SOC 2303 - Introduction to Sociology

Sul Ross State University – Summer I 2023

Instructor	: Ismail D. Gunes, Ph.D.	**E-mail**	: ismail.gunes@sulross.edu
Campus Office	: MAB 109, Alpine	**Telephone**	: 432 - 837 8166
Class Days	: June 1 – July 7	**Class Location**	: Online
Contacting Me	: The best way to reach me is via email. Do not hesitate to contact me for any reason. I will respond to email inquiries as soon as possible.		

Required and Recommended Texts

1) (REQUIRED) Introduction to Sociology 2e from OpenStax, Print ISBN 1938168410, Digital ISBN 1947172263, www.openstax.org/details/introduction-sociology-2e
2) (RECOMMENDED) American Psychological Association (October 2019). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Seventh Edition, https://apastyle.apa.org/products/publication- manual-7th-edition-spiral
3) Additional readings (e.g., articles, reports) will be posted on Blackboard.

GOOD NEWS: Your textbook for this class is available for free online! If you prefer, you can also get a print version at a very low cost. Your book is available in web view and PDF for free. You can also choose to purchase on iBooks or get a print version via the campus bookstore or online.

You can use whichever formats you want. Web view is recommended -- the responsive design works seamlessly on any device. If you buy on Amazon, make sure you use the link on your book page on openstax.org so you get the official OpenStax print version. (Simple printouts sold by third parties on Amazon are not verifiable and not as high-quality.)

Regarding scientific journal articles, Byrian Wildenthal Memorial Library of SRSU has an extensive database infrastructure. The Library exists to provide learning resources and services necessary to support your educational, research, and information needs. You can get detailed information, advising and other sorts of help in person, over the phone, or via email. Once you logged in to your Sul Ross Account on Blackboard you should be automatically connected to the library webpage as well. Thus, you can browse the online databases of SRSU and reach the articles on the additional reading list. The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website. Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

Course Description

This course is a scientific study of human society, including ways in which social groups, social institutions, and individuals affect each other. Causes of social stability and social change are explored through 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.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

➢ Compare and contrast the basic theoretical perspectives of sociology.
➢ Identify the various methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data in sociology.
➢ Describe key concepts in sociology.
➢ Describe the empirical findings of various subfields of sociology.
➢ Explain the complex links between individual experiences and broader institutional forces.
➢ Develop critical thinking skills to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
➢ Develop empirical and quantitative skills to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusion.

Course Assessment

1 - Quizzes (10 Points Each): You will take a quiz when you complete 1 or 2 chapters to measure the knowledge of the week's required readings. The questions will be drawn from the readings and the supplemental materials posted on the Blackboard. Please see the "Course Schedule" for the due dates.

2 - Final Exam (100 points): The Final Exam is comprehensive; thus, it will test students on all the topics covered during the course. The Final exam is worth 100 points. Final exam will have multiple-choice and/or true-false questions. No make-up test will be given, unless an uncontrollable emergency or illness arises (written proof required).

3 - Final Paper (100 Points): You will write a final paper on any of the subjects covered in this course. The paper should;

a) be between 4 to 6 pages,
b) include these parts: Title page (1 page), Table of Contents (1 page), Abstract (1 page), Body of the paper (4-6 pages), References (1 page), Appendices (if any),
c) be typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point Calibri font,
d) include at least three scholarly citations other than the ones we covered in the class (not website articles, wikipedia, news agencies, magazines, and etc.),
a) be written according to APA formatting and citation style. (Recommended textbook APA Manual)

A plagiarism detection software (SafeAssign) is used in this course. Your final paper will be submitted through SafeAssign. This program detects and reports all instances of plagiarism including where the student copied and pasted directly from a source. Students will receive a grade of "0" in these instances, and possibly fail the course.

Technology Requirements

Blackboard is a course management tool that is an integral part of this course. You are required to check Blackboard on a regular basis to keep abreast of course developments.

Several Blackboard features are utilized throughout the course including email, course documents, the discussion board, grade center, external links, and SafeAssign.

This course requires a significant amount of online activity. In order for students to participate and progress in this course the followings are required.

Minimum Computer Skills Requirement

Using Blackboard does not require any special skills. Blackboard is, however, an Internet tool so you must possess basic computer skills, specifically

> ➢ using e-mail (sending, opening, replying, and saving attachments)
>
> ➢ web browsing (navigating, searching, and downloading)
>
> ➢ word processing (MS Word or compatible)

For more information and instructions about using Blackboard, see the Blackboard tutorials.

Hardware & Software Requirements

You must have regular and reliable access to a computer with access to the Web. The computer must be robust enough to run one of the recent web browsers and download files in a reasonable amount of time. You will need to be able to reach the World Wide Web, either through a network at your place of business or through a connection from home, using an Internet Service Provider (ISP).

Participation Policy

This class is a fully online course; there are no class meetings. However, I want you to introduce yourself to all of us. This non-graded "Introduction" post is a chance for you to "meet" your classmates in the class and an opportunity to introduce yourself to your professor. You are also expected to log into the class at the earliest opportunity to check the class website every day for announcements. All assignments and examinations are to be completed online no later than the final due dates for each assignment. E-mail me if you have questions regarding the reading material, assignments, and exams.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to respect their classmates' and instructors' privacy and the work or comments they produce. All assignments you submit or tests you take must be your own work unless you have been requested that you work in groups. You may not submit work that is plagiarized or violates copyright laws. It is also your responsibility to respect copyright protection of licensed computer software. When you are taking a distance education course from a remote site, please remember that you are "guests" on the remote site campus. The facilities, equipment, staff, and materials at that site are neither the property nor employees of Sul Ross State University. Please treat the site respectfully and be responsible in caring for the site that we have been allowed to use.

Absence policies in effect for on-campus, traditional classroom instruction courses also apply to students enrolled in distance education courses, including Web-based and ITV courses. The University allows a maximum of 20% absences in a course before an instructor may drop a student for excessive absences with a grade of "F". In Web courses, this policy is interpreted as not participating for more than 3 weeks

in a long semester, 1 week in a summer session, or 3 days in the midwinter session. Any student dropped for non-participation will receive an "F" in the course dropped. Inactivity may include the following:

➤ Not logging on to the course,

➤ Not submitting assignments,

➤ Not participating in scheduled activities,

➤ Not communicating with the instructor by phone or email, and/or

➤ Not following the instructor's participation guidelines stated in the syllabus.

All students taking distance learning classes are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email account regularly for notices from the School and from their instructors. A student's Sul Ross email address is added to Blackboard when a student registers, so when instructors email students through Blackboard, the message is sent to the student's Sul Ross email account. Email accounts are automatically set up when a student registers. In order to use your SRSU email account, you will need to log in to the email system. The information you need in order to log in is a username and a password.

Late Assignment Submission Policy

Students are supposed to finish their coursework on time and assignments must be submitted before the deadlines. In principle, I do not accept late work and do not believe in allowing students to turn in work after the due date. My position is that everyone knows the rules of engagement at the beginning of the term and that it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they plan accordingly to submit their assignments and take their exams in a timely manner.

If an assignment/exam is missed or late the students are expected to show an appropriate cause for this issue. Late assignments will not be accepted unless there is an excuse that is recognized by the university. Students are encouraged to frequently review the syllabus and remain aware of the deadlines for all assignments and exams.

Academic Integrity

Be sure that you understand the university's Academic Honesty Policy. It is important that you refrain from any form of academic dishonesty or deception, such as cheating or plagiarism. SRSU students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the by the "Sul Ross Student Handbook".

SRSU and the instructor of this course both place a high priority on the academic integrity of their student scholars. As a result, all institutional guidelines and instructional policies concerning academic integrity will be strictly and uniformly enforced with all students regardless of context.

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:
➤ turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor;
➤ turning in another person's work as one's own;
➤ copying from professional works or internet sites without citation;
➤ collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

APA Style

This course will use the American Psychological Association (APA) Seventh Edition formatting and style guide for all written assignments. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the use of APA a number of resources have been provided below. Please note that all external sources must be appropriately cited. A failure to do so constitutes plagiarism and is a violation the course academic honesty standards. Beside numerous online sources you can also visit the following link for help with APA https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html.

Student Support Services

Sul Ross State University has established a variety of programs to help students meet the challenges of college life. Support to students includes advising, counseling, mentoring, tutoring, supplemental instruction, and writing assistance. For a complete list of academic support services, visit the Student Support Services at https://www.sulross.edu/section/311/student-support-services. For more information, students are encouraged to contact SSS at (432) 837-9118 or visit Ferguson Hall Room 105.

Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires 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. You can reach The Distance Education Handbook here.

Online Support Desk

The Support Desk is where you can direct your more technical questions. For example, if you are having issues submitting a document, getting videos to play, or you are dealing with a technical error in the course. The support desk is open 24 hours a day/7 days a week for your convenience. You can reach the support desk:

- By calling 888 - 837 6055
- Via email blackboardsupport@sulross.edu
- Using resources from the Technology Support tab within Blackboard
- Clicking the Support Desk graphic on the course homepage

Students with Special Needs - Americans with Disabilities Act as Amended (ADAAA)

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with

documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email mschwartze@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

Marketable Skills

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) sets statewide goals through the 60x30TX initiative. The THECB plan includes four major goals: 60×30: Educated Population, Completion, Marketable skills, and Student debt. The 60x30TX plan was designed to tie together all four student-centered goals. 60x30, which measures the educated population in Texas, is the overarching goal at the center of the plan and calls for 60 percent of 25- to 34-year-olds in Texas to hold a credential or degree by 2030. The 60x30 goal is supported by the other three goals (completion, marketable skills, student debt) that will get Texas to 60 percent by 2030.

By 2030, all graduates from Texas public institutions of higher education will have completed programs with identified marketable skills. Students who can effectively market their skills to potential employers can secure employment that pays competitively. Marketable skills include interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas, are valued by employers, and are primary or complementary to a major. Marketable skills are acquired by students through education, including curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities. Marketable skills are often called "employability skills" in other countries, or "transferable skills" here in the states. They include both technical and soft skills.

Classroom Climate of Respect

Students are expected to respect their classmates' and instructors' privacy and the work or comments they produce. Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Diversity Statement

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, age, socioeconomic class, sexuality, religion, ability/disability, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the crisis of COVID, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning

objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create an inclusive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

Other Course Expectations

➢ Remember that this is a college course, therefore, college level work will be expected which includes proper APA format, proper grammar, sentence structure, and organizational structure.
➢ Review the syllabus so that you may be aware of assignments and papers; contact me for any clarifications.
➢ Check Blackboard regularly for any announcements for significant information.

Grading

13 Weekly Quizzes	130 points (10 points each)
1 Final Exam	100 points
1 Final Paper	100 points
Total	**330 points**

Final Grading Scale
A 330 - 297
B 296 - 264
C 263 - 231
D 230 - 198
F 197 & below

Daily Tentative Course Schedule

This course schedule is subject to change as needed to meet the needs of the course. Students will be notified of adjustments when they are made. Also, any additional reading materials, resources and other information will be posted on Blackboard. Students will be notified on how to access this information by the instructor. ***All times are in central time***

Dates	Topics	Assignments
Thursday June 1 – Saturday June 3	Course Introduction & Requirements An Introduction to Sociology	Review syllabus Chapter 1 - Quiz # 1
Sunday June 4 – Tuesday June 6	Sociological Research	Chapter 2 - Quiz # 2
Wednesday June 7 – Friday June 9	Culture Society and Social Interaction	Chapters 3 & 4 - Quiz # 3
Saturday June 10 – Monday June 12	Socialization Groups and Organization	Chapters 5 & 6 - Quiz # 4
Tuesday June 13 – Thursday June 15	Deviance, Crime, and Social Control Media and Technology	Chapters 7 & 8 - Quiz # 5
Friday June 16 – Sunday June 18	Social Stratification in the United States Global Inequality	Chapters 9 & 10 - Quiz # 6
Monday June 19 – Wednesday June 21	Race and Ethnicity Gender, Sex, and Sexuality	Chapters 11 & 12 - Quiz # 7
Thursday June 22 – Friday June 23	Aging and the Elderly	Chapter 13 - Quiz # 8
Saturday June 24 – Sunday June 25	Marriage and Family	Chapter 14 - Quiz # 9
Monday June 26 – Tuesday June 27	Religion	Chapter 15 - Quiz # 10
Wednesday June 28 – Friday June 30	Education Government and Politics	Chapters 16 & 17 - Quiz # 11
Saturday July 1 – Monday July 3	Work and the Economy Health and Medicine	Chapters 18 & 19 - Quiz # 12
Wednesday June 5 – Thursday June 6	Population, Urbanization, and the Environment Social Movements and Social Change	Chapters 20 & 21 - Quiz # 13
FRIDAY JUNE 7	!!! END OF TERM !!!	SUBMIT YOUR FINAL PAPER. TAKE THE FINAL EXAM.

End of Course Evaluations

Student evaluations of faculty are administered online at the end of each term/session for all courses with five or more students. Students will receive an email containing a link to a survey for each course in which they are enrolled. All responses are anonymous.

*****Syllabus is subject to updates and changes by announcement, always look to the course announcements and reminders for updates. The faculty member reserves the right to amend this syllabus as needed*****