

## South Plains College: Common Course Syllabus

**Department:** Behavioral Science

**Discipline:** Sociology

**Course Number:** Sociology 1306

**Course Title:** Social Problems

**Semester Hour Credit:** 3 Hours; 3 Lecture Hours; 0 Lab Hours (3:3:0)

**This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement:** Yes (Behavioral Science)

**Prerequisites:** none for campus; TSI reading compliance for Internet

**Available Formats:** Conventional and Internet

**Textbook:** Mooney/Knox/Schacht - MindTap Sociology, 1 term (6 months) Printed Access Card, Enhanced for Mooney/Knox/Schacht's Understanding Social Problems, **ISBN: 9781337570657**

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

**Course Specific Instructions:** Internet classes access Blackboard from South Plains College homepage on the first day of the semester. Campus classes may use Blackboard for course material, see instructor's course information sheet for specifics.

**Course description:** Application of sociological principles and theoretical perspectives to major social problems in contemporary society such as inequality, crime and violence, substance abuse, environmental issues, deviance, or family problems.

**Course Purpose/Rationale/Goal:** The purpose of the behavioral science component in the core curriculum is to enable the students to understand and apply sociological theories and concepts as they examine potential problems in human society. To master sociology, students will be able to identify and apply the concepts and principles in the study of group life, social institutions, and social processes.

**Course Requirements:** To maximize the potential to complete this course, students should attend all classes, log into Blackboard multiple times per week, read required textbook/course materials, complete required homework/assignments and/or examinations. See instructor's course information sheet for specifics.

**Course Evaluations:** Refer to Instructor's course information sheet for specifics coursework and grading.

### 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 The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.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.

## **Disability Services Policy:**

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) 806-7162577, Reese Center (Building 8) & Lubbock Center 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611. See *South Plains College General Catalog* for more information.

## **Title IX Statement:**

In accordance with the requirements of the titles of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended in 1992, South Plains College will not exclude or discriminate against any individual with a disability from the full attainment and access to post-secondary education, and equal enjoyment of its services and facilities. The College does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and will provide reasonable accommodations in its policies, practices, or procedures when such modifications are necessary to afford its services and facilities to individuals with disabilities, unless the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of its services. College policy also assures equal opportunity for all qualified persons in admission or participation in, or employment in the activities through which the College operates.

The College maintains that regulations that prohibit exclusion and discrimination on the basis of disability may necessitate different or special treatment of persons with disabilities. Services and benefits should be equally as effective or equivalent to those provided to others. Services and benefits to persons with disabilities must be in the most integrated setting appropriate to the persons' needs in order to be non-discriminatory. More information is available on the College's Disability Services website at <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/health/disabilityservices.php>.

If you believe that an action or decision made by the Disability Services Office violates your rights, you may initiate a grievance procedure. Your first step should be to address the problem with the Coordinator of Disability Services. If you are still not satisfied, you should contact the Director of Health & Wellness. If your concerns are not resolved at this level, the Vice President of Student Affairs can provide direction on further appeals procedures.

Information on student appeals and the academic appeals procedures () are published in the General Catalog at [http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=50&navoid=1361\\_#Student\\_Conduct](http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=50&navoid=1361_#Student_Conduct) and at [http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=50&navoid=1367#Disability\\_Services](http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=50&navoid=1367#Disability_Services). Specific procedures, including ADA/504 complaints, are outlined in the Student Guide at <http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=49&navoid=1320>.

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:

Dr. Stan DeMerritt

Vice President for Student Affairs  
South Plains College  
1401 College Ave., Box 5  
Levelland, Texas 79336  
(806) 716-2360

[sdemerritt@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:sdemerritt@southplainscollege.edu)

## **Title IX Pregnancy 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.

## 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.

**More Information About Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
- Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
- Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
- Missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
- Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
- Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
- Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
- Taking an examination for another;
- Altering grade records;
- Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
- Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
- Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

## Tobacco Products:

South Plains College prohibits the use of any tobacco product, electronic cigarette, or vapor device throughout all indoor areas and within a 25 foot perimeter around all facility entrances, exits and HVAC air intake vents under the control of SPC, including sporting facilities and SPC vehicles. Included in this ban are tobacco products of all types (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff and all other kinds and forms of tobacco prepared in such a manner to be suitable for spit tobacco use, smoking, or both). This ban also includes herbal tobacco products and simulated tobacco products that imitate or mimic tobacco products such as e-cigarettes, vapor cigarettes, pipes or other types of inhalation devices.

## **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.

## **Face Covering and COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations:**

This semester, students are not required to wear face coverings nor are they required to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine to attend classes. Even so, we highly encourage students to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the SPC and TTU community. Such behaviors specifically include properly wearing CDC-compliant face coverings while in SPC buildings including in classrooms, labs, hallways, and restrooms. We also highly recommend students get the COVID-19 vaccine.

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.

## **Campus Carry:**

Governor Abbott recently signed into law the Texas Firearm Carry Act of 2021, which has been commonly referred to as the "Constitutional Carry Law." As a result, effective Sept. 1, 2021, persons 21 or older to carry a holstered handgun in public without a handgun permit or license to carry. It is important to clarify, that this new law, does not remove the requirement to possess a valid Texas License to Carry to lawfully carry a concealed firearm into a South Plains College building, and it does not allow for the open carry of a firearm into an SPC building by anyone other than a Texas Peace officer in commission of duties and South Plains College Security Guards in Commission of duties. Again, you still must possess a valid Texas License to Carry (LTC) to carry a concealed handgun into an SPC building and still cannot open carry at any time in any SPC building. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

## **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:**

1. 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:

1. 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:
2. A request for a formal appeals hearing.
3. A brief statement of what is being appealed.
4. The basis for the appeal.
5. 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.

#### **Non-Discrimination Policy:**

As part of its commitment to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment free from discrimination, South Plains College complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments and Texas Education Code 51 Subchapter E-3, which prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon sex in an institution's education programs and activities. Title IX prohibits sexual harassment, including sexual violence, of employees or students at South Plains College sponsored activities and programs whether occurring on or off campus. Title IX also protects third parties, such as visiting student athletes, from sexual harassment or sexual violence in South Plains College's programs and activities. Prohibited harassment includes acts of verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation or hostility based on sex, even if those acts do not involve conduct of a sexual nature; sex-based harassment by those of the same sex; and discriminatory sex stereotyping. South Plains College will take prompt action to investigate and resolve reports of sexual harassment or sexual violence in accordance with Title IX.

South Plains College's Title IX Coordinator information is as follows:

Dr. Stan DeMerritt

Vice President for Student Affairs

Student Service Building

Levelland, TX 79336

(806) 716-2360

[sdemerritt@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:sdemerritt@southplainscollege.edu)

More information regarding SPC's Title IX policy on Sexual and Gender-based Misconduct can be found at <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/about/campussafety/sah.php>.

**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. Describe how the sociological imagination can be used to explain the emergence and implications of contemporary social problems.
2. Explain the nature of social problems from at least one sociological perspective, e.g., critical, functional, interpretive, etc.
3. Identify multidimensional aspects of social problems including the global, political, economic, and cultural dimensions of social problems.
4. Discuss how solutions to social problems are often contentious due to diverse values in society.
5. Describe how the proposed solutions to a social problem, including social policies, may bring rise to other social problems.

**Student Learning Outcomes Assessment:** See instructor’s course information sheet for information on assessment that may include the following: pretests and posttests, quizzes, discussions, essays and/or other types of assessment tools.

**Course Evaluations:** Refer to instructor’s course information sheet for specifics on coursework and grading.

**Core Objectives:**

- **Communication skills-** to include effective written, oral and visual communication.
- **Critical thinking skills-** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Empirical and Quantitative skills-** to include the ability to apply, analyze, and draw conclusions based on scientific and mathematical concepts.
- **Social Responsibility-** to include the demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- Texas Coordinating Board Approval Number..... 45.1101.52 25

## Instructor Syllabus Information

Dr. Sherley Rios

Office: AD 130 (Levelland Campus) Drane Hall 341 (TTU Campus)

**srios@southplainscollege.edu**

Phone (806) 716-2256 leave a voice mail

### Office Hours

Should you have questions that need immediate and/or private attention I am available in my Texas Tech office Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30am-10:30 pm and Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00a-12:00pm (noon) in my Levelland office. These office hours will be offered virtually as well via Blackboard (see course Virtual Office Hours link in Blackboard). You may also schedule an appointment by email.

### Communication with Instructor via Email

Should you have questions about assignments, personal matters and course material, **please use SPC's official email to contact the instructor**. SPC email is the official means of communication between professors and students. Be sure that you are using your official SPC email when contacting the instructor. Be advised that although I am available via email any time during the semester, I am not always able to respond to emails quickly, especially if you email during non-business hours (after 5pm or on weekends). If you have questions about what to do if you are quarantined or are COVID-19 positive, please see COVID-19 policies in the Course Resources link in Blackboard.

### Communication with Students

Communication with students regarding class assignments, exams, or other information, will be done via Course Announcements. These will populate beneath the course title in Blackboard and a copy of the announcement will be sent to your SPC email. If you see an announcement in Blackboard, simply click on the title of the announcement link and it will reroute you to the specific announcement contents. It is important that you check these announcements when they are sent out, which means frequent logging into Blackboard and your SPC email account.

### Required Materials

- **A MindTap access code is required for this course.**
- **Textbook:** Mooney/Knox/Schacht - MindTap Sociology, 1 term (6 months) Printed Access Card, Enhanced for Mooney/Knox/Schacht's Understanding Social Problems, ISBN: 9781337570657
- Blackboard Learn 9.1 website
- You may find the textbook from other sources but make sure the price includes MindTap access or you will need to purchase a code separately from Cengage Publishing.

### General Expectations/Policies for Students:

*I would like to welcome all students to this course. I consider it an honor that you have chosen to be in my course. I want to thank you in advance for the time and hard work that you will put into this learning experience. One of the keys to being successful in college is to maintain communication with your instructor. Feel free to email if I can help you be successful in this course. I wish you all the luck this semester and hope that the grade that you achieve in this course will reflect the effort you put into it; we are here to work cooperatively and to learn together.*

*In order to create a smooth and harmonious online learning community, please make every attempt to keep up with all modules. This includes keeping up with the fast-pace of this course and complete all assignments and exams on time.*

If you miss a class meeting for any reason, YOU are responsible for all material covered, for announcements made in your absence, and for acquiring any materials that may have been distributed in class. I do NOT give out my notes so you will need to get those from another student.

Class lectures are face to face. During lectures, please silence all background noise like televisions, music, and cell phones. Please consult the instructor if there is a situation where your cell phone must be available. If background noise and distracting behavior occurs during lecture, the student will be asked to "leave" the class session. Repeated offenses thereafter will result in a course drop. It is imperative that class time be used for learning.

## Course Plan Information & Delivery

Please note that this is a tentative plan which could (and likely will) change if there is a need due to COVID-19. Please be aware that the plan below is the one that I have chosen for my classes and other professors might choose different plans based on their unique situation (including the needs of their students). Based on my level of comfort with technology, the technological access of my average student, and other factors that impact my COVID-19 risks, I believe the model below gives the greatest balance of the traditional face-to-face experience, flexibility in case one or more members of the class need to quarantine (or I need to quarantine), options for those of you who cannot safely come to campus, and options for those of you with limited access to technology. Trying to balance all of these concerns was the priority in creating this plan.

This class will be following a fully face-to-face where you have to be physically present in the classroom to receive the course lectures. Because of COVID-19 we will honor the following structure:

- Starting at the beginning of the semester, we will meet in a classroom (see your schedule). These sessions are imperative for discussing how to be successful in this course, going over what is expected for the rest of the semester, and attending lectures. Attendance is necessary.
- Classes will also be simultaneously recorded so that students with excused absences may watch a class. This is not a substitute for showing up to class either in person or virtually since excused absences must have documentation (see Attendance and COVID-19 Policies).
- There will be assignments each week which have to be submitted via Blackboard or in person depending on the assignment.
- Course information (e.g., syllabus, schedule, assignments, papers, projects, media and potential student handouts) is accessed through the Blackboard website. The student is responsible for any and all information that is posted on this site. If the student has questions/comments about this information, then she/he should contact the instructor (via SPC email).

## Course Requirements

You are responsible for viewing and reading all lecture material, assigned readings, and assignments. You are expected to read the syllabus and be familiar with its contents. You are responsible for all material covered in this course including exams and keeping up with the course schedule.

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. Firefox is the recommended and supported browser for Blackboard. 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 instructor first, and/or the SPC technical support call (806) 894-9611, ext. 2180. Be sure to include course and section number information when contacting technical support.

## Attendance & Late Work

**Late work is not allowed!** If you need to miss any portion of the course assignments (although not advised) please let the instructor know in advance, within 3 days of missing. If you miss "class" and have an SPC approved excuse (i.e., you are representing SPC at an official school function or celebrating a religious holy day) or a notice of absence from the Office of the Dean of Students, it is your responsibility to provide the **written excuse** from the school. In the case of an excused absence, you are still responsible for all readings, work, materials, and assignments that were missed. After contacting the instructor, upon approval, a new due date will be given for either the original assignment or an alternative assignment of equal value. If the student fails to meet the revised due date, then she/he will be given a zero (0) for the assignment.

[What does attendance class mean in an online course?](#)

Attendance in this course is the active submission of work before the schedule due date (on-time). Each non-submission of an assignment or exam is counted as an absence. See Attendance Policy in Common Course Syllabus regarding absences.

## 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.

## Computer Requirements

Browser Plug-ins and Security Software: Most Web educational experience will require the use of several additional browser plug-ins. 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. Firefox is the supported browser for Blackboard. SPC students are offered Office 365 which includes Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and storage on OneDrive. Please download and use it! Since this course is entirely online, participants are expected to have at least an elementary knowledge of their microcomputer operating system and basic knowledge of software and tools such as a word processor, e-mail, an Internet browser, and search engines.

## Logging into Blackboard

To access your course, go to <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/> or go to the SPC Homepage and click on the "Login to" link in the top right-hand portion of the page and then click on the Blackboard link on the pull-down or you can type or copy the address into the address window of your computer. I recommend that you bookmark Blackboard on your computer for quick access. You can also log into MySPC and there is a Blackboard link there. Once you reach the site you will click "Log In". The log-in screen will come up asking for your user name and password. Simply follow the instructions on the screen. It is a good idea to bookmark the Blackboard login page on your computer so that you may access it quickly and efficiently.

## 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, let the instructor know as soon as possible. I will try to help in any way I can. Please remember that it is **the student's responsibility to have a backup plan for technical issues**. It is advised to have a plan in place now and do not wait until it is a crisis.

- Most tech issues are related to failure to update java, using the incorrect internet browser (try use Google Chrome or Firefox instead of Internet Explorer), and/or not deleting browsing history files daily. Most issues are related to computer issues, not Blackboard. Make sure that your computer has an up-to-date antivirus software program installed. Please note this instructor does NOT recommend use of any handheld devices like a cell phone for taking this course.
- **SPC Technical Support Contact:** Call (806) 716-2180 or email at [Blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:Blackboard@southplainscollege.edu) for student technical support. I am your course work support contact. Only call or e-mail technical support with questions about Blackboard or computer functioning. There is Technical Support information in the Start Here area of your Blackboard course. It contains links to Student Tutorials and the Student Orientation Course for Blackboard. Contact me for any course content information.

## Extra Credit Activities

Extra credit opportunities will not be offered throughout the course session. However, there are three additional tasks, the Course Participation Agreement, Syllabus Quiz, and Course Evaluation which will be given additional points added to your grade upon completion (See Grading section for breakdown of points). Very rarely will extra credit be given. Please note that in the event that it is given, the points may not be significant enough to bump your grade up a letter but will be enough to supplement an assignment's low grade. Do not depend on extra credit to completely "fix" your overall grade.

## Class Withdrawal

It is the full responsibility of the student to personally withdraw from the course if needed. A student who has already missed modules, assignments, or exams, had difficulty adequately completing assignments and exams and/or anticipates difficulty in completing the course to his/her satisfaction is encouraged to give withdrawal all the consideration it is due. A student is encouraged to discuss her/his progress with the instructor prior to making a withdrawal decision. Per SPC's attendance policies, the instructor reserves the right to drop a student for excessive absences according to SPC guidelines. In this case, the student will receive a grade of 'F' for the course.

## Academic Integrity

In addition to the policy in the Common Course Syllabus, it should be understood that students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will earn a zero on the work in question for the first offense and will be dropped from the course with an 'F' should a second offense occur. Any amount of dishonesty is subject to these consequences, whether a lot or a little; this can include but is not limited to: one copied sentence of a written assignment, a missing citation, an entire paper copied from someone/somewhere else, one plagiarized post on a discussion board, one copied exam item, looking at the scantron of another student during an exam or an exam or other coursework completed by someone other than yourself. You have also committed academic dishonesty when sharing course content/items/answers. This includes sharing course content with classmates or future students as well as sharing course content on websites such as Quizlet, Course Hero, or similar "study applications." For further information and examples please see the Catalog, Student Guide, or refer to [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org)

## Administrative Drop Policy

Due to Financial Aid and South Plains College requirements for participation/attendance a student who fails to turn in 5 assignments during the semester may be dropped with a grade of "X" from the course. If missed assignments occur after the final drop date the grade will be "F." Assignments in this context refer to the MindTap chapter assignments as well as application assignments.

## Syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus if necessary. In these rare cases, students will be notified of any changes in advance.

## APA Style

There are many resources for how to write according to the (APA) American Psychological Association's style guidelines. You should refer to the APA Publication Manual 7th Edition for a full explanation. The SPC library website has resources for writing in APA format.

## Methods for Assessing the Expected Learning Outcomes

The expected learning outcomes for the course will be assessed through exams and application assignments. Grades are based on the quality of the work that has been submitted, not the existence of a submission. This means that grades are earned based on proof of mastery of the major concepts.

## Grading: 1,000 Possible Earned Points (write down your grade in the blanks for easy calculation)

Course Participation Agreement (available in Blackboard) \_\_\_\_\_ (5 extra credit points)

Course Evaluation \_\_\_\_\_ (5 extra credit points)

Syllabus Quiz (available in Blackboard) \_\_\_\_\_ (15 extra credit points)

MindTap (MT#) and Application Assignments (A#)  
(20 total/25 pts each/500) \_\_\_\_\_

MT1 \_\_\_\_\_

MT2 \_\_\_\_\_

MT3 \_\_\_\_\_

MT4 \_\_\_\_\_

MT5 \_\_\_\_\_

MT6 \_\_\_\_\_

MT7 \_\_\_\_\_

MT8 \_\_\_\_\_

MT9 \_\_\_\_\_

MT10 \_\_\_\_\_

Exam 1 (100) \_\_\_\_\_

Exam 2 (100) \_\_\_\_\_

Exam 3 (100) \_\_\_\_\_

Exam 4 (100) \_\_\_\_\_

A1 \_\_\_\_\_

A2 \_\_\_\_\_

A3 \_\_\_\_\_

A4 \_\_\_\_\_

A5 \_\_\_\_\_

A6 \_\_\_\_\_

A7 \_\_\_\_\_

A8 \_\_\_\_\_

A9 \_\_\_\_\_

A10 \_\_\_\_\_

Film Paper (100 pts) \_\_\_\_\_

**A = 900 – 1,000**

**B = 800 – 859**

**C = 700 – 759**

**D = 600 – 659**

**F = 0 – 559**

\_\_\_\_\_ earned / 1,000 possible  
points total

**\*Please expect a 7-day grading turnaround  
for all assignments and exam**

## **Exams & Assignments**

### Reading Assignments

It is expected that you read the assigned chapter readings before coming to class. This will facilitate class discussion and activities. If it is clear to me that students are not completing their reading assignments, I reserve the right to alter the syllabus to add pop quizzes into your final grade. Therefore, it is in your best interest to read and be ready to apply your knowledge in class and in the assignments. Assigned readings are listed in the schedule portion of the syllabus as well as under the Course Schedule tab in Blackboard.

### MindTap Assignments

There will be MindTap assignments throughout the semester. There are 10 MindTap assignments total which will cover individual chapters. The MindTap assignments will not cover all of the chapters in the textbook so it is important that students only complete MindTap assignments which are outlined in the schedule. Typically if there is a "skipped" chapter, there is an Application Assignment due for the missing chapter. These assignments will be accessed and turned in via Blackboard.

### Application Assignments

Throughout the course you will be required to work on various Application Assignments. All assignments must be done independently, must be typed, and due according to the schedule. Hand-written and scanned, emailed, or late assignments will NOT be allowed. Application Assignments are the only assignments which can be resubmitted with corrections. If a student chooses the option to "Re-do" an Application Assignment, it will be due the following class day after students receive their initial grade. The "Re-do" grade, whether greater or lower than the initial submission, will be recorded as the final grade for that Application Assignment.

### Film Paper

A film paper will be required in this course. For the film paper, you will be given approximately 3 weeks to complete. Late submissions will not be allowed.

The film paper is intended for you to apply, analyze, and discuss the lecture material as it appears in film. Academic writing should be used at all times and it is expected that all students discuss the topics in academic and respectful terms as outlined in the student code of conduct and policies. Should any student not abide by these rules in discussion, the student will receive a '0' (zero) for the assignment for the first offense. Any offense thereafter, the student may be dropped from the course.

### Exams

There will be 4 non-cumulative exams during the semester. The exams will cover material presented in class, as well as assigned readings or media. Exams will include only a multiple-choice format. All exams will be completed by the due date on the schedule and you may use your notes and textbooks. Sharing notes and books will NOT be allowed. Completion of any test with the help of anyone else may result in a 0 on the exam and an 'F' in the course.

NOTE: Make-up exams for the first 3 exams will be given only in extreme situations and will only be given if you notify me prior to exam day that you will not be able to complete the exam within the 24 hour time period. Make-up exams may be of a different format than the original tests. If you are permitted to take a make-up exam, you will take it at a mutually agreed upon time, as soon after the original exam as possible. I will not allow you to make up an exam if I have not been notified prior to the exam day about your absence. The final exam will not be given at any time other than SPC's officially scheduled final exam day and time. See class schedule. Please plan your travel arrangements accordingly.

## **Diversity Statement**

In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group difference and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

## **Civility in the Classroom**

To create and preserve a classroom atmosphere that optimizes teaching and learning, each student shares a responsibility in creating a civil and non-disruptive forum. The student is expected to conduct herself/himself at all times in this classroom in a manner that does not disrupt teaching or learning. In order to assure that all students have an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, each student is prohibited from using cellular phones/beepers/pagers/MP3s/Ipods, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers/non-class materials, sleeping, excessive/loud talking, talking during exams, using tobacco products or engaging in any other form of distraction in the classroom. The student who engages in such behaviors during course assignments (e.g., exams, papers, group projects) will not be permitted to complete or make-up the assignment and will be given a grade of zero (0) for the assignment. In addition, the instructor has the right to limit classroom discussion in order to meet the educational objectives of the class session. The instructor is authorized to take such steps as are necessary if the behavior of the student disrupts the normal classroom procedure. The instructor may remove the student for the single class session in which disruptive behavior becomes continuous and/or serious, and may begin disciplinary proceedings. (Refer to the *South Plains College Student Conduct Guide*, available on the South Plains College website.) If the student engages in repeated deviations from expected classroom behavior, then he/she may be dropped from the course. Violations of the *Student Conduct Guide* may result in serious sanctions, up to and including expulsion.

## **Sensitive Nature of Sociology Courses**

Given the dynamics of individual, relational, familial, societal and cultural development and issues, behavioral studies courses address many sensitive issues; this course is no exception. Lifespan and relational issues occur in the context of sexual, racial/ethnic, political, religious/spiritual, economic/social class, and disability/challenge concerns. The discussion of such issues will increase the student's knowledge of developmental conditions in the modern world, but the information can be emotionally charged. It is also likely that the student will be exposed to diverse viewpoints; some viewpoints might differ substantially from the student's personal views. If the student chooses to remain in class, then she/he will be expected to respect the diverse viewpoints represented in course material, as well as the viewpoints of his/her classmates. If the student is easily offended by discussion of such issues, then he/she should consider whether to remain enrolled in the course.

## **Revelation of Personal Information**

This course addresses topics that are personal in nature. The student is encouraged to participate in class discussion/presentations, but the student is not required to share personal information with classmates. Also, the student is advised to use discretion in self-disclosure with classmates and the instructor. It is anticipated that fellow students will be respectful and not disclose information that is shared in class, but the instructor cannot guarantee confidentiality of information that the student shares with classmates. Thus, the student is responsible for the information that he/she shares, and should not share information that he/she does not want others to know.