



Fall Semester, 2014

Paul Wright

**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY  
SOC 2303**

Required Text: Hughes and Kroehler, SOCIOLOGY: THE CORE  
(11<sup>th</sup> edition) ISBN 978-0-07-8026768

The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with the basic concepts of sociology and their applications to understanding the social structures and institutions we interact with. Basic concepts will be covered initially, followed by examinations of social groups and institutions that influence our behavior and "life's chances."

Expected learning outcomes from the course include the following: being able to observe everyday events through a sociological perspective, understanding and appreciating the concept of culture, recognizing the importance of institutions in shaping society, and learning the processes through which societies change.

This course is being offered as an on-line course. This puts a special responsibility on the student to conscientiously pursue the materials in addition to the textbook that have been provided in the "Content" area of Blackboard to assist your learning. These include: PowerPoint presentations for each chapter, videos on the topics discussed in the text, web links that relate concepts to "the real world" and sample quizzes that are similar in content and difficulty to the quizzes and exam you will be taking in this course. Be sure to pursue provided materials, which can be found in the "Content" area on Blackboard conscientiously. In addition, the Content area contains outline lecture notes for each chapter. They cover the topics I feel are of importance but they are just outlines to be filled in. You should take notes as you would in class, but you will use the book and possibly the PowerPoint presentations and videos in

filling them out. I will be communicating regularly with the class via e-mail with the e-mail address the school provided for you or you gave to the school as your preferred e-mail address, so be sure to check your e-mail on a regular basis.

There will be no questions on either the quizzes or the three exams that are not covered in the required textbook. I cannot overemphasize the importance of obtaining the textbook and diligently reading its contents. I have chosen this particular textbook because it is cheaper than the large majority of competing textbooks, is written simply but is not "dumbed down," and does an excellent job of covering the major concepts in sociology. Contact me if you have any questions about anything that you read in the book.

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. Qualified students with disabilities needing academic or other accommodations to ensure full participation in the programs, services and activities at Sul Ross State University should contact the Disability Services Coordinator in Counseling and Prevention Services, 112 Ferguson Hall, Box C-117, 837-8203.

I expect the quizzes and exams to be taken on the day they are scheduled (you will have between 6:00 A.M. and 11:00 P.M. to begin the quizzes and the final exam) and will not allow missed quizzes and exam to be made up unless I am

convinced there was a compelling reason why the quiz was not taken on the scheduled date.

There will be 13 quizzes. Cumulatively, the quizzes will total 300 points and will count for half of the final grade. There will be three exams worth 110 points each although they will be treated as containing 100 points each for determining the final grade. Each exam will be noncumulative and will together theoretically count for 300 points or half of the total grade.

Although I cannot control whether the people claiming to take the quizzes are the ones actually doing so and whether an open book is used or the input of others in the taking of the quizzes, the procedures adopted for the quizzes and final exam are designed to make cheating more difficult for whoever is taking them. I believe that the enforcement of rules for cheaters and the strict punishment of violators is important for the integrity of the course and to ensure that those who are good citizens who "follow the rules" are not punished as a result. Given this belief, I will punish those who cheat or assist others in doing so to the fullest extent of what is permissible academic policy in cases where I discover and can prove malfeasance.

Students may earn extra credit by participating in the discussion forums that are found on the Blackboard. Approximately 18 questions are posed for discussion after concepts and materials related to them are discussed in the course. The amount of extra credit given for each question is based on the quality of the response given (although a "4" is typically the top score possible), but persons responding thoughtfully to all questions typically earn 55 or more points of extra credit.

Theoretically, there are a total of 600 possible points (there are actually 630), not counting the extra credit. The point distributions for a given grade are as follows: 560+=A, 490-559=B, 420-489=C, 350-419=D, below 350=F. In cases where the final point total falls somewhat below the cutoff for a given grade, grade improvement over the semester may be taken into account in determining whether to raise the grade.

My office hours are from 9:00-9:50 on W,M,F and 9:30-10:30 on T,Th. Please do not hesitate to contact me to arrange another time if you want to see me outside of my office

hours. My office number is 837-8150 and my home phone is 837-7245. My office-mail address is [pwright@sulross.edu](mailto:pwright@sulross.edu). My office is at LH 306 on the Sul Ross State University campus.

TOPICS, READINGS, POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS, VIDEOS AND EXAMS WILL BE IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings:</b>
	<b>Introduction to Sociology</b>	Chapter 1
	PowerPoint Presentation	
	Videos:	
	What is sociology?	
	Why sociology is important	
	The Sociological Imagination	
	Auguste Comte	
	Herbert Spencer	
	Harriet Martineau	
	Karl Marx	
	Emile Durkheim	
	W.E.B. DuBois	
	Perspectives in Sociology	
	Merton and Functionalism	
	Types of research design	
	Quantitative vs. qualitative research	
	Interpreting correlations	
	How to assess quality of research	
<b>Sept 8</b>	<b>Quiz, Introduction to Sociology</b>	
	<b>Culture and Social Structure</b>	Chapter 2
	PowerPoint Presentation	
	Videos:	
	What is culture	
	Elements of culture	
	Perceptions of culture	
	Cultural subsets: ethnocentrism	
	Perceptions of Culture	
	Cultural analysis: Theoretical	
	Approaches	
	Social status	
	Social Roles	
	Gerhard Lenski & types of societies	
<b>Sept 15</b>	<b>Quiz on Culture and Social Structure</b>	
	<b>Socialization</b>	Chapter 3
	PowerPoint Presentation	
	Videos:	
	Socialization & social isolation	

Agents of socialization  
 The Looking Glass Self  
 The presentation of self  
 Impression Management

**Sept 22 Quiz on socialization**  
**Social Groups** Chapter 4  
 PowerPoint Presentation  
 Videos:  
 Social groups  
 Primary groups in society  
 Types of Social Groups: Primary,  
 Secondary & Reference Groups  
 Dyad & triad groups, in and out groups  
 Leadership styles  
 Social loafing  
 Social conformity  
 Group think  
 Formal organizations  
 Weber: Verstehen & the rationalization  
 of society  
 Weber's views on bureaucracy  
 "McDonaldization" of society

**Sept 29 Quiz on Social Groups**  
**Oct 1 First Midterm Exam**  
**Deviance** Chapter 5  
 PowerPoint Presentation  
 Videos:  
 Sociological theories of deviance  
 Labeling theory and crime  
 Social-conflict theory and crime  
 Crime and punishment

**Oct 6 Quiz on Deviance**  
**Social Stratification** Chapter 6  
 PowerPoint Presentation  
 Videos:  
 Social status-class vs. caste  
 American class system  
 Poverty in the U.S.  
 Social mobility

**Oct 13 Quiz on Social Stratification**  
**Ethnic and Racial Stratification** Chapter 7  
 PowerPoint Presentation  
 Videos:  
 Race and Ethnicity  
 Blacks in American history

**Oct 20 Quiz on ethnic and racial stratification**  
**Gender Stratification** Chapter 8

PowerPoint Presentation

Videos:

- Sex and gender in society
- Sexism & patriarchy
- Sexual relationships in society
- Sexism
- Violence against women
- Sexual harassment
- Feminism

- Oct 27 Quiz on Gender Stratification**  
**Political and Economic Power** Chapter 9  
PowerPoint Presentation
- Oct 29 Second Midterm Exam**
- Nov 3 Quiz, Political and Economic Power**  
**The Family** Chapter 10  
PowerPoint Presentation  
Videos:
  - Family and kinship
  - Family life stages
  - What is a Non-traditional family?
- Nov 10 Quiz, the family**  
**Religion, Education & Medicine** Chapter 11  
PowerPoint Presentation  
Videos:
  - Key concepts of religion
  - Islam, Judaism & Christianity
  - Atheism, agnosticism & theism
  - Hinduism, Buddhism & Confucianism
  - Karl Marx on religion
  - Religion & social change
  - Secularization & civil religion
  - Schooling
  - Functions of schooling
  - School controversies
  - Economics and health
  - Social constructions of health
  - Health challenges in America
  - Types of health care
- Nov 17 Quiz, Religion, Education & Medicine**  
**Population and Environment** Chapter 12  
PowerPoint Presentation  
Videos:
  - Demographic change from fertility
  - Population change from aging, etc.
- Nov 24 Quiz on Population and Environment**  
**Social Change** Chapter 13  
PowerPoint Presentation

Videos:

Collective behavior

Types of mass behavior

Social movements

Social movement stages

Social movement definitions

**Dec 3 Quiz on Social Change**

**Dec 8 Final Exam**