



**SOCI 1301.331IN**  
**Introduction to Sociology**  
**Spring 2024**  
**Internet/Online only**

*All course material/information and assessments are located online via D2L*

**Instructor Information**

Professor Montemayor-Allen

**E-mail:** cmontemayor1@com.edu

**Phone:** 409-933-8212

This is the number to the Behavioral and Social Sciences Department. Leave a message with the administrative assistant – Ms. Kerry Kloesel

**Department Office:** Social/Behavioral Sciences Department, LRC Bldg., Suite A

**Communicating with course professor:** All electronic communication with the course professor must be through a student's COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance through non-COM email accounts. Read the comments/feedback offered for each assessment. FERPA restrictions restrict discussion about grades via email. Communication can occur virtually via Teams or other COM approved software.

Be sure to check your COM student email account regularly. Responses to emails will be made within 48 hours if received M-Th and F/noon. Emails sent on Sat/Sun and College holidays will be responded to the next day the College is officially open.

**Office hours/location:**

Virtual/Internet only. Virtual communication via email, Teams or other virtual communication approved by COM. Email course professor to request a meeting

**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.

**Course requirements and Grading Formula**

Final Letter Grade Determination	
Final Letter Grade	Points earned AND FWA submission
<b>A</b>	• Student earns 1100 or more points/FWA
<b>B</b>	• Student earns 900-1099 points/FWA
<b>C</b>	• Student earns 700-899 points/FWA
<b>D</b>	• Student earns 600-699 points (no FWA)
<b>F</b>	• Student earns 599 or less points (no FWA)
<b>FN</b>	Student stops submitting required coursework – no online activity
	*Submission of all paper requirements required to earn C and higher

#### Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula

Assessment Name	Possible Points	Points Earned
<b>Required</b>		
(1) Orientation Module Assignments (3) points vary	100	
(2) Topic assessments (12) Earn 0-40 points each	480	
(3) Module Exams (3) Earn 0-140 points each	420	
(4) FWA-Final Writing Assignment (Outline/Paper)	50/150	
(5) Attendance Discussion Forum (16) 0-5/10 points each; vary each week	100	
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>1300</b>	
<b>Optional/Extra Credit</b>		
(1) Post Topic Quizzes (at least 3) 0-10 points each	30+	
(2) Study Guides (4) 0-25 points each	100	
(3) Additional topic assignments: Discussion Forums or Video/Article Quizzes	TBD	

**Grade Assessments Explanation** – The student can find how many points they earn on each assessment by clicking on the Grades link. Assessments must be submitted to D2L. Coursework will not be accepted via email.

**IMPORTANT: ONLY** access the course assessments using the weekly links and the attendance links under the Course Content link. Do **not** use the discussion,

assignment, quizzes link listed at the top of D2L. These links do not include the instructions/ information for assessments. Not following these instructions will lead to a confusing, frustrating experience in this course

**(1) Orientation Module. Required**

- Introduction Discussion Forum
- Syllabus/Contract Quiz
- Email communication
- Complete all three (3) assignments by the Friday of the first week and earn an additional 25 points. Must earn 50 points (perfect score) on Orientation Quiz. Unlimited attempts allowed

**(2) Topic Assessments. Required. Different types offered. No coursework accepted via email**

**\*Discussion Forums (topic and attendance)**

- Online Discussions offer the student the opportunity to make connections from the course material to their experiences and/or current events as well as engage with classmates – a very important aspect of the course.
- **For each discussion, two responses** are required to earn points. Responses should be genuine and polite. Failure to submit the two required responses will result in “0” points earned
  - **Response 1-required:** Reply to the questions/statements made by the course professor. Use the required term(s) in the post – these are in **bold font**. Write complete sentences, use correct grammar and spelling, and follow punctuation rules. End the response with a question that relates to the topic. Follow the word/sentence requirement (see assessment instructions). Use the assigned textbook, do not use any other source unless part of the initial question
  - **Response 2-required:** Reply to a post made by a classmate. Begin your response with the classmate’s name. Write complete sentences, use correct grammar and spelling, and follow punctuation rules. Adhere to the word/sentence requirement. Do not write the words “good job or similar language.” This will result in “0” points earned for the assessment. The goal is to simulate conversation that would take place in the classroom about the topic being discussed. You are writing what you would say if we were in class (on-campus) discussing the topic with your classmate.
- Student work is evaluated on one’s ability to follow instructions and correct application of course material
- Discussion Forum Evaluation Rubric:
  - 35-40 points: met word count requirements; answered all questions, use required terms, include all definitions of required terms in the post, excellent use of course material and correctly applied (correct examples)

- 30-34 points: met word count requirements; answered all questions, use some required terms, include some definitions of required terms in post, average use course material and application (some examples correct, some not)
- 25-29 points: met word count requirements; did not answer all questions, did not use required terms, did not include the required definitions, did not use course material correctly and did not apply course material correctly
- 24 points and below: did not meet the requirements for college level discussion
- 1 point: did not submit the two required posts; did not follow instructions

**\*Video/Article Quizzes**

- Short quiz over an assigned video or article. Students have two attempts! No additional attempts will be offered

**(3) Module Exams. Required**

- Three (3) online exams over course material. Each is worth 140 points. Multiple choice questions completed via D2L. Find a quiet location with a secure Internet connection. Use a tablet, laptop or desktop computer to take the exam. Only 1 attempt will be offered to each student. If the student experiences technical difficulties or misses the deadline/due date for an exam, a comprehensive exam will be offered at the end of the term. This will take the place of the missed/"messed-up" exam. The comprehensive exam is ONLY for students who experience technical difficulties or miss an exam as students are required to complete 3 exams only.

**(4) Final Writing Assignment (Outline/Paper). Required.**

Must complete to earn A or B. 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 current social issue (topic is assigned). This assessment is required. Outline must be completed and submitted. This will be evaluated, and points posted to D2L. If the student meets the minimum requirements, the student will be granted access to the paper instructions. All information for this assessment located in D2L

FWA Outline

- Read the FWA Outline instructions and complete the assignment
- Submit to D2L and allow at least 5-7 business days for evaluation and posting of points
- Once points are posted to D2L, the student will have access to the FWA Paper instructions and submission link

- The FWA Outline will be evaluated by the course professor which takes several days. The student is required to read the feedback and incorporate this feedback into their paper
- The student must earn at least 15 points on the outline to gain access to the instructions for the paper and the paper submission link. If the student scores less than 15 points, the student will have the opportunity to redo and resubmit the FWA Outline. If the student earns 15 or more points, the student will gain access to the FWA Paper and submission link. Do not write the FWA paper until the FWA Outline has been completed, submitted and points posted.

FWA Paper. The student writes an essay using sociological terms and phrases. The Paper offers each student the opportunity to show their ability to discuss sociological theory at the college-level.

- Review the evaluation rubric and write a paper using the feedback offered by the course professor from outline
- **Prerequisite:** Completion, submission, and earn minimum points on FWA outline assignment

Review the FWA Paper link for instructions, requirements, helpful tips to succeed, and evaluation criteria

### **Optional/Extra Credit Assessments**

**(1) Post Topic Quizzes...**Multiple choice/True False quizzes over course material. Students have two (2) attempts on each quiz. The SECOND attempt is the final score – so think before attempting a quiz a second time. There are no additional chances at extra credit quizzes.

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

A study guide (SG) is offered a few topics. 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 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, 9th edition or the course professor’s lecture summary. ONLY use these two resources for this assessment – do not use any other source. Study guides must be typed, uploaded as a DOC or PDF document. Once completed, use each respective SG link to upload the file. Submit each study guide as one file. Failure to follow instructions will result in 0 points earned. To earn points, the student must complete the study guide. This assessment is all or nothing (0 or max points).

**(3) Additional topic assignments.** At times, an additional topic assignment is available for students to complete. See description for topic assignments above.

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

**Late Work/Make-Up Work:** Students should strive to complete the assigned coursework each week. However, as long as weekly coursework is completed by the module due date, there is no penalty. Students have at least 3 weeks to complete coursework for each module (not Orientation). This set up allows the student flexibility, as needed. However, if a student finds that they have fallen behind and need “a little extra time” to catch up the student will be offered a “late pass.” Each student is offered a 1 time “extension” – coursework for a module or FWA will be accepted late – no matter the reason. take advantage of extra credit offered in another module to “make up missed points.” If there is a medical emergency that prevents a student from submitting coursework by the due date/deadline, contact the course professor

**Extra Credit: See above information listed on page 5**

**Attendance Policy:** Students are counted present only when they complete the attendance discussion forum each week. These are different from the topic assignment discussion forums. Review the Student Handbook regarding your responsibility to “attend class” and be engaged as an active learner

**Communicating with your instructor:** All electronic communication with the instructor must be through a student’s COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. Virtual meetings will occur via COM approved software.

### **Student Learner Outcomes**

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>
1.Compare and contrast the basic theoretical perspectives of sociology.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Discussion Assignments; Exams; Writing Assignment
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 incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty –

such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information listed on page one of this document. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Dr. Wakao, Behavioral and Social Sciences Department Chair at 409-933-8212 or [swakao@com.edu](mailto:swakao@com.edu).

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**Course Calendar/Outline:**

<b>Module 1 Understanding Sociology (the foundation)</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	1/16/2024- 1/21/2024	Introduction/Overview Orientation Module	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of course</li> <li>• Orientation assessments (OA) – read the course calendar link for details</li> <li>• Orientation assessments due 11:59PM Sun</li> </ul>
Week 2	1/22/2023- 1/28/2023	T1: What is Sociology? / Soc. Theory (Ch 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the assigned chapter in the textbook</li> <li>• Read the lecture summary</li> <li>• Complete the Topic 1 assessment(s)</li> </ul>
Week 3	1/29/2024- 2/4/2024	T2: Sociological Research and Investigation (Ch 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the assigned chapter in the textbook</li> <li>• Read the lecture summary</li> <li>• Complete the Topic 2 assessment(s)</li> </ul>
Week 4	2/5/2024- 2/11/2024	T3: Culture (Ch 3 pp.62- 75)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the assigned chapter in the textbook</li> <li>• Read the lecture summary</li> <li>• Complete the Topic 3 assessment(s)</li> </ul>
Week 5	2/12/2024- 2/18/2024	T4: Culture and Society (Ch 3-pp. 56-61)  Module 1 Exam available this week. Module 1 Exam due this week  All Module 1 assessments must be submitted by the end of this week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the assigned chapter in the textbook</li> <li>• Read the lecture summary</li> <li>• Complete the Topic 4 assessment(s)</li> <li>• All Module 1 Assessments must be submitted by 11:59PM Sunday of this week - this includes Module 1 Exam</li> </ul>

<b>Module 2 The Importance of Socialization (Socialization and Social Inte</b>			
Week 6	2/19/2024- 2/25/2024	T5: Socialization, Social Interaction, & the Self (Chs 4 & 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the assigned chapter in the textbook</li> <li>• Read the lecture summary</li> <li>• Complete the Topic 5 assessment(s)</li> </ul>
Week 7	2/26/2024- 3/3/2024	T5: Socialization, Social Interaction, & the Self (Chs 4 & 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the assigned chapter in the textbook</li> <li>• Read the lecture summary</li> <li>• Continue working on Topic 5 assessment(s)</li> </ul>
Week 8	3/4/2024- 3/10/2024	T6: Groups/ Organizations (Ch 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the assigned chapter in the textbook</li> <li>• Read the lecture summary</li> <li>• Complete the Topic 6 assessment(s)</li> </ul>
3/11/2024 – 3/17/2024: SPRING BREAK. College is closed during this week			
Week 9	3/18/2024- 3/24/2024	T7: The Family/Families (Ch 13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the assigned chapter in the textbook</li> <li>• Read the lecture summary</li> <li>• Complete the Topic 7 assessment(s)</li> </ul>
Week 10	3/25/2024- 3/31/2024	T8: Deviance and Social Control (Ch 7)  Module 2 Exam available this week. Module 1 Exam due this week  All Module 2 assessments must be submitted by the end of this week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the assigned chapter in the textbook</li> <li>• Read the lecture summary</li> <li>• Complete the Topic 8 assessment(s)</li> <li>• Online M2 Assessments due 11:59PM Sunday of this week - this includes Module 2 Exam</li> </ul>

Calendar continues on next page



<b>Module 3 Stratification and its impact on society/Social Change</b>			
Week 11	4/1/2024-4/7/2024	T9: Social Stratification (Chs 8 and 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the assigned chapter in the textbook</li> <li>• Read the lecture summary</li> <li>• Complete the Topic 9 assessment(s)</li> </ul>
Week 12	4/8/2024-4/14/2024	T9: Social Stratification (Chs 8 and 9) and FWA: Outline released	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the assigned chapter in the textbook</li> <li>• Read the lecture summary</li> <li>• Continue working on Topic 9 assessment(s)</li> </ul>
Week 13	4/15/2024-4/21/2024	T10: Race and Ethnicity (Ch 10) FWA: Outline due by the end of the week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the assigned chapter in the textbook</li> <li>• Read the lecture summary</li> <li>• Complete the Topic 10 assessment(s)</li> <li>• Must complete FWA: Outline to access FWA: Paper instructions and link</li> </ul>
Week 14	4/22/2024-4/28/2024	T11: Sex, Gender, and Sexuality (Ch 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the assigned chapter in the textbook</li> <li>• Read the lecture summary</li> <li>• Complete the Topic 11 assessment(s)</li> </ul>
Week 15	4/29/2024-5/5/2024	T12: Social Change and Movements (Ch 20) FWA Paper due 5/5/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the assigned chapter in the textbook</li> <li>• Read the lecture summary</li> <li>• Complete the Topic 12 assessment(s)</li> <li>• FWA Paper Due by the end of Week 15. Read the FWA link for instructions</li> </ul>
Week 16	5/6/2023-5/8/2023  Short Week!	*Exam 3 and Comprehensive Exam available and due this week (Comp Exam only for students who missed an exam (takes the place of 1 exam only). Email course professor for more information *All Module 3 assessments must be submitted by the last day of the course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit ALL coursework by 11:59PM 5/8/2023</li> </ul>

**Major due dates/deadlines:**

- Sunday, 1/21/2024 at 11:59PM CST: Orientation Assignments due
- Sunday, 2/18/2024 11:59PM CST: Module 1 is due. Topic 1, Topic 2, Topic 3, Topic 4
  - Students have 1/22/2024 – 2/18/2024 to submit these assessments
- March 11, 2024-March 17, 2024: SPRING BREAK. COM is closed
- Sunday, 3/31/2024 11:59PM CST: Module 2 is due. Topic 5, Topic 6, Topic 7, Topic 8
  - Students have 2/19/2023 – 3/31/2023 to submit these assessments
- Sunday, 4/21/2024 at 11:59PM CST: FWA: Outline is due
- Monday, 4/22/2024: Last day to drop without a grade
- Sunday, 5/5/2023 at 11:59PM CST: FWA Paper is due
- Tuesday, 5/8/2024 at 11:59PM CST: Module 3 is due. Topic 9, Topic 10, Topic 11, Topic 12
  - Students have 4/1/2024 – 5/8/2024 to submit these assessments

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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 February 28. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 22. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is May 1. The last date to withdraw for spring mini session is May 29.

**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).