



**Sociology 1301.301CL**  
**Introduction to Sociology**  
**Fall 2023**

**Monday and Wednesday, 7:10 – 8:30 am (League City Campus, Rm. 133)**

**Instructor:** Will Bryerton, Ph.D.    [wbryerton@com.edu](mailto:wbryerton@com.edu)    409.933.8954 (office)

**Instructor Access, Student Hours, and Location**

Your success in this class is important to me and I am happy to answer questions and offer guidance toward your improved performance in the course. The best way to contact me is via e-mail at [wbryerton@com.edu](mailto:wbryerton@com.edu). Generally speaking, you can expect a response from me within a few hours as long as your e-mail is sent during standard business hours (9 am - 5 pm on weekdays). E-mails sent outside of these hours will still be tended to but may result in a longer response time.

My office is located at the Texas City campus in room A-223 of the Learning Resource Center; my “office hours” for this class are on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. I will be available before and after class (at the League City Campus) to address questions or concerns. If you’d like to meet privately and/or virtually, please send an e-mail stating when you would like to meet. If there is an urgent concern, you may call or text me at (847) 525-2283.

**Textbook**

*Society in Focus: An Introduction to Sociology*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, by William E. Thompson, Hickey, Joseph V., and Thompson, Mica L. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. (ISBN-13: 978-1538116227)

**Course Description**

This class examines the scientific study of human society, including ways in which groups, social institutions, and individuals affect each other. Causes of social stability and social change are explored through the application of various theoretical perspectives, key concepts, and related research methods of sociology. Analysis of social issues in their institutional context may include topics such as social stratification, gender, race/ ethnicity, and deviance.

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## Course requirements

- 2 Response Papers: Students will write two papers, each in response to a prompt about material covered in the preceding weeks. Papers will consist of four-to-six paragraphs no less than 2-pages in length (1.5- or double-spaced).
- 2 Quizzes: Students will take a quiz after the first quarter and the third quarter of the course. These quizzes cover material only from these portions of the course and are comprised almost entirely of multiple-choice questions, although true-or-false and matching questions may appear as well.
- 2 Exams: Students will take a midterm and a final exam. Like the quizzes, these exams are comprised almost entirely of multiple-choice questions, though some true-or-false or matching questions may also appear. Unlike the quizzes, these exams are cumulative in nature, meaning that any material previously covered in the course prior to the exam can appear on the exam.

\*\*\* Further details, instructions, and due dates for each of these requirements can be found in the Start Here module in D2L Brightspace at [com.brightspace.com](http://com.brightspace.com)

## Determination of Course Grade / Grading Formula

Response Papers: 40 points (2 papers accounting for 20 points apiece)

Quizzes: 20 points (2 quizzes accounting for 10 points apiece)

Exams: 40 points (A midterm and final exam, each worth 20 points)

Maximum overall point value: 100

A = 90-100; B = 80-89.9; C = 70-79.9; D = 60-69.9; F = 0-59.9

## Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus and course calendar during the course. Should any modifications be made, the instructor will notify students in writing (via an announcement in D2L Brightspace) of the changes.

## Late Work and Quiz / Exam Make-Ups

### *Late Response Papers*

Students who do not submit a response paper by the deadline (posted in D2L Brightspace) can submit it late for a 50% reduction in points. A *Complete with Deficiencies* paper, for instance, will receive 7 points instead of 14. A *Complete* paper will receive 10 points instead of 20. An *incomplete* paper will receive 2.5 points instead of 5.

### *Quiz / Exam Make-Ups*

If a student knows in advance that he/she/they will not be able to take a quiz or exam, the student should notify the instructor via e-mail to schedule an alternative testing time. If a student is not present for a quiz or exam and has not arranged an alternative testing time with the

instructor, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor and request a make-up. “Make-ups” for missed quizzes / exams will be allowed only if there is an unforeseen circumstance beyond the student’s control that prevented the student from taking the quiz / exam. The instructor reserves the right to grant or deny requests to make-up the missed quiz / exam.

**Extra Credit**

Opportunities to earn extra credit will be offered throughout the semester. Extra credit opportunities / assignments are optional and may consist of watching a documentary or video clip and contributing to a discussion board or writing a short essay in response to a prompt. The due dates of these extra credit opportunities will be posted in D2L Brightspace. Extra credit assignments submitted after the due date will not be eligible to receive any points. The instructor reserves the right to forestall granting credit extra credit until a student has completed response papers or quizzes / exams that have not been submitted (This is to prevent students from neglecting the course’s required work and using extra credit as a way to “cushion” their grade.)

**Attendance Policy**

The instructor will keep a record of student attendance and students are expected to attend class regularly. Students are responsible for material covered during their absences, and it is the student’s responsibility to consult with the instructor or another student regarding material that was presented when the student was not present. If a student does not attend two or more class meetings, the instructor reserves the right to withhold (i.e., not share) lecture notes from the missed classes.

Students who have not attended class before the Wednesday, Sept. 13 Census Date will be dropped from the course.

This is a face-to-face class and important announcements will be communicated in the classroom, but I recommend logging-in to D2L Brightspace and entering the course daily (at least on weekdays) to check announcements and view upcoming due dates.

For information about withdrawing from the class, please see the Withdraw Policy (p. 6).

**Communicating with your instructor**

All electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via D2L Brightspace.)

**Course Learning Outcomes**

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via...</b>
1. Compare and contrast the basic theoretical perspectives of sociology	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Quarter 1 Quiz, Midterm, and Final Exam

2. Identify the various methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data in sociology	Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)	Midterm, Quarter 3 Quiz, and Final Exam
3. Describe key concepts in sociology	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	All quizzes, exams, and response papers
4. Describe the empirical findings in various subfields in sociology	Communication Skills (CS) and Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)	Response Paper 1, Response Paper 2, and all quizzes and exams
5. Explain the complex links between individual experiences and broader institutional forces	Social Responsibility (SR)	All quizzes, exams, and response papers
6. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a SOCI 1301-related topic through written communication	Communication Skills (CS) (Writing)	Response papers

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating on a test / quiz, plagiarizing, stealing or dishonestly accessing the instructor's materials, and colluding with other students. If you engage in any form of academic dishonesty, disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the COM Student Handbook and Office of Student Conduct. Plagiarism, at a minimum, will result in a 0 on the plagiarized assignment.

### **Student Concerns**

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please do not hesitate to contact me using the contact information on the first page. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions or believe that I have not addressed the matter fairly, please contact Dr. Shinya Wakao, the Social & Behavioral Sciences Department Chair, at 409.933.8107 and [swakao@com.edu](mailto:swakao@com.edu).

### **Course Outline**

Week 1, Aug. 28 and 30: An Introduction to Sociology (Ch. 1)

Week 2, Sept. 6 (no class on Mon., Sept. 4 - Labor Day): Introduction (cont.) and begin Culture (Ch. 3)

Week 3, Sept. 11 and 13: Culture (cont.) and begin Socialization (Ch. 4)

Week 4, Sept. 18 and 20: Socialization (Ch. 4)

Prepare for Quarter 1 Quiz, taken in-class on Sept. 27

Week 5, Sept. 25 and 27 (Mon., Sept. 25 - CCISD Planning): Deviance, Crime, and Social Control (Ch. 7)

Work on Response Paper, due on Monday, October 2

Week 6, Oct. 2 and 4: Deviance, Crime, and Social Control (cont.) and Social Structure (Material combined from Ch. 5 and Ch. 6)

Week 7, Oct. 9 and 11 (Mon., Oct. 9 - CCISD Planning) : Social Structure (cont.)  
 Prepare for Midterm, taken in-class on Oct. 16  
 Week 8, Oct. 16 and 18: Sociological Research (Ch. 2)  
 Week 9, Oct. 23 and 25: Social Stratification (Ch. 8)  
 Week 10, Oct. 30 and Nov. 1: Social Stratification (cont.) and Media (Ch. 5)  
 Week 11, Nov. 6 and 8: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality (Ch. 11)  
 Prepare for Quarter 3 Quiz, taken in-class on Nov. 13  
 Week 12, Nov. 13 and 15: Race and Ethnicity (Ch. 10)  
 Week 13, Nov. 20 and 22 (CCISD holidays): Relationships, Marriage, and Family (Ch. 13)  
 Week 14: Nov. 27 and 29 (Mon., Nov. 27 - CCISD Planning): Relationships, Marriage, and Family (Cont.)  
 Work on Response Paper, due on Mon., Dec. 4  
 Week 15, Dec. 4 and 6: Mixture of Relationships, Marriage, and Family (Cont.), Education (Ch. 14), and Work and the Economy (Ch. 17)  
 Week 16, Finals Week (date and time of Final Exam to be announced)

### **Incomplete Grades (The “I” Grade)**

The Incomplete Grade (“I”) is a temporary grade given when a student has experienced unforeseen circumstances beyond the student’s control which results in the student being unable to successfully complete the course within the timeframe of the semester.

Per the COM Course Catalog, an “I” may be assigned only when the following conditions are met:

1. No more than 25% of the points possible in the class are still outstanding.
2. The student is passing the course with a 70% or better.

Exceptions to these circumstances can be made at the discretion of the appropriate instructional dean.

It is the responsibility of the student to request an incomplete grade. I will grant such requests if the student meets the two conditions listed above and has submitted all quizzes and response papers through the first 12 weeks of class. If these conditions are met, I will draft an “I Contract Form” to be signed by the student, the instructor (me), the department chair, and the Dean. This form will specify (a) the course requirements (assignments) that must be completed and (b) a due date. On (or before) the specified due date, the student must submit the assignments listed in the contract for the incomplete grade (“I”) to be changed to a permanent grade of A, B, C, D, or F. If the student does not submit the required assignments by the specified due date, the student will receive a permanent grade consistent with the points the student has earned in the course (See “Determination of Course Grade,” p. 2).

Speaking frankly, incomplete grades are not common in my classes. I understand why they are sometimes necessary and I will grant requests for them when the conditions outlined above are met. However, I’ve found that doing work on time and maintaining communication with me when you encounter difficulties can resolve most of the problems that give rise to requests for incomplete grades.

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## **Institutional Policies and Guidelines**

### **Grade Appeal Process**

Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook [https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student\\_Handbook\\_2023-2024\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_v2.pdf). *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

### **Academic Success & Support Services**

College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

### **ADA Statement**

Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or [klachney@com.edu](mailto:klachney@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

### **Textbook Purchasing Statement**

A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

### **Withdrawal Policy**

Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 11. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 28. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is December 7.

### **FN Grading**

The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

**Early Alert Program**

The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

**Resources to Help with Stress**

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).