

Fall 2026

South Plains College: Sociology 1301 Sections 601

Introduction to Sociology/Instructor: Robert Wood

CONTACT:

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Office Location: Levelland, Student Services 118

Office Hours: 8:15--9:30 on MTWR and 8:15-11:15 on Friday

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South Plains College: Common Course Syllabus

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Revised August 2023

Department: Behavioral Science Discipline:

Sociology Course Number: Soci1301

Course Title: Introduction to Sociology

Available Formats: conventional and internet

Campuses: Levelland, Reese, Plainview, Lubbock Center, Downtown Lubbock, Dual-Credit.

Prerequisite: No prerequisite for conventional sections; must be TSI compliant in reading for Internet sections including dual credit. Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0.

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Component Area (080)

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.

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:

- Communications 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 competency skills—to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- Social Responsibility—to include the demonstrated knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

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Student Learning Outcomes: 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.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: See instructor's course information sheet for information on assessment that may include the following: pretests and posttests, quizzes, discussions, essays and/or other types of assessment tools.

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

Attendance Policy: As per the SPC General Catalog: 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 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 Texan Connect. 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.

Academic Integrity: As per the SPC General Catalog: 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 textbook 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 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 identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, reports or other writings of fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.

More Information About Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following: 1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill; 2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation; 3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations

and citing them; 4. Missing in-text citations; and 5. Using any form of Artificial Intelligence Software (A.I.) to create or write (in whole or in part) any academic submission of any size.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following: 1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion; 2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given; 3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment; 4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage; 5. Taking an examination for another; 6. Altering grade records; 7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment; 8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's; 9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: As per the General Catalog: Rules and regulations relating to the students at South Plains College are made with the view of protecting the best interests of the individual, the general welfare of the entire student body and the educational objectives of the college. As in any segment of society, a college community must be guided by standards that are stringent enough to prevent disorder, yet moderate enough to provide an atmosphere conducive to intellectual and personal development. A high standard of conduct is expected of all students. When a student enrolls at South Plains College, it is assumed that the student accepts the obligations of performance and behavior imposed by the college relevant to its lawful missions, processes and functions. Obedience to the law, respect for properly constituted authority, personal honor, integrity and common sense guide the actions of each member of the college community both in and out of the classroom. Students are subject to federal, state and local laws, as well as South Plains College rules and regulations. A student is not entitled to greater immunities or privileges before the law than those enjoyed by other citizens. Students are subject to such reasonable disciplinary action as the administration of the college may consider appropriate, including suspension and expulsion in appropriate cases for breach of federal, state or local laws, or college rules and regulations. This principle extends to conduct off-campus which is likely to have adverse effects on the college or on the educational process which identifies the offender as an unfit associate for fellow students. Any student who fails to perform according to expected standards may be asked to withdraw. Rules and regulations regarding student conduct appear in the current Student Guide.

In addition to the above policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Students can find the Diversity Statement, Disabilities Statement, Non-Discrimination Statement, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement, and Campus Concealed Carry Statement here: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

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Office Hours: 8:15--9:30 on MTWR and 8:15-11:15 on Friday

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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.

Use of AI software is prohibited in the class. If your work triggers multiple AI detection software packages. You will be given a zero and feedback will direct you to the syllabus. If you feel this was an error, you have 10 days to set up an appointment with me and I will ask you to explain the learning objectives or content that the assignment is covering. If you do that and illustrate that you have mastered the material, we can discuss your grade on the assignment in question. If you do not contact me and have an appointment within the first 10 days after the grade is posted, you forfeit the right to have any such meeting or grade appeal directly with the instructor. This does not mean that you cannot appeal the grade at another level, that is still your right.

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.

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OPTIONAL STATEMENT ON PRINTED SYLLABUS - Campus Concealed Carry Statement

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 and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.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.

COVID 19 or other serious illness statement:

South Plains College is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning and work environment for students, faculty and staff as the SPC Texan Community returns to campus amid the COVID-19 pandemic. To accomplish this goal, it is imperative that everyone join together to do their part. SPC has developed a Return to Campus Plan that outlines how the college will operate and the measures that will be implemented to help protect you and your loved ones. We look forward to welcoming you back to campus, as we continue to emphasize the following points:

- All students, faculty and staff should monitor their health and notify appropriate personnel and their health care provider if they experience any symptoms related to COVID-19.
- All students, faculty and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 should contact DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN in Health Services at dedens@southplainscollege.edu or at (806) 716-2376.
- Cleaning and sanitization process will be emphasized in every area of our campus.

Textbook

- The textbook for this class is an Open Educational Resource. It is free and provided through links within the Blackboard portal for this course.

Attendance and Absences: You will need to come to class if you are not ill. If you are in quarantine, or ill and would like to participate in the lectures remotely then you will need to contact me at least an hour before the start of class so that I can get the technology ready to stream the lecture.

If you have more the 5 unexcused absences from the course, you could be dropped for a lack of participation.

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. If you are tardy twice, it 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.

Grading and Testing: EXAMS: There will be four (4) exams. The fourth is really your final and will only include material covered after exam #3. (400 points)

Online work - You will be required to complete the online work in Perusall, where you will read and annotate the reading materials for this course. The Perusall work will cumulatively count as much as an exam grade. (100 points)

Hunger Games ASSIGNMENT: We will work on a group/individual Hunger Games assignment. You will be responsible for reading the summary of the book, or the book if you like, and taking small quizzes over it. Once we have worked our way through the book we will have a day when we work to apply what we are learning in class to the book. You will take 4 quizzes over the book that each count as worth 10 points and then the group activity will count for 10 points and another worth 50 points. The assignment will total 100 points and be the equal to an exam. (100 points)

Course Calendar- A calendar of course events (assignment and exams) will be given out the first week and posted on Blackboard.

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 for missed exams will not be accepted. If you hand in papers late you should expect large penalties to accrue daily.

90%-100%	A
80%-89%	B
70%-79%	C
60%-69%	D
59% and Below	F

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.

READING--I expect you as students to read the provided materials 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.

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.

SPC Tutors: Tutoring is FREE for all currently enrolled students. Make an appointment or drop-in for help at any SPC location or online! Visit the link below to learn more about how to book an appointment, view the tutoring schedule, and view tutoring locations.

<http://www.southplainscollege.edu/exploreprograms/artsandsciences/teacheredtutoring.php>

Brainfuse

You also have 180 FREE minutes of tutoring with Brainfuse each week, and your hours reset every Monday morning. Log into Blackboard, and click on the tools option from the left-hand menu bar. Click on the Brainfuse link and you will automatically be logged in for free tutoring. You may access Brainfuse tutors during the following times:

Monday – Thursday: 8 pm-8 am

6pm Friday – 8am Monday morning

For questions regarding tutoring, please email tutoring@southplainscollege.edu or call 806-716-224