



**SOCI 1301.101CL**  
**Introduction to Sociology**  
**Fall 2021**  
**MW 8:00AM – 9:20AM**  
**Learning Resource Building (Bld#8), Room 258**

**Instructor Information:**

**Name:** Professor Montemayor

**Email:** [cmontemayor1@com.edu](mailto:cmontemayor1@com.edu)

**Phone:** 409-933-8212. Please leave a message.

**Student hours and location:**

In-person: 7:40am-8:00am (send email via COM student account to allow for confidentiality/social distancing; Room 258 9:20am-9:30am, Room 258

Online: Video chat via Blackboard – send email via COM student account to request time (limited)

**Required Textbook/Materials:** Society in Focus: An Introduction to Sociology, 9<sup>th</sup> edition. Written by W.E. Thompson, J.V. Hickey, and M.L. Thompson

**Course Description:** Introduction to 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.

The course is set up in Blackboard (Bb). The student will have the ability to communicate with the course professor and classmates using Bb; all course material/information and assessments are located in Bb.

**Course requirements:** See Grade Assessment Explanation on page 3, page 4, and page 5

**Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:**

Assessment Name	Possible Points	Points Earned
(1) Orientation Module	125	
(2) Study Guides 12 offered. 3 required (T1, T5, T9)	375	
(3) Assignments: Topic Discussions: In-Class and Online, Video/Article Quizzes, Online Post Topic and Sociological Theory Review Quizzes	1800	
(4) Module Exams (3)	200	
(5) Final Writing Assignment (Paper)	200	
<b>TOTAL Points Offered</b>	<b>2700</b>	

Course Grading Scale	
Final Letter Grade	Required points earned and Assessments submitted
<b>A</b>	1700 points <b>AND</b> submission of 3 required study guides* <b>AND</b> submission of 3-step FWA**
<b>B</b>	1200-1699 points <b>AND</b> submission of 3 study guides*
<b>C</b>	700-1199 points
<b>D</b>	500-699 points
<b>F</b>	499 points and lower
<b>FN</b>	Repeatedly fails to attend class/submit required coursework (2 or more weeks of missed coursework)

\*study guide submissions must be complete in entirety to earn credit

\*\*FWA-each step must be completed in entirety to earn credit

Review the course grading scale – notice that a lower final grade is easier to accomplish than a higher final grade. The higher the grade, the more work required!

**\*A student's Final Letter Grade is determined by the total number of points earned AND study guide submissions AND FWA submission! Each criterion must be met! Review the above table carefully!**

All students are required to meet with the course professor at least once during this term to discuss the student's status and success in the course. Be prepared to set time aside to meet with the course professor at least one time during the term. Meetings will occur via Blackboard or in person.

**Grade Assessments Explanation – In Bb, select the My Points (Grades) link to see the points earned for each assessment**

**(1) Orientation Unit**

- 3 required assessments: Introduction Discussion Forum; Syllabus/Contract Quiz; email communication and meet with professor
- 3 optional/extra credit assignments: What Do You Know; Start the Conversation Discussion Forum; Student Survey

**(2) Chapter Study Guides ...Focus Questions, Key Terms, Short Essay**

- A study guide (SG) is offered for each topic. Students are asked to define terms and answer questions over the assigned reading. The purpose of a study guide is to encourage the student to read assigned chapters in the required textbook so that they can learn the terms/phrases needed to engage in conversation, excel on the quizzes and write a quality paper (Final Writing Assignment). Answers to the questions and definitions to the terms are found in the required textbook, *Society in Focus: An Introduction to Sociology*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition or the course professor's lecture summary. ONLY use these two resources for this assessment – do not use any other source. Once completed, use each respective study guide link to upload the study guide. To earn points/credit for a study guide, all indicated terms/questions must be answered and essay completed. Partial work or failure to follow instructions will not earn points or credit towards requirements for a student's final letter grade. Study guides must be typed and uploaded to Bb as a DOC, PDF document. Study guides must be submitted as one (1) file to earn points, earn credit. No other files will be opened or evaluated.
  - Required: Submit the following three (3) study guides = T1, T5, T9. All 3 sections must be completed, follow instructions, to earn points/credit for submission
  - Optional/Extra credit: Submit the nine (9) "non-required" study guides as extra credit. Section 1 and Section 2 for must be completed to earn extra credit points

**(3) Assignment Assignments (Different types offered)**

**\*Topic Discussions**

**In-Class Discussions** – take place in class. Students will have the opportunity to be a part of the discussion of each topic. This is a reflective time that will occur at the individual and group level (students should distance in accordance with College policy). Directions and instructions will be offered in class, reminders may be sent via email or Bb. The Course Calendar offers a general guide

**Online Discussion via Blackboard discussion forums**

- Online Discussions offer the student the opportunity to make connections from the course material to their experiences/events occurring in the world around them.
- **Two posts** are required to earn points. Be genuine, be polite, be sincere, and engage
  - **Post 1:** Reply to the question/statement made by the course professor. Use the required term(s) in your post. Write in complete sentences using correct grammar and spelling. End your post with a question that relates to the topic/or your post. Follow the word/sentence requirement listed in Bb. Use the assigned textbook, do not use any other source
  - **Post 2:** Reply to a post made by a classmate. Begin your response with the classmate's name. Write in complete sentences using correct grammar and spelling. Adhere to the word/sentence requirement. Do not write the words "good job or similar language." The goal is to simulate conversation that would take place in the classroom. You are writing what you would say if we were in class (on-campus) discussing the topic with your classmates. Make it a conversation! Adhere/follow to the word/sentence requirement listed in Bb.

#### **\*Video/Article Quizzes**

- Assesses the student's understanding of an event. Short quiz over a video or article. Students have two attempts! If a student attempts a quiz a second time, the student's final score will be the points earned on the second attempt. Do not attempt a quiz a second time if one is satisfied with one's initial score. Do not click on the quiz a second time if one is attempting to see points earned or questions missed. Contact the course professor

#### **(4) Post Topic and Sociological Theory Review Quizzes – What did you learn?**

- **Post-Topic Quiz:** When a student completes the assigned reading and completes the offered assignments, the student has the opportunity to assess their knowledge of the material by taking a non-timed quiz for each topic/chapter. The student has two (2) opportunities to complete each topic/chapter quiz. If a student attempts a quiz a second time, the student's final score is the points earned on the second attempt. Do not attempt a quiz a second time if one is satisfied with one's initial score. Do not click on a quiz a second time if one is attempting to see points earned or questions missed. Look for one's score under My Points (Grades) link or request a time to meet with the course professor. There is no mid-term exam or final exam.
- **Sociological Theory Quiz:** When a student completes the assigned reading and completes the offered assignments, the student has the opportunity to assess theory knowledge over sociological theory. The student has two (2) opportunities to complete each sociological theory quiz. If a student attempts a quiz a second time, the student's second attempt will be the points(score) earned on the second attempt. Do not attempt a quiz a second time if one is satisfied with one's initial score. Do not click on the quiz a second time if one is attempting to see points earned or questions missed. Look for one's score under My Points (Grades) link or request a time to meet with the course professor to discuss missed questions and score. There is no mid-term exam or final exam.

#### **(5) Module Exams:** Three (3) in-class college required formal assessments offered at the end of each module. Must complete in a proctored environment. All students have (1) make-up opportunity if miss an exam when offered. Make-up opportunity offered last day class meets on-campus. See course calendar for exam dates. 882-E scantron/#2 pencil required – not provided by course professor.

#### **(6) Final Writing Assignment – 3 steps:** This assessment offers the student the opportunity to utilize a beginner's mind, discuss and apply sociological theory, as well as make sociological connections to a historical event. This assessment is required for those students seeking to earn an A in SOCI 1301. There are 3 steps to the FWA and each is released as the pre-requisite is completed.

- **FWA Step 1.** Prerequisite: Completion of three (3) required orientation assignments. Step 1 is available at the end of Module 2. Step 1 is a quiz that offers students the opportunity to refresh their understanding of the FWA requirements. Students must answer all of the quiz questions correctly. Students can retake the quiz as many times needed to answer all of the questions correctly. Answers are located in the course syllabus and under the FWA link in Bb.
- **FWA Step 2.** Prerequisite: Completion of FWA Step 1 (perfect score). Step 2 is a study guide over the article and is meant to help the student collect the information needed to write a well-informed paper. Step 2 must be completed and evaluated before the student is given access to Step 3. Step 2 will be evaluated by the course professor. This process takes 5-7 days. Each student will receive feedback via Bb. The student is required to read the feedback and incorporate this feedback into Step 3 of the FWA. If the student did not complete Step 2, feedback will be posted to Bb, a score of 1 will be entered into Bb, and the student will have the opportunity to redo their work and resubmit. The student's submission will be evaluated (allow for several days) and the points posted and feedback offered. The original due date for Step 3 stands, it is not extended because a student did not complete Step 2 on time.

- **FWA Step 3. Prerequisite:** Completion of Step 2 (answer all questions). Step 3 is the “actual paper” that the student writes using sociological terms and phrases. FWA Step 3 offers each student the opportunity to show their ability to discuss sociological theory at a college-level. Review the evaluation rubric and write a paper using the feedback from FWA Step 2. Students must earn at least 80 points on the FWA Step 3 to be eligible to earn an A in this course. If the student earns less than 80 points, the student may rewrite and resubmit their paper. Check My Points (Grades) for points and feedback. An email will be sent to the student initiating “redo” if required. The redo must be uploaded to Bb by last day of class/end of class or as announced – be watching Bb Announcements/COM emails.

Review the Final Writing Assignment link in Bb for instructions, requirements, helpful tips to succeed, and evaluation criteria.

### **Attendance, Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy**

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance will be taken during class via a sign in sheet which will be available at the end of class when students are dismissed.

**Extra Credit:** Extra learning opportunities are offered throughout the course both on campus and via Bb – under each topic folder students can complete extra assignments, non-required study guides, submit required study guides the day of discussion, and more. More than 1000 points offered as extra credit beginning the first day of the course.

**Late Work/Make-Up Work:** Students are encouraged to complete assigned work each week as listed on the course calendar. This course offers much flexibility, but has some non-negotiable due dates/deadlines for modules and some assessments. Assessments must be submitted by the due date/deadline and will not be accepted late. If you miss a due date/deadline, take advantage of extra credit offered for another topic to “make up missed points.” If there is a medical emergence that prevents you from submitting coursework, contact the course professor before the due date/deadline. The course professor will work with you if you contact the course professor before the due date/deadline.

### **Classroom Etiquette and Requirements**

**Conversation/Discussion in Classroom (online and on-campus):** This course covers topics that some deem sensitive and controversial. Students will hear ideas that may differ from their own. That is okay! That is good. Learning to hear difference, learning to engage with others that are different from you is skill that you want to develop. When we can listen, engage in scholarly conversation and debate and walk away with a better understanding of the “other” – we are a better people for it! This is a skill that is developed, it does not come naturally. Learn now – it will help you in your professional and personal relationships as well and interactions with those that you do not know. Past, current events are indicative that this skill is much needed! Be quick to listen, don’t speak over one another or the course professor. Each person will have an opportunity to express their understanding of the topic and their experiences – these are valued!

**Communicating with the course professor:** ALL electronic communication with the course professor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.)

- M-F (noon): If a student sends an email Monday through Friday (noon), the student will receive a response within 24-48 hours after the email is read. Be patient. The course professor responds to all communication in a timely manner.
- F afternoon, evening/S/S: If a student sends an email on a Friday afternoon/evening, Saturday or Sunday, generally the student will receive a response the following week.
- College Holidays: If a student sends an email while the College is officially closed, the student will receive a response on the next business day that the College is open.

Student Learner Outcome (SLO)	Maps to Core Objective(s)	Assessed via this Assignment
1. 1. Compare and contrast the basic theoretical perspectives of sociology.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Discussion Assignments; Exams; Writing Assignment
2. 2. Identify the various methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data in sociology.	Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)	Discussion Assignments (#2); Reflection Essay-Research; Exam 1; Writing Assignment
3. Describe key concepts in sociology.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Discussion Assignments, Reflection Essays; Exams; Writing Assignment
4. Describe the empirical findings of various subfields in sociology.	Empirical Quantitative Data (EQD)	Discussion Assignments, Reflection Essays; Exams; Writing Assignment
5. Explain the complex links between individual experiences and broader institutional forces.	Social Responsibility (SR)	Discussion Assignments; Reflection Essays; Writing Assignment

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any instances of academic dishonesty are reported in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams or papers will result in a grade of zero for that exam or paper.

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Shinya Wakao, Behavioral and Social Sciences Department Chair at 409-933-8212 or swakao@com.edu.

**Course Calendar/Outline (detailed calendar offered online via Bb):**

<b><u>Module 1 Understanding Sociology (the foundation)</u></b>			
<b><u>WEEK</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>DISCUSSION TOPIC</u></b>	<b><u>TASK/ASSESSMENT</u></b>
Week 1	8/23/2021-8/29/2021	Course Introduction/Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of course</li> <li>Orientation assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>
Week 2	8/30/2021-9/5/2021	T1: What is Sociology? / Soc. Theory (Ch 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 1 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>
Week 3	9/6/2021-9/12/2021	T2: Sociological Research and Investigation (Ch 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>College Holiday</li> <li>Chapter 2 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>
Week 4	9/13/2021-9/19/2021	T2: Sociological Research and Investigation (Ch 2) T3: Culture (Ch 3-pp.62-75)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 2 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> <li>Chapter 3 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>
Week 5	9/20/2021-9/26/2021	T3: Culture (Ch 3-pp. 62-75)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 3 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>
Week 6	9/27/2021-10/3/2021	T4: Culture and Society (Ch 3-pp. 56-61) Module 1 Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 3 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> <li>Read course syllabus regarding module exams</li> </ul>
<b><u>Module 2 The Importance of Socialization (Socialization and Social Interaction)</u></b>			
Week 7	10/4/2021-10/10/2021	T5: Socialization, Social Interaction, & the Self (Ch 4/5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 4, 5 discussion and assessments - read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>
Week 8	10/11/2021-10/17/2021	T5: Socialization, Social Interaction, & the Self (Ch 4/5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 4, 5 discussion and assessments - read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>
Week 9	10/18/2021-10/24/2021	T6: Groups/Organizations (Ch 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 6 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>
Week 10	10/25/2021-10/31/2021	T7: The Family/Families (Ch 13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 13 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>
Week 11	11/1/2021-11/7/2021	T8: Deviance and Social Control (Ch 7) Module 2 Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 7 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> <li>Read course syllabus regarding module exams</li> </ul>
<b><u>Module 3 Stratification and its impact on society/Social Change</u></b>			
Week 12	11/8/2021-11/14/2021	T9: Social Stratification (Chs 8 and 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 8, 9 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> <li>Final Writing Assignment Step 1 – read the FWA link details, includes instructions and requirements</li> </ul>
Week 13	11/15/2021-11/21/2021	T9: Social Stratification (Chs 8 and 9) T10: Race and Ethnicity (Ch 10) STEP 1 of FWA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 10 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>

Week 14	11/22/2021- 11/28/2021	T10: Race and Ethnicity (Ch 10) STEP 2 of FWA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 10 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> <li>• Final Writing Assignment Step 2 – read the FWA link details and due dates Final Writing Assignment Step 2 – read the FWA link details and due dates, includes instructions and requirements</li> </ul>
Week 15	11/29/2021- 12/5/2021	T11: Sex, Gender, and Sexuality (Ch 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 10 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> <li>• Chapter 11 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> <li>• Final Writing Assignment Step 3 – read the FWA link for details and due dates, includes instructions and requirements</li> </ul>
Week 16	12/6/2021- 12/8/2021	T12: Social Change and Movements (Ch 20) Module 3 Exam Make up exams offered FWA Step 3 Rewrite due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 20 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> <li>• Read course syllabus regarding module exams</li> <li>• Read course syllabus regarding make-up exams</li> <li>• Read course syllabus regarding FWA</li> </ul>

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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://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.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.* [https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf)

**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 Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or [hbankston@com.edu](mailto:hbankston@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

**Counseling Statement:** Any student needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or [hbankston@com.edu](mailto:hbankston@com.edu). Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email [counseling@com.edu](mailto:counseling@com.edu) to set up their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.



**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 6. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 19. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is December 2.

**F<sub>N</sub> Grading:** The F<sub>N</sub> grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F<sub>N</sub> 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 F<sub>N</sub> grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F<sub>N</sub> 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.

**COVID-19 Statement:** All students, faculty, and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland’s Coronavirus Information site at [www.com.edu/coronavirus](http://www.com.edu/coronavirus). In compliance with Governor Abbott's May 18 Executive Order, face coverings/masks will no longer be required on COM campus. Protocols and college signage are being updated. We will no longer enforce any COM protocol that requires face coverings. We continue to encourage all members of the COM community to distance when possible, use hygiene measures, and get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Please visit [com.edu/coronavirus](http://com.edu/coronavirus) for future updates.