AND AN "F" FOR THE SEMESTER REGARDLESS OF RACE, ETHNICITY, SEX, RELIGION OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.**

**Reading-** You will have to read the textbook. There is no way around this. No short cuts, no alternative plan. If you give this class the same attention that you were to give a face to face

class I am sure you can be successful. Remember a face to face class has 2 ½ hours of lecture time each week. You need to use that time to read and learn the material. Most of the assignments in this course deal with application. It is almost impossible to apply something if you don't understand it.

**Handouts-** I will provide you with handouts that are the text version of the power point presentations that I use in the lecture portion of other classes. If you use these as an outline while you are reading it will let you know what the most important parts of the material are. These handouts will show up as an "index" in the table of contents portion of the learning modules. You will be able to print these out.

The basic structure of the class will be reading one chapter per week and participating in online discussions about that chapter. I will guide you about these discussions. About once a month there will be a project and an exam due. This will be a difficult class but I hope that the inclusion of the pop culture elements will make it interesting and fun for you.

**Discussions-** for every chapter we read there will be a threaded discussion under the discussion tab in Blackboard. You are to answer the question posed in the discussion topic area. Most of the time these discussions will be applying the chapter we have read to some element of popular culture. You will not be able to do this well without reading first! You will not be able to see any other student's work until you create your own original post, to prevent students from simply copying others work. For your initial posting you need to have at least a 6-8 sentence well-formed paragraph. You are also required to respond to at least **two (2)** other student's postings. Comment on how their posting is similar to or different from your own. If you cannot make a 6-8 sentence paragraph responding to a single student then respond to 2 or 3. These discussion topics will only stay open for one week. Your original **thread that you create with your name as the title** is due 4:00 PM on Tuesdays. The responses will be due by 4:00 PM on Thursdays. All discussions will open on Thursday and close exactly one week later.

**Extra Book required-** The book is required. Also early in the semester I want you to find a graphic novel that you are interested in reading. You can easily find thousands of these graphic novels on amazon.com, or by checking them out of your local library or local retail stores. If you live close to Lubbock then you are in luck that you live close to the largest public collection of graphic novels outside of the Library of Congress. Find one that you want to read. **Prior to purchasing it though send me an email telling me the title and author.** There are some that are not appropriate for higher education and I don't want you to spend any money on things you can't use. If you don't have the funds for this though I strongly encourage you to seek out your library and even if they don't have anything that interests you if you do this early in the semester you could obtain one through inter-library loan and the South Plains College library also has a selection of graphic novels. If you need help selecting something please contact me. To get an idea of what you could get, you may look at the assignment for paper #3. That feature goes over what a graphic novel is and any example used in the presentation could be used for the assignment, as well as thousands of others. You will have a lot of freedom with this assignment.

**Videos-** In a few of the assignments there are short videos that add a bit to the presentation of the material. These videos are very short (5 minutes or less) but they are not required to understand

the material or assignment. If for some reason you cannot view them please proceed without seeing them.

**Success Plan:** There is a weekly success plan in the getting started section of the class. I would suggest all of you read it. Watch your emails daily as I will try to send out very frequent emails, especially at the beginning of the semester, to help you stay up with what is going on. There is also a calendar, in the form of a word document, which I have loaded into the class to help you stay up with what is due when. Also if you have any questions please just ask. I am here to help you learn the material and be successful.

**Calendar-** There is a calendar that I will load into your blackboard course that lets you know what assignments are due. Please pay attention to it as staying on schedule is important in school and especially so in an online course.

### **Accommodations:**

#### **SPC Standard Disability Statement**

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) & Lubbock Center 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

#### **Non-Discrimination Statement**

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College -1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336, 806-894-9611

#### **Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.)**

authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the SPC policy at:

([http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human\\_resources/policy\\_procedure/hhc.php](http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.php))

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.