

**Spring 2026**

***South Plains College: Sociology 1301 Sections 453***

***Introduction to Sociology/Instructor: Robert Wood***

**CONTACT:**

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Office Location: Levelland, Student Services:118

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**South Plains College: Common Course Syllabus**

**Department: Behavioral Sciences**

South Plains College Common Course Syllabus

Introduction to Sociology – Soci1301

Revised January 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, Lubbock Downtown, Dual-Credit

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.

Prerequisite: No prerequisite for conventional sections; must be TSI compliant in reading for Internet sections including dual credit.

Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

Textbook: This course textbook is constructed from publicly available materials called an Open Educational Resource (OER). It is fully contained within the course and is available at no cost to the student.

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

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

Approval number 45.1101.51 25

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 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" 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 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 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; or
4. Missing in-text citations.

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.

**Diversity Statement:** In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group difference 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 should and can be.

**Statement of Non-Discrimination:** 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. Phone number 806-716-2360.

**Title IX Statement of Non-Discrimination:** If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations

request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Health and Wellness Center. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Health and Wellness Center at 806-716-2529 or email [dburleson@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dburleson@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

Disabilities 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, Lubbock Centers (located at the Lubbock Downtown Center) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

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 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.

South Plains College policies, return to campus plan, and protocols regarding COVID-19 can be found here: COVID Response ([southplainscollege.edu](http://southplainscollege.edu)).

***Revised SP 2023***

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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/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- 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.

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**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 and 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:**

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!!

### **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 four or more than four assignments over the course of the semester I may drop you with an X or an F.** This includes missing discussions, online InQuizitive work, 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.

### **Diversity Statement**

In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group difference 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 should and can be.

### **Disabilities Statement**

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accommodations. Contact the Health and Wellness Center at 806-716-2529 or email [dburleson@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dburleson@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

#### **OPTIONAL STATEMENT ON PRINTED SYLLABUS - Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

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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](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu) or at (806) 716-2376.
- Cleaning and sanitization process will be emphasized in every area of our campus.

#### **Grading and Testing:**

There are a variety of assignments in this course such as Perusall reading and annotation assignments, video assignments, discussions and essay assignments. Point values range from 5 point assignments to 150. Your grade is constructed based on the percentage of points that you earn throughout the semester. A grade calculator/checklist/spreadsheet is provided within the course so that you can keep up with your current grade.

**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 aim to 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 essays. 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.

**Policy on Late Work:** You are expected to turn in your work on time. If you have school activities that you are involved in, you are expected to do your work in this class before the activity that could cause you to miss time. This would include activities like athletic events, academic competitions, agricultural competitions and other similar activities. I do understand that illness and emergencies can occur. Because of this I will let you make up one module in a semester. If you are doing this, you **must** be in contact with me about your makeup work. You must do this within 3 days of missing the assignment. Because of the nature of the end of the semester, no make up work will be allowed on the last module of the semester.

**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 readings provided within the class. 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.

**Discussions-** On discussion assignments, you are to answer the question posed in the discussion topic area. Most of the time these discussions will be applying the reading 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 4 to 5. These discussion topics will only stay open for one week. Your original **thread that you create with your name as the title** is due 11:59 PM at least two days before the discussion closes. The responses will be due by 11:59 PM on the due date, when the discussion/module closes.. You need to use standard grammar on all academic work, including discussions. Failure to do so will negatively impact your grades on all written work.

**Calendar**- There is a calendar/checklist 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.

**Textbook**- This course textbook is constructed from publicly available materials called an Open Educational Resource (OER) It is fully contained within the course and is available at no cost to the student.