

**Course Syllabus**  
**SOCI 1313.02 Principles of Sociology**  
**Fall, 2012**  
**MWF 3-3:50 Hinton-Rm#125**  
**Houston Baptist University**  
**College of Arts and Humanities**  
Dept. Chair: Dr. Renata Nero  
Interim Dean: Dr. Chris Hammons

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This survey course is a study of the nature of social relations, social institutions, social processes, and the products of these relationships. The nature of culture, communications, socialization, mobility, social control and other sociological concepts are considered. It is strongly recommended that this course be taken prior to all other sociology courses.

*Principles of Sociology* is designed to be a course that will help you to think differently about the world in which you live. This course is a study of the nature of social relations, social institutions, and social processes, and of the products of these relationships. The nature of culture, communications, socialization, mobility, social control and other sociological concepts are considered as well.

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

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Office Hours: M,W,F 11-12. 2-3; T,R 10-11, 2:30-3:30

**LEARNING RESOURCES**

Required Course Text:  
Kendall, Diana. (2008). ***Sociology in Our Times: The Essentials (7<sup>th</sup> Ed.)***. Belmont, CA: Thompson-Wadsworth. ISBN 0-495-59862-3

Supplementary Text:  
Howard, Eve L. (2007). ***Classical Readings in Sociology: (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.)***. Belmont, CA: Thomas Wadsworth. ISBN 0-495-18739-9

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

**Overview/ purpose of the course**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the discipline of sociology. Students will develop an appreciation of the social and cultural determinants of human behavior. Individual attitudes and behavior are considered within the social context. This context ranges from the small group, or micro-level of analysis, to the broad societal / institutional, or macro-level of analysis. Students will also gain an understanding of sociological theory, method and application.

**Aims of the Course:** After taking this course students should be prepared to; (1)

become active citizens, (2) develop their sociological imaginations (think differently), and (3) enhance their personal effectiveness as members of social systems.

**Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:**

1. Apply the concept of the sociological imagination to a variety of personal troubles in order to better understand social causes and connections.
2. Differentiate each sociological paradigm in their various explanations of social phenomena.
3. Summarize basic quantitative and qualitative research methodologies.
4. Define culture and explain its function for social survival.
5. Describe the cultural mechanisms that enable individuals to become social constructs.
6. Explain the phenomena of social groups and the ways in which groups enable social interaction.
7. Explain the nature of deviance and describe its most common forms.
8. Summarize the ways that societies reproduce social arrangements that are fundamentally unequal and stratified according to power, prestige and property.
9. Analyze the relationship between prejudice, stereotype and discrimination and their effects on racial and ethnic interaction.
10. Distinguish between sex and gender and explain their sociological significance.
11. Define and describe the evolution of the social institution of the family.
12. Describe the patterns and processes society uses to survive and perpetuate.
13. Explain the major ways in which society undergoes change and evolution.

**Proficiencies:**

**1. Technology:**

- A. Students will use current communication technology available to them as students at HBU to send and receive course related materials through email
  - B. Critical course lectures and presentations will be made to students using PowerPoint presentation technology
  - C. Students will be required to use the internet as a tool for course related data collection assignments
2. **Writing:** Students will submit original, coherent, grammatically correct papers and written assignments for the course.
  3. **Reading:** Students are required to read books, articles, and handouts related to course work.
  4. **Oral Communication:** Students are required to informally make class presentations and group dialogues related to their ongoing understanding in the course.
  5. **Critical Thinking:** Learning to think theoretically and sociologically about the social environment is a form of critical thinking that students will develop.

## RELATION TO THE PURPOSE STATEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

The mission of Houston Baptist University is to provide a learning experience that instills in students a passion for academic, spiritual, and professional excellence as a result of our central confession, "Jesus Christ is Lord."

In accordance with the University purpose (including its commitment to academic excellence, the Christian faith, personal growth, respect for all persons, a sense of community, and career preparation), this course endeavors to:

1. Provide a supportive atmosphere for students from all backgrounds that fosters intellectual and social interaction in the teaching-learning processes
2. Encourage academic excellence, freedom and objectivity
3. Promote the development of critical and creative thinking, responsibility, and continuing interest in learning

## RELATION TO COLLEGE GOALS AND PURPOSES

This course is designed to support the mission of the College of Arts and Humanities: *"To develop intellectual, moral and aesthetic growth in its students."*

The objectives, learning activities, assessment procedures and classroom environment for this course support these beliefs:

1. Treat students with respect and kindness.
2. Assessment and standards should be consistent, challenging, fair, and performance-based.
3. Students should be actively involved in the learning process with activities designed for a variety of learning styles.
4. Students will have the opportunity to develop interpersonal communication, critical thinking, and technology skills.

## RELATION TO DEPARTMENTAL GOALS AND PURPOSES

*SOCI 1313: Principles of Sociology* is a required course in the sociology program of the College of Arts and Humanities. This course will help students to achieve these

### **Sociology Program Goals:**

1. Communicate effectively about society and social issues
2. Think critically, analytically, and logically about social issues and social problems.
3. Understand and use sociological principles, concepts and theories to examine social experiences.
4. Apply sociological theory and methods to social experiences.

*The program will encourage student enrollment by maintaining currency in the discipline.*

## **ATTENDANCE**

Please see the official Attendance Policy in the HBU Classroom Policy on Blackboard. Students missing more than 25% of the class will be given a failing grade.

## ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS

Students needing learning accommodations should inform the professor immediately and consult the Academic Accommodations section of the HBU Classroom Policy posted on Blackboard.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADE SCALE

Course requirements:

Students will be responsible for completion of the following activities in order to receive a grade for this class:

1. Completing all examinations in the course.
2. Written accounts of the class assignments.
3. Students will be actively involved in the class sessions and offer suggestions and feedback to other students concerning the assignments.

Grading standards:

The grade for this course will be determined on the basis of points earned on the various components of the course. Grades will be earned as follows:

Excellent	A	90%
Good with deficiencies	B	80%
Fair with major deficiencies	C	70%
Barely meets requirements	D	60%
Does not meet requirements	F	(Below 60%)

Grading Distribution:

The point total for the quarter = 550 points.  
Four Exams (100points each) = 400 points  
4 Quizzes (25points each) = 100 points  
>>> (Class Times and Days for Quizzes: **To Be Determined**) <<<

Attendance and Participation = 50 points  
>>> (Students attendance will provide a baseline range of possible points) <<<  
0-3 absences = eligible for 30-50 points based on participation/professionalism  
4-5 absences = eligible for 0-30 points based on participation/professionalism  
6 or more absences = 0 points based on participation/professionalism  
Students who miss 1/4<sup>th</sup> of classes will receive an "F" for the course

Students who are late to class or leave early will be marked tardy. 2 Tardy marks will equal one absence.

## LATE WORK & TEST POLICY

### Late Work

1. Work that is emailed will receive a 25% penalty (Even if it is emailed before the due date). In addition, work turned in late will receive a 5% penalty starting the first minute it is late. Work turned in late will receive an additional 5% penalty for each additional 24hr period it's late.
2. All course work must be turned in by the last day of class. No work beyond what is due for the final will be accepted after the last day of class – no exceptions will be made.

### Missed Tests

NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN UNLESS PRIOR APPROVAL IS GIVEN BY THE PROFESSOR WELL IN ADVANCE (AT LEAST 5 DAYS) OF THE EXAM.

**TOPICAL OUTLINE**

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>Kendall Text</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENTS</u>
Aug 20	The Sociological Perspective and Research Process 3 PARADIGMS	(Chpt.1)	Quiz TBD ↓
Aug 27	Culture	(Chpt. 2)	
Sept 3	Socialization Social Structure	(Chpt. 3)	
<i>September 5th last day to drop without a "W"</i>			
Sept 10	Social Interaction in Everyday Life	(Chpt. 4)	
<b>EXAM ONE Friday September 14<sup>th</sup></b>			
Sept 17	Deviance and Crime Review	(Chpt. 6)	Quiz TBD ↓
Sept 24	Class and Social Stratification	(Chpt. 7)	
Oct 1	Social Class in the United States	(Chpt. 7)	
Oct 8	Race and Ethnicity Inequality	(Chpt. 9)	
<b>EXAM TWO Friday October 12<sup>th</sup></b>			
Oct 15	Sex and Gender	(Chpt. 10)	Quiz TBD ↓
Oct 22	FAMILY and Intimate Relationships	(Chpt. 11)	
<i>October 26<sup>th</sup> last day to drop with a "W"</i>			
Oct 29	Politics and Economy in Global Perspective	(Chpt. 13)	

## EXAM THREE Wednesday November 7<sup>th</sup>

Nov 12	Demography Population, Urbanization	(Chpt. 15)	Quiz TBD 
Nov 19	Collective Behavior Social Movements Social Change: Traditional, Modern, and Postmodern Societies	(Chpt. 16)	
Nov 26	Postmodern and Contemporary Society		

### FINAL EXAM

**To Be Determined: See Final Exam Schedule on HBU Website**

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Student Signature – I have read and understand the syllabus for this class. I understand that the content of this syllabus and the topical outline are subject to change at the discretion of the professor. I have read and understand the HBU Classroom Policy posted on Black Board. **I promise to uphold the Code of Academic Integrity at Houston Baptist University and will not tolerate its violation by others.**