

# South Plains College: Common Course Syllabus

## Department: Behavioral Sciences

**Discipline:** Sociology

**Course Number:** Sociology 1301-204

**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:** Introduction to Sociology 2e from OpenStax, ISBN 1938168410,  
[www.openstax.org/details/introduction-sociology-2e](http://www.openstax.org/details/introduction-sociology-2e)

**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 The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.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 2015-2016*, pages 53 and 54 for more information.

**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

**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 whatever 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 2015-2016*, pages 13 and 14 and *South Plains College General Catalog 2015-2016*, page 22.

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 2015-2016*, pages 13 through 18 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 2015-2016*, pages 18 and 19.

**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 2015-2016*, page 10.

## **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

## **Campus Concealed Carry:**

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.

(Revised Fall 2017)

**SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE – REESE CENTER**  
**Safety and Security Regulations**

**Severe Weather Procedures**

In the event of severe weather or tornado warnings, individuals should seek the safest possible location in a building away from doors, windows and exterior walls. Persons should crouch and face interior walls with their hands behind their heads and heads between their knees.

1. Do not leave the building.
2. Stay away from glass (windows and doors).
3. Avoid outside walls.
4. Go to ground-level floors in multi-story buildings.
5. Go to interior rooms without windows.
6. Never open windows or doors.
7. Stay out of autos – do not try to evade a tornado in an auto.
8. **Anyone** receiving a “Tornado Warning” should alert others in the building.
9. If you suspect we are in a path of a tornado, take the above actions.

**Emergency Shelter Locations**

Bldg 1 – Primary: Rm. 119 and both bathrooms. Secondary: 107, 109, 112, 113

Bldg 2 – Primary: Rms. 203, 206, 212. Secondary: 208

Bldg 3 – Primary: Rms. 304, 306, 308, 319, 321, 323, Secondary: 310, 325

Bldg 4 – Primary: Rms. 404, 406, 408, Secondary: 452 A, B, C, D, E

Bldg 5 – Primary: Rms. 511, 508. Secondary: 513.

Bldg 6 – Primary: Restrooms. Secondary: Rm. 605

Bldg 8 – Primary: Rms. 822 A, B, 830 A, B, 832. Secondary: 827, 828, 829, Restrooms.

**Escort Service**

Escort service by SPC Campus Police is available upon request. When a student desires escort from a classroom building to his/her car, the campus police should be contacted by the student or the instructor. (Ext. 2923 or 893-5705)

**Emergency Phone Numbers**

Red Phone provides direct connection to 911

Campus Police – Ext. 2923 or 893-5705

Suicide Intervention Hotline – 765-8393

Rape Crisis Center – 763-7273 or 763-3232

Women’s Protective Services – 747-6491

**Campus Closing – Classes Cancelled or Delayed**

If severe weather, ice and/or snow, requires the Reese Center campus to close a notice will be televised by the Lubbock TV stations.

**South Plains College: Sociology 1301 - 204**  
**Introduction to Sociology/Instructor: Tyler Sims**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Email: [tsims@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:tsims@southplainscollege.edu)

Office hours at Reese: By Appointment

**General Course Information**

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:**

Each student will learn to examine the different characteristics and structure of groups within society using sociological theories. It is these theories that will provide the tools to view variations in society. For many of you, this will be your first opportunity to discuss and examine these differences. Since you are taking this class, you are now a Sociologist and therefore will go beyond “personal” views in order to be objective. Objectivity does not mean that you accept or approve but only that you intellectually understand. In many cases, understanding will lead you to broaden yourself not only as an individual but also as a member of society.

**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. It is important that you understand plagiarism and not neglect to include citations 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, or some other appropriate response considering the nature of the infraction.

**Classroom Behavior:**

I have few classroom rules but feel obligated to discuss disruptive behavior\* and what it means in a college classroom. First, we are all adults therefore I would appreciate having your attention when I lecture or when another student is speaking. That means that you will direct comments to the entire class and not just to those seated near you. Do not get “personal” when discussing topics. Secondly, it is very rude to send text messages, do work from other courses or sleep in class. If you feel the need to do any of these you may be asked to leave and return the next day. If you feel the need to use your cell phone in any manner (calling, texting, checking the time, would also include internet capable watches or other jewelry) you should be aware that this is not appropriate. To further clarify: \*Disruptive behavior includes but is not limited to being rude to an instructor or other students, walking out of class before class ends, making “side comments” to other students, or any other non-adult behavior as defined by the instructor. The Student Guide details SPC policy concerning student conduct.

### 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.

### Accommodations:

#### ADA 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 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.

### Attendance:

Absences:

**For classes that meet twice a week: If you miss five or more class periods, you will be dropped from the course with an “X or an F” for the course (depending on your grades accrued at the time of the drop). If your absences occur after the drop date, you will receive “F” for the course regardless of test scores. THIS IS IMPORTANT! It is your responsibility to withdraw from the course if you do not attend.**

Tardiness: being late to class is very disruptive and rude. It is suggested (strongly) that you allow enough time in your schedule to arrive a few minutes early to class. Two tardies will count as one (1) absence. If you leave class early, that may count as a tardy or an absence.

If you are tardy it is your responsibility to approach me after class and make sure that you are on the roll for that day to be counted as tardy and not absent.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

**ATTENDANCE 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.**

**Writing Expectations:** All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. Writing instructors and professors in courses across the campus expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in their written work, whether it is in-class exams or take-home essays.



## Textbook

Introduction to Sociology 2e from OpenStax, ISBN 1938168410,  
[www.openstax.org/details/introduction-sociology-2e](http://www.openstax.org/details/introduction-sociology-2e)

**READING**--I expect you as students to read the chapters before I lecture on them. There are 2 reasons for this. First, you will have some familiarity with the material and therefore the lectures will have a lot more meaning for you. Second, if there is something that you didn't understand in the text you can point it out to me and I can clarify it to you. You will be tested over the lectures as well as the readings. The first thing you should read in each chapter is the visual summary located at the end of the chapter. Next go through the chapter noting highlighted words. You are responsible for the higher level concepts covered in the text, but it is impossible for you to understand these if the book is using words you don't understand! Use the glossary of the book and a dictionary if this will help you. The people who read and comprehend well think and read at the same time. Read the questions at the end of the chapter first and then read the chapter looking for the answers as you read. Write in your book if it helps. Examples of the concepts that you can remember: What you understand, what you don't, anything to help! **Once again read the summary first!!**

**Videos and DVD's** can be an excellent instructional tool. These are not viewed by me as simply time filling devices. Any videos that we may watch for class could also be used as exam material.

**South Plains College email and Blackboard**- This will be the official way that I contact you. You have an official email address provided by the school. This is the one that I will use to contact you.

**Outline Portions of the PowerPoints**--There are also outlines on **Blackboard** for notes. These would be very helpful for you to download, space out, and then print. This would be the way that I would advise to take notes.

## Grading and Testing:

**EXAMS:** There will be four (4) exams. The fourth exam is your final and will only include material covered after the third exam. Each exam will be fifty multiple choice questions and will be worth 50 points each for a total of 200 points. You will have the entire class time to take the exam and I will provide you with a scantron for each exam.

**IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:** There will be 5 assignments worth 20 points each for a total of 100 points. These assignments are unannounced and will be related to the material be covered before the next exam. If you miss one of these grades you will need to produce a note from a physician in order to be given the chance to make the grade up.

**RESEARCH PAPERS:** There will be 2 research papers due on the dates listed on the course calendar. These papers are expected to be a minimum of 3 pages (double spaced) and will cover issues during the module before the exam. You will use this paper to demonstrate your ability to use critical thinking skill when addressing a social issue/topic. The prompt and formatting information for each paper will be given out one week before it's due date. Each paper will be worth 125 points for a total of 250 points.

**Makeup work or Late Work:** This is solely at the discretion of the instructor. I am much more accommodating if you tell me ahead of time that you will be absent. Usually make up work will not be accepted unless in college excused situations.

**GRADE CALCULATIONS – Max Pts. = 550**

<b>495-550 Pts = 90%-100%</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>440-494 Pts. = 80%-89%</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>385-439 Pts. = 70%-79%</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>330-384 Pts. = 60%-69%</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>329 Pts. Below = 59% and Below</b>	<b>F</b>

This course operates on a point system so that you can easily calculate your own grade. If at any time you want to know your grade in the course, all you have to do is divide your personal point total by the amount of points we have covered up to that point. See the example below for more details.

Ex. Exam 1 (47pts), Exam 2 (45pts), Paper 1 (32pts), Paper 2 (45pts) = 169pts out of 200pts total  
 $169/200 = 84$

**Course Calendar**

**Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>** - Class Introduction/Welcome

Chapters 1-5

**Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>** – *Exam 1*

Chapters 6-10

**Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>** – *Exam 2 / Paper 1*

Chapters 11,12,14

**Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>** – *Exam 3 / Paper 2*

Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Break - No Class

Chapters 15,16,19

**Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>** – *Final – 6:00pm – 9:00pm (Same Classroom)*

\***Final Exam:** The final exam will be over chapters 15, 16 and 19 along with any other course materials covered during those chapters.

**Special Notes:**

- Chapters, 8, 13, 17, 18, 20 and 21 will be discussed throughout the entire semester. It is not necessary for you to read the chapters as I will provide you with the needed material.
- The course calendar is subject to change at any point and it is your responsibility to make sure you have the most up to date version.