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### Course Description

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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.

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### Course Learning Objectives

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Upon Completion of this course, you will:

- 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

This course is also a part of the core curriculum. Students in core curriculum courses are expected to excel in certain skills. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) requires each Fall and Spring Core Course Instructor to integrate assigned core objectives into their courses each year. There are two skills to be assessed for the 2023-2024 academic year for ALL Core Courses and they are Critical Thinking and Communication.

- Critical Thinking Skill: Students will develop critical thinking skills to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
- Communication Skill: Students will develop communication skills to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

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### Attendance Policy

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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 or 1 week in a summer 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.

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### Class 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 "Introduction" 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. If you have questions regarding the reading material, assignments, quizzes, and exams e-mail me.

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### Course Assessment

**1 - Weekly Quizzes (10 Points Each):** You will take a quiz for every week 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. Weekly quizzes will be available until Sunday 11:59 PM of that week.

**2 - Midterm Exam (100 points):** There will be a midterm exam which will cover the assigned chapters and other relevant material covered in the course up to the date of the examination. The midterm exam is worth 100 points. Midterm 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 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).

**4 - Final Paper (100 Points):** You will write a final paper on any of the subjects covered in this course. You will submit a written proposal by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> week outlining your plan and intended subject. You will then continue writing your paper after my approval.

Each paper must have a “Title Page”, “Table of Contents”, “Abstract”, “Body of the Paper”, and “References”. Only count the “Body of the paper” towards your minimum page limit.

The paper should;

- a) be 5+ pages (this is just the “Body of the Paper” excluding all other pages),
- b) be typed, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, 12-point Calibri font,
- c) include at least three scholarly citations other than the ones we covered in the class (not website articles, wikipedia, news agencies, magazines, and etc.),
- d) be written according to APA formatting and citation style.

A plagiarism detection software (SafeAssign) is used in this course. SafeAssign will detect and report 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. Your weekly reaction papers and final paper will be submitted through SafeAssign.

### **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, 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).

### Academic Integrity

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Sul Ross State University students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the “Sul Ross Student Code of Conduct, Responsibilities, Procedures, and Rights”.

Sul Ross State University 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.

Students should also avoid using open AI sources unless permission is expressly given for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

### APA Style

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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](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html).

### Student Support Services

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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.

Counseling: Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/356 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](https://www.timelycare.com/srsu). The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

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### Distance Education Statement

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Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as 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. 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. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

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### Online Support Desk

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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](mailto:blackboardsupport@sulross.edu)
- Using resources from the Technology Support tab within Blackboard
- Clicking the Support Desk graphic on the course homepage

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

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SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the 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. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartz Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu). Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

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### Late Assignment Submission Policy

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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.

### Social Science BA Programs Marketable Skills

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The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) sets statewide goals through the 60x30TX initiative. The THECB plan includes four major goals: 60x30: 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. The marketable skills of Social Science BA Programs are listed as follows:

- 1) Students can identify useful resources from a pool of data.
- 2) Students can select and organize data in a relevant manner.
- 3) Students can make written presentations to various audiences.
- 4) Students can utilize data to persuade various audiences.
- 5) Students can utilize data to generate and strengthen ideas.
- 6) Students can decipher stances adopted by various individuals.
- 7) Students can meet deadlines in a successful manner.
- 8) Students can discharge responsibilities in an adequate manner.
- 9) Students can manage the absorption of data.

### Classroom Climate of Respect

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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.

### Supportive Statement

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I am to create a learning environment for my students that supports various perspectives and experiences. I understand that the recent pandemic, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events may 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 a supportive 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; Email me for any clarifications.
- Review any announcements for significant information.

**Grading**

12 Weekly Quizzes	120 points (10 points each)
1 Midterm Exam	100 points
1 Final Exam	100 points
1 Final Paper	100 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>420 points</b>

**Final Grading Scale**

**A 420 - 378**

**B 377 - 336**

**C 335 - 294**

**D 293 - 252**

**F 251 & below**

**Weekly Tentative Course Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
1	August 28 - September 3	Course Introduction & Requirements An Introduction to Sociology	Syllabus Textbook Chapter 1 Quiz # 1
2	September 4 - 10	Sociological Research	Textbook Chapter 2 Quiz # 2
3	September 11-17	Culture Society and Social Interaction	Textbook Chapters 3 & 4 Quiz # 3
4	September 18-24	Socialization Groups and Organization	Textbook Chapters 5 & 6 Quiz # 4 Final Paper Proposal due
5	September 25 - October 1	Deviance, Crime, and Social Control Media and Technology	Textbook Chapters 7 & 8 Quiz # 5
6	October 2 - 8	Social Stratification in the United States Global Inequality	Textbook Chapters 9 & 10 Quiz # 6
7	October 9 - 15	Race and Ethnicity Gender, Sex, and Sexuality	Textbook Chapters 11 & 12 Quiz # 7
8	October 16 - 22	Aging and the Elderly	Textbook Chapter 13 Quiz # 8
9	October 23 - 29	Midterm Exam	Midterm Exam
10	October 30 - November 5	Marriage and Family	Textbook Chapter 14 Quiz # 9
11	November 6 - 12	Religion	Textbook Chapter 15 Quiz # 10
12	November 13-19	Education Government and Politics	Textbook Chapters 16 & 17 Quiz # 11
13	November 20-26	Work and the Economy Health and Medicine	Textbook Chapters 18 & 19 Quiz # 12
14	November 27 - December 3	Population, Urbanization, and the Environment Thanksgiving Day Holiday (10/22-24)	Textbook Chapter 20
15	December 4-6 December 6 December 7 December 8	Social Movements and Social Change Last class day before finals Dead Day Final Exams	Textbook Chapter 21
16	December 11-13	Final Exams	Final Paper due

### End of Course Evaluations

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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\*\*\**