

## South Plains College: General Course Syllabus

**Department:** Behavioral Sciences

**Discipline:** Sociology

**Course Number:** Sociology 2301

**Course Name:** Marriage and Family

**Credit Hours:** Semester credit: 3, Lecture: 3, Lab: 0

**This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement:** No – satisfies an elective requirement for Behavioral Science

**Prerequisites:** TSI reading for INET

**Campuses:** INET

**Textbook:** The Marriage and Family Experience: Intimate Relationships in a Changing Society , 13th Edition Bryan Strong; Theodore F. Cohen

**Course Specific Instructions:** INET classes go Blackboard link on SPC homepage

**Course Description:** Sociological and theoretical analysis of the structures and functions of the family, the varied cultural patterns of the American family, and the relationships that exist among the individuals within the family, as well as the relationships that exist between the family and other institutions in society.

**Course Purpose:** This course is designed to provide students with an understanding how the definition of family is changing and how family experiences are influenced from within and also from external social forces.

**Course Requirements:** Students should regularly log into the course and complete assignments, quizzes, discussion postings, and any other work included in the course.

**Supplies:** Computer and Internet access for Internet courses and campus classes.

**Course Evaluation:** Refer to specific COURSE INFORMATION SHEET for specifics on assigned work and testing.

**Attendance Policy:** 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 The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.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" 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 MySPC using his or her student online account. 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 Policy:** 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 text- book 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 what- ever 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 identifiable expression of material taken from books, Internet resources, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, reports or other writings of a fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.

See *South Plains College Student Guide* and *South Plains College General Catalog* for more information.

Also, see instructor's course information sheet for more information.

### **Student Conduct Policy:**

- **Classroom Conduct:** Failure to comply with lawful direction of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a class may result in the student being dropped from that course.
- See *South Plains College Student Guide* for full policy covering other areas of conduct including penalties for misconduct and procedures for disciplinary action.

**Grade and Academic Discipline Appeals:** South Plains College provides two procedures which allow students the opportunity to address grievances of an academic nature.

- **Appeal Restrictions:** Only final grades or dismissal resulting from academic discipline will be considered. The instructor's teaching ability or expertise will not be considered during the hearing. No grade or disciplinary action can be formally appealed after a period of six (6) months from the date that the student is informed
- **Informal Appeal**
  - The student should schedule an appointment with the instructor of the course to discuss the final grade or disciplinary action.
  - 2. If the student is still not satisfied, she should schedule an appointment with the appropriate departmental chairperson to discuss the situation. The chairperson may request that the instructor also be present.
  - 3. If the student is still not satisfied, he she should schedule an appointment with the Divisional Dean to discuss the situation. The dean may request that the chairperson also be present.
  - 4. If the student is still not satisfied, he she should be advised of the formal appeal process.
- **Formal Appeal:** If the student is not satisfied with the results of the informal appeal, s/he should provide the following information, in writing, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs:
  - A request for a formal appeals hearing.
  - 2. A brief statement of what is being appealed.
  - 3. The basis for the appeal.
  - 4. Pertinent facts relating to the appeal.
- The agenda of the appeals hearing will include only those factors documented in the student's appeal request letter. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will

determine the date, time and place of the hearing, and notify the student accordingly.

- The Hearing
  - Composition of the appeals committee:
    - Vice President for Academic Affairs will preside over the hearing.
    - Faculty member of the student's choice.
    - Faculty member and student selected by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
    - President of Student Government Association.
    - Dean of Students.
  - Other persons who should be available at the hearing:
    - The student who requested the hearing.
    - The faculty member involved.
    - Anyone the student or faculty member wishes to be present to substantiate the case.
    - Chairperson and Divisional Dean.
  - Hearing procedure:
  - The committee will hear the student's appeal during which the parties to the controversy and such representatives as desired will present all facts relating to the case. By majority vote, the committee will decide to sustain, amend or reverse the previous decision.
  - The decision of the committee is final and completes the academic appeals procedure.

See *South Plains College Student Guide* for more information.

#### **4.1.1.1. Diversity Statement**

**In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences 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.**

#### **4.1.1.2. 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,**

Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

#### **4.1.1.3 Non-Discrimination Statement**

**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.**

#### **4.1.1.4 Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement**

**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 Director of Health and Wellness. 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 Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or email [cgilster@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.**

#### **4.1.1.5 OPTIONAL STATEMENT - 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. Equal Rights Policy: All students are entitled to equal rights under the affirmative action and equal opportunity laws. Students are also protected against unjust or biased academic evaluation, but at the same time, they are**

responsible for maintaining standards of academic performance established for each course in which they are enrolled. See *South Plains College Student Guide*.

### **Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the family and marriage as social institutions through theoretical perspectives.
2. Examine the diversity and complexity of contemporary families.
3. Explore changing cultural attitudes about marriage and alternatives to marriage.
4. Critically evaluate such issues as sexuality, partner choice, resolving marital issues, having and raising children, and combining work with family.
5. Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between theories and research methods used in the scientific study of marriage and family.
6. Describe some of the historical changes and current trends regarding the structural nature of the American family including the role of gender in relationships.
7. Identify causes and consequences of relevant problems within contemporary families.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

#### Communication and Collaboration

- Demonstrate an ability to read, write and speak clearly and concisely
- Value of diversity and differences in people

#### Critical Thinking

- Explore relationships of ideas and see their similarities and differences
- Synthesize diverse concepts to create new ideas
- Ability to integrate ideas across the disciplines and personal life

#### Leadership

- Exhibit personal responsibility and ethical judgment
- Demonstrate professionalism, honesty and integrity

**SPC Mission Statement:** "In order to accomplish its mission, South Plains College is committed to the following purposes: To provide Student he opportunity to learn as a lifelong endeavor; to acquire skills for communications, critical thinking and problem solving; to explore the use of technology; to express creativity; to experience; and to grow socially."

**Coordinating Board Academic Approval: Number 45.1101.54 25**

**Revised Spring 2020**

Note: The information in the Common Course Syllabus applies to all sections of this course taught by all instructors. The following Course Information Sheet includes information that pertains to this section only and it is what you need to help you be successful in this class.

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## Course Information Sheet

Fall 2021 – Internet Section

Instructor: Robert Wood

Office Location: Levelland, Administration Building room 144

Office Location: Reese Campus Building 4 Room 450 Office Phone: 894-9611 ext. 4034

Cell Phone 806-853-0660

Office hours: Levelland 8:15-9:30 AM on Mondays and Wednesdays

Reese- 8:00-11:00 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays and on Fridays from 8-9 AM.

Email address: [rwood@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:rwood@southplainscollege.edu) This is the best way to reach me, regardless of which office I am in at the time. Be sure to include your name and which class you are in. This class is Sociology 2301.

Telephone: (806) 716-4034

**Textbook:** The Marriage and Family Experience: Intimate Relationships in a Changing Society , 14th Edition

Bryan Strong; Theodore F. Cohen

**Attendance Policy:** See College Catalog. In addition, since this course is a virtual classroom, attendance will be taken according to the following:

- Participating in class discussion by posting to the discussion board.
- Taking chapter quizzes on or before the 11:59 PM due dates.
- Turning in assignments on or before the 11:59 PM due date.
- Logging into the class but not submitting work is not considered “attending” class.

**Late work:** No late work is accepted. All work must be submitted in Blackboard by the due dates posted on the calendar to credit. Excuses such as "The network was down," or "I could not figure out how to send the assignment through the assignments function" are not acceptable. In short, plan ahead and do not wait until the last minute to submit your

assignments. It is always okay to turn in assignments and quizzes early although discussion board postings should be done with the calendar schedule.

**Administrative Drop Policy:** Please communicate with me if you know of a situation that will impact your participation for any period of time. Due to Financial Aid and South Plains College requirements for participation/attendance a student who fails to turn in 2 assignments or participate in any 3 weeks of discussions or fails to submit 6 quizzes or fails to log into the course for 2 consecutive weeks during the semester or fails to submit any work for 2 consecutive weeks may be dropped with a grade of "X" or "F" from the course. If missed assignments occur after the final drop date the grade will be the grade earned.

**Blackboard Learn 9** is the computer software used to deliver this course <http://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/> It is essential that you have reliable access to the Internet. It is not necessary to purchase or own your own computer but you should have a backup plan in place should you encounter computer problems. There are open computer labs available to all enrolled SPC students on all campuses. It is also the student's responsibility to have the required computer skills to complete this course. Should you encounter technical difficulties contact the SPC technical support [jetucker@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:jetucker@southplainscollege.edu) or call (806) 716-2180 and/or [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu) . **Be sure to include course and section number information** when contacting technical support. Also, inform your instructor of any technical issues you may have. A note, contact your instructor for any questions you have about course content as technical support is only for issues to do with computer issues or Blackboard performance.

If you are new to the online course environment I encourage you to use the Student Orientation course that is set up for you and the Student Tutorials in MySPC. Check out the resources above before you contact technical support or the instructor. You will find links to the Student Tutorials and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) in the Start Here area of your course under the Technical and Student Support link.

### **Computer Requirements:**

#### Browser Plug-ins and Security Software

Most Web educational experience will require the use of several additional browser plug-ins. The following links will take you to some of the most commonly used tools. It is very highly recommended that you have an anti-virus program on your computer. You may also need Adobe Acrobat for several readings and a multimedia player such as Windows Media Player.

#### MINIMUM Software requirements:

Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or another word processing program capable of saving files in RTF (Rich Text Format). Do NOT submit work in .pages!

Web Browser – Google Chrome is recommended and is available via free download. Mozilla Firefox – free download at <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/new/> or do a search for Firefox.

Internet Explorer is NOT recommended for this version of Blackboard. So if you are using IE and experience problems, try using Firefox before you contact technical support. However, videos may work better using Internet Explorer.



Your course may require special (free) plug-ins to access Streaming Media, PDF files, or other web components.

**More computer requirements:**

Since this course are entirely online, participants are expected to have at least an elementary knowledge of their computer operating system and basic knowledge of software and tools such as a word processor, e-mail, an Internet browser, and search engines.

**Course work: See the course calendar for deadlines. See calendar for deadlines. ALL deadlines are Tuesdays at noon. Also, late work is NOT accepted.**

**Note: Deadlines are DUE dates but you need to set your DO date ahead of the official DUE date.**

**“Get out of Jail Free” Option:**

I will give you 25 points for free if you finish the class. All you have to do is finish. This may sound very nice but in truth it is self-serving. If you call me and say “I forgot to take a quiz can you reopen it?” I will say, “No but your 25 points will help should cover it.” Same thing if you forgot a discussion or a written assignment. Obviously, this works to cover an assignment or two but if you rely on it, you will quickly run out of points and fail the class. This saves you the time of asking for extensions and me the time of saying “no.” I am sure you can all figure out that if you do all the work, then these 25 points just become bonus and raise your grade. That is what I sincerely hope will happen.

There are three main types of assignments required for this course: Online work in MindTap, Module written assignments, and class participation/discussion postings.

**MindTap:** There are multiple activities in MindTap that are all placed there to help you learn the material in a variety of ways. Each chapter will fully close at the same time. For example all MindTap assignments for chapter 8 would close at 11:59 PM on January 1. There will be between 1 and 3 activities (not counting the reading of the chapter) each chapter. There are tutorial videos on navigating MindTap that are linked in the class and I would suggest you watch those as they are very helpful. If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to contact me and ask. Do know that each assignment will count toward your grade and each one you miss can count against you participating in the class. After you miss 6 assignments you may be dropped from the course. **Each chapter MindTap is worth 30 points.**

**Essay Assignments:** For each module, you will have written assignment which should be sent to the instructor only using the assignments function in this course. The specific assignments with options for each chapter are located in the Learning Modules. At least three (3) textbook citations are required and each should include the page number and all outside sources should be documented. In the online version of the textbook page numbers are difficult to get, so as long as you give me the chapter and section (i.e. Chapter 9 section 2.4- that will be fine). See more details and grading standards in the Assignment section of the syllabus. Also, be sure to use the sociological perspective as described later in the syllabus. Late assignments are not accepted. There is an Introduction Assignment in the Introduction Module worth up to **50 points** and there are 4 assignments at **100 points** each for up to **400 points** equaling a total of **450 points**. Drop policy applies if you miss submitting any 2 assignments or fail to participate in

discussions for any 3 weeks or fail to log into the course for 2 consecutive weeks or fail to submit work for 2 consecutive weeks. There is also a final assignment titled *Letter to Future Students* that is worth **50** points.

**Class Participation/Discussion Board postings:** For the first deadline you will have an Introduction post to introduce yourself and replies to 2 other students. After the first deadline you will have an original discussion and 2 replies for each grading period. **For every discussion make your name the title of the initial post so that I can easily see who is responding to you.** For each of the Chapter Discussions you will have a question(s) that relates to what we are working on that week or the past week or two. The discussions are closely tied to the chapters and integrating the text into your discussion posts is ideal. Watch the calendar to make sure that you are getting your posts online on time. You generally will have one week to do the initial post where you fully answer the question(s) asked of you in the discussion prompt. You will then have another week to reply to your classmates posts and fully respond to them. A good response is well thought out, uses the text and is generally at least 6-8 sentences long. "Nice work on your post" by itself is not appropriate and will not get you credit. All discussions are linked to the weekly folders. Also, be sure to use the sociological perspective as described later in the syllabus and use and cite the text. You are doing the discussions to show that you are understanding the material. There are also videos that go with the chapters. They are in the "Course Resources" section. These videos can help you understand the questions better and you can cite them just like the book. On a discussion even if you just write, "In the video about conflict resolution in chapter 5, I learned...." Then that will be fine.

Then, you are to respond to a minimum of two classmates comments. The primary goal for this portion of the course is to "talk" about what you are learning. This is also the place to include personal experiences or observations of others and/or reactions. For the reply postings you should ask questions to encourage other students to think more deeply, constructively disagree at times, apply textbook/course information to others comments, and share your own experiences that relate to the topic of discussion. If you repeat yourself in your reply messages you will only receive partial credit. Also, simply stating "I agree" is not detailed or complex enough to earn points. See more details and rubric in the Discussion section of this syllabus. **I will also give feedback after every discussion. Read the feedback and follow it. If you continue to make the same mistakes over and over it will cost you more points as the class moves along.** These are worth 50 points each - 20 for the original post and 15 for each of the reply posts for up to 350 points. This includes the Introduction Discussion. Discussion posts are not accepted for grading after the initial deadline. Drop policy applies if you miss submitting any 2 assignments or fail to participate in discussions for any 3 weeks, failing to submit 6 quizzes, or failing to submit work for 2 consecutive weeks.

**All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. (This means no "texting" abbreviations or shortcuts!)**

### **Writing Tips:**

1. All written work should be typed or computer generated, double spaced, with one inch margins in a standard 12 pt. font. Please use Word or an RTF for attachments.
2. Any references used should be listed at the end of the paper using APA style and within the body of the text according to APA procedure. Using reference material without proper

documentation constitutes plagiarism which is a serious academic offense. Wikipedia is not considered a valid academic source. Do not use it!

3. For the assignments in this class, it is better to write using third person pronouns. Therefore it is inappropriate to use "I, me, mine" or "he, she, their, we." It is not appropriate to use "you" or "your." Preferred pronouns in formal academic writing would be "One" or phrases like "people". Please avoid writing in 2nd person.

4. Be sure to proofread your work for grammatical and spelling errors. All of the work that you turn in within this class is considered academic work, so to turn in work with slang or that is very informal would not be appropriate and will cost you points off of your score. Also remember that "healthy" paragraphs are usually comprised of at least four sentences organized around a central idea.

**Academic Integrity:** See Common Course Syllabus. Students found guilty of plagiarism in this course will receive a grade of zero (0) for the work in question for the first offense and will be dropped from the course with an "F" should a second offense occur. For further information and examples please see <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/information-for/current-spc-students/library/cslibraryvl/plagiarism.php> or <http://tt.its.psu.edu/plagiarism/tutorial> .

**Student Appeals:** See Common Course Syllabus section.

**Student Conduct:** See Common Course Syllabus section. Also, please note that this is an online environment and others will see your comments posted to the discussion board area and/or in e-mail communications. Do not post any pictures, comments or data that others may find offensive. Since this is an on-line classroom, any e-mails or correspondence sent by the instructor to a student or students are considered lawful directions.

**Equal Opportunity:** See Common Course Syllabus section. In addition, in this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences 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.

South Plains College strives to accommodate the individual needs of all students in order to enhance their opportunities for success in the context of a comprehensive community college setting. It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age. In addition, this instructor will not tolerate remarks nor gestures that can be construed to be sexist, racist, heterosexist or in any way disparaging to another person in this classroom. Students who exhibit such behavior will be dropped from the class with a semester grade of "F" regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, religion, or sexual orientation. . In short, "Bigotry will not be tolerated."

**COVID 19/Serious Illness statement:**

If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, please do not attend class and either seek medical attention or get tested for COVID-19.

- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Muscles or body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste and smell

Please also notify DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at [dedens@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu) or 806-716-2376.

If you test positive for Covid 19 (or some other serious illness) and think it may make it impossible for you to do your school work for a week or two you must contact me as soon as possible. It would be best to contact me before you miss work in the class, not after. I will be as accommodating as I can and still maintain class and academic integrity. That may vary a bit from situation to situation and person to person. But what is most important is that you establish and maintain communication with me so that I know what is going on in order to do what is best for you and for the class.

**Accommodations:** See Common Course Syllabus section.

### **Using the Sociological perspective:**

Students will use what is termed the Sociological Perspective since you are now students of Sociology. This perspective stresses the social context in which people live and steps away from what is termed "person blaming." Sociologists look beyond individuals and individual experiences. This perspective strives to understand human behavior by placing it within its broader social context. Depending on a person's characteristics, gender, age, race, sexual orientation and religion among others, we each have different experiences. Sociologists using this perspective (and that includes you, the student) evaluate people and behaviors in terms of what is typical or atypical (or not typical) by studying society and finding general patterns of behavior. They do NOT judge others or their behaviors with terms such as good/bad, moral/immoral or right/wrong. Do NOT use these terms in your assignments or discussion posts or you will lose points.

### **OTHER INFORMATION:**

**Open Computer Lab:** There is an Open Computer Lab located on the Levelland campus in the Technology Center. It is available to all students, with priority given to those students enrolled in computer classes. Computers are also available on the Reese Center, Lubbock, and Plainview campuses. Check with libraries and labs for hours.

**Technical Problems/Support:** If you are having computer problems, you have to let me know. I will try to help you in any way that I can. Please remember that it is your responsibility to have a

backup plan if your computer goes down. Please have this plan in place now and do not wait until it is a crisis situation.

**PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TURN ASSIGNMENTS IN OR YOU MAY HAVE PROBLEMS! Remember the saying "TECHNOLOGY HAPPENS"!**

Anti-virus Software: Please make sure that your computer has an up-to-date antivirus software program installed.

## **Discussions**

Discussion topics are listed in the Discussion and Video Tool on the left-hand side of the Home page and linked in the Learning modules. Most discussion topics will require viewing a video and the links are provided in the discussion topics instructions. To receive the full 50 points for participation each week you must post an original message and two reply messages. All posts should be at least 6-8 well formed sentences to begin to be eligible for full credit. You will not be given full credit for postings that do not meet this criteria. Also, the use of short, choppy sentences put down that do not show careful thought will NOT earn you full credit. It is appropriate to use sentences like, "I agree" but those sentences do not meet the requirements for grading purposes. See the Grading section below for more information.

All Discussion topics will be listed in the Discussion Tool.

For each discussion topic (including the Introduction post), you will post at least 3 times - an original post and two replies. You are also expected to read the posts of others - this is taken into consideration when grades are posted.

### **Grading for Discussions:**

RUBRIC/EXPECTATIONS - to help you do the best you can, I am providing a grading rubric for the discussion postings and replies.

#### **Original Posts require the following:**

- Direct discussion of how the information in the text or video is related to information in the discussion prompt. Note that a "discussion" is more than just saying something like "they both discuss culture".
- A thoughtful commentary that specifically includes references and/or discussion to the reading, video, and module material; personal connections when relevant; introduces new ideas and questions; and/or thoroughly addresses the topic.
- Post was on-time, includes at least the minimum word count, and is spelling/grammatically correct and used the student's name as the title.

#### **Reply posts require the following:**

- Includes replies that explicitly reference ideas in the post, gives personal commentary in a constructive way, may correct an incorrect posting in a respectful way, elaborates on the ideas and questions posed in the post, reflects a good understanding of the course material, and/or brings up course material that the original post did not include but was relevant.

- Replies should carry the discussion forward in a meaningful way.
- Post was on-time, includes at least the minimum word count, and is spelling/grammatically correct.

**\*\*NOTE:** Simply restating what someone else has stated will not earn you points. You need to put thought into your postings, bring in course work, and a personal connection to receive the maximum points. Correct grammar or syntax is important so be sure that you spell/grammar check AND proofread your posts.

\*Adapted from On-line Teaching: Best Practices, by Professor Marisol Clark-Ibanez, Ph.D and Linda Scott.

**ONLINE ETIQUETTE (Netiquette):** Note, also see Netiquette in the Start Here area of the course.

A few words about communication and online discussion are in order. As you imagine, some conversations easily become emotional, especially if we touch on people's deeply held beliefs. Unfortunately, online postings can mislead one into thinking that cyberspace is an "anything goes" kind of forum. This isn't the case. Civil interaction is as much expected here as in the "traditional" classroom. Below I provide some guidelines for communicating more effectively online. I will deduct points from posts that violate the spirit of these suggestions.

Keep in mind:

- There will be disagreement and this is good, otherwise we will be bored.
- Disagreement can be very constructive; it encourages us to reconsider our own positions and either recommit, expand, or discard them.
- I must at all times hear/see you debating the IDEA and not making a personal attack on an individual. Note that this is a skill to learn like any other - how to debate and get your point heard.
- Personal insults and attacks impede the development of critical thought. Avoid "you" statements, which can be more easily interpreted as accusations ("you don't know what you're talking about", "the problem is people like you," etc., etc.). Try, instead, to use "I" statements ("I disagree with your position on "X" or "I find that Durkheim was actually saying ").
- In addition, people have to be given the benefit of the doubt on occasion. Because this is an online class and we cannot see each other's facial expressions or hear the tone in our voices, it is important to clarify issues that are confusing. Before jumping to a conclusion and putting words in someone's mouth, ask them to clarify their point. And if someone asks you to restate your opinion, do not be afraid to restate it.
- Finally, I will be most impressed with individuals who can incorporate course materials into their posts. A key skill you should leave college with is the ability to support your positions; this online forum is an appropriate place to hone this skill. Refer to readings and module material to support your points.

\*Adapted from Soc 101: Introduction to Sociology An Online Course, by Professor Marisol Clark-Ibanez, Ph.D.

**Drop policy reminder:** A student may be dropped with an X or F if 3 discussion deadlines are missed, 3 essays are not submitted, 6 quizzes are not submitted, **OR** if they fail to submit any work for 2 consecutive weeks.

### Essay Assignments

Each assignment will be a minimum of 500 words, double-spaced (Times New Roman, 12 font) essay assignment for each grading deadline in the course as per the course calendar.

- See the Assignments page for the specific options available for each chapter. Select **ONE** of the options for each assignment. If you write on more than one option, only the first will be graded.
- These should be polished writing assignments which use the written standards of conventional English (i.e. spelling and grammar count!). I should not have to struggle to understand what you are writing.
- Be sure and address textbook information in your assignment. You need to make **at least 3 direct references (with page numbers listed) to course material**. Bring the information into your discussion to show understanding.
- Strive for a balance between personal experiences or examples and textbook information. Do not just make a passing reference with no discussion.
- All outside sources and information, including the textbook, must be correctly cited using APA documentation style. If you do not know how to do this please review the information at <http://employees.csbsju.edu/proske/nursing/APA.htm> or [http://www.vanguard.edu/faculty/ddegelman/index.aspx?doc\\_id=796](http://www.vanguard.edu/faculty/ddegelman/index.aspx?doc_id=796) or <http://tlt.its.psu.edu/plagiarism/tutorial>
- Points are deducted for length, spelling, grammar, paragraph form, etc.

Each assignment (except the Introduction Assignment) has a **Grading Rubric** in the assignment. See the rubric and the point distribution for more information on how assignments are graded.

**Drop policy reminder:** A student may be dropped with an X or F if 3 discussion deadlines are missed, 2 assignments are not submitted, 6 quizzes are not submitted, **OR** if they fail to submit work for 2 consecutive weeks.

### Grading scale:

Grades: It is possible to earn up to 1270 points in this course.

Your grade will be calculated on a cumulative point total based on the following scale:

A=1143 and up for points

B=1016-1142 points

C=889-1015 points

D=762-888 points

F=0–761 points

### Course Calendar/Checklist:

Please see the excel sheet that serves as your calendar for the course and also can help you calculate your grade. It is available on the course home page on Blackboard.