Semester and Year – Fall 2015

CRN (Course Reference Number), Course Prefix, Number and Title –
CRN#s 10843, 10844, 11604, and 11659: SOCI 1301: Introduction to Sociology

Course Meeting Times, Days and Location (Campus, Building, and Room number) –
CRNs 10843 and 10844: Wharton Main Campus, Science Building, Classroom #102
CRNs 11604 and 11659: Sugarland Campus, Classroom #162

Instructor’s Name – Jon K. Loessin, Ph.D.

Instructor’s Telephone number(s) – (979) 532-6461 or (800) 561-9252 Ext. 6461
Instructor’s email address – JONL@WCJC.EDU (Email is the preferred form of student communication with the instructor—checked throughout the day, evenings, and on weekends)
Instructor’s webpage – http://facultyweb.wcjc.edu/jloessin (no WWW in front!)

Instructor’s Office Hours and Office Location–
MW: 9:50-10:00; 11:50-1:30; F: 11:50-12:30: Wharton Main Campus, Science Building 121
TR: 9:00-9:25, 1:30-2:00: Sugarland Campus Faculty Office Area

Course Catalog Description – SOCI 1301: Introduction to Sociology
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. Prerequisite: TSI satisfied in Reading and Writing.

Instructor’s Grading System –
Three regular unit exams representing 75% of the semester grade. The lowest unit exam grade will be dropped and replaced by the grade achieved on the required semester project (assigned by the instructor). The final exam (must be taken by all students) represents the last 25% of the semester grade. Failure to complete and submit the completed semester project by the established deadline (the beginning of class on the class day prior to the last day to drop courses) will result in a zero grade replacing the lowest unit exam grade and will likely result in a poor or failing course grade. IMPORTANT: NO MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE ALLOWED REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCE—thus, if an exam is missed, the semester project will replace the missing unit exam grade. Only ONE unit exam may be missed and a zero will be entered for any other exam missed. Final exam times: 9MWF=Wed. Dec. 16, 8:00AM; 11MWF=Wed. Dec. 16, 10:15AM; 9:25TR=Thurs. Dec. 17, 8:00AM; 10:50TR= Tues. Dec. 15, 10:15AM; 12:15TR=Thurs. Dec. 17, 12:30PM

Instructor’s Attendance Policy –
No student should miss more than one week of classes during the semester (see college policy in the WCJC catalog). Attendance will be taken and may result in a grading bonus to students who attend in an exemplary fashion. No make-up work (including exams), late work, or extra credit of any kind are allowed in the course!

Last day to “Drop” course with grade of “W” – November 20, 2015 Be aware that entering college students (as of Fall 2007) in Texas are only allowed six drops (W’s) throughout their collegiate career regardless of the Texas public college/university they attend now or in the future.

* The college will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students wishing to receive accommodations must contact the Office of Disability Services at (979) 532-6384; located in the Pioneer Student Center, Room 313, at the Wharton campus. Students must request accommodations from the Office of Disability Services prior to each semester. Please note that accommodations provided are not retroactive.

** Misconduct for which discipline may be administered at WCJC includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the college (plagiarism and cheating refer to the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test, copying tests, assignments, reports, or term papers).
SOCI 1301: Introduction to Sociology  
For Classroom Sections  
Course Outline  

Part I: The Course  

Course Title: Introduction to Sociology  
Credits: 3 Semester Hours  
Prerequisites: TSI reading and writing requirements met  

Course Description: 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.  

Purpose and Goals: Introduction to Sociology is a course designed to familiarize students to basic social thought, ideas, and processes which have occurred and are occurring in the society in which we live. A variety of topics will be covered during the semester including the history of sociology and social thought, studies in social change, evolution, and ecology, studies in social class and other groupings, conformity and deviance, social institutions, studies in power, cultural and cross-cultural studies, urbanism and demography, and studies in alternative futures. Methods of instruction will include lectures, textbook and other readings, videotape presentations, projects, library assignments, class discussions, and other appropriate techniques as dictated by the current subject matter under review. The purpose of this course is ultimately to educate students about the social world in which we live and how various elements of our society interconnect and interrelate with others as they have an impact on our society and ourselves. The examination and awareness of cyclical phenomena, social trends, cutting-edge theories of society (such as postmodernism), issues in cultural diversity, social prediction, arriving at logical conclusions, as well as the development of personal perspectives and critical thinking skills are all major goals of Sociology 1301: Introduction to Sociology.  

Part II: The Instructor  

Instructor: Jon K. Loessin, Ph.D. (pronounced LUH-SEEN′)  
Wharton County Junior College  
911 Boling Highway  
Wharton, TX 77488  
(979) 532-6461 or (800) 561-WCJC, Ext. 6461  
E-mail: JONL@WCJC.EDU  

Office: Main Campus/Wharton, Science Building, Office 121  

Office Hours: WHA: MW 9:50-11:00; 11:50-1:30; F 9:50-11:00, 11:50-12:30; SUG: TR 9:00-9:25, 1:30-2:00, other times by appointment  

Part III: Educational Materials  


Supplies and Requirements: Notebook for taking notes, blue or black pens, No. 2 pencil (for test taking), package of Scan-Tron 882 testing forms. Students enrolled in online (WWW) sections will need access to a computer with an Internet connection and e-mail and appropriate computer skills.


**Part IV: The Class**

**Lecture:** Sociology 1301 is a three-hour course which meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, or on Tuesdays and Thursdays depending on the section in which a student is enrolled. Occasionally a Monday and Wednesday only offering is provided as well as a WWW section completed by distance education. Monday through Friday daily summer offerings are also scheduled. There are no laboratory hours associated with this course.

**Attendance:** Excellence in attendance is necessary for students to achieve the objectives of this course and is therefore expected by the instructor. As a student in Sociology 1301, you are expected to attend all classes. Class attendance is directly related to grade achievement in this course. Excessive absences very well may result in a poor class grade for the semester. It is the responsibility of each student to attend class, make arrangements for any material or work missed due to absences, and to drop or withdraw from the course should completion of the course not be possible. If a student has excessive absences, the instructor reserves the right to personally withdraw the student from the course in the best interest of all involved. However, the instructor is under no obligation to withdraw any student from the course. (Refer to the WCJC Catalog to review the official college policy on student attendance.) Incompletes (I-grades) are only given in extraordinary circumstances such as extended illness (with consultation and agreement of the instructor) or by missing the final exam provided all other work in the course has been completed satisfactorily.

EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MATERIAL, WORK, ASSIGNMENTS, OR DISCUSSIONS FROM CLASS, WHETHER THE STUDENT WAS PRESENT OR ABSENT ON A GIVEN DAY.

**Special Policies and Academic Conduct:**

1. All cell phones or other communication devices should remain out of sight and silent during class. TEXT MESSAGING OR OTHER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION OF ANY TYPE IS NOT ALLOWED IN CLASS AT ANY TIME. If there is a good cause reason why a device must be left on, please get the instructor’s approval before class begins. Failure to comply with this class rule may result in the violating student instructed to leave the classroom for the remainder of the day’s class. Students who continue to violate this rule may be sanctioned with disciplinary action which may affect their course performance and success. In extreme cases, chronic non-compliance may potentially result in withdrawal from the course. If a student’s electronic device emits any sound or signal (including light) during an exam, the offending student will be expelled from the exam, the exam attempt will be forfeited, and a zero assigned for a grade.

2. Recording devices of any kind (including, but not limited to mobile phones, tape/digital voice recorders, still/video cameras, etc.) are not allowed to be used during lectures and anyone detected violating this rule will be expelled from the classroom and prohibited from attending the course until meeting with the instructor outside of class and gaining readmission. The instructor reserves the right to grant exceptions based on a formal or administrative request in writing.

3. Listening to music or engaging in any audio/visual distractions (including the wearing of headphones or earpieces, surfing the internet, using phones/tablets, or engaging in any activities other than the course’s focus is prohibited during class time and the undivided attention and participation of the student is expected and will be enforced by the instructor. Students should arrive to class on time. Arriving late on one or two occasions is generally acceptable but repeated tardiness will not be tolerated and the instructor reserves the right to deny access to the class for habitual latecomers. Testing may be denied to latecomers at the discretion of the instructor and it is the instructor’s firm policy that no one may begin an exam after someone in the class has already finished and the latecomer must finish their exam no later than the last non-tardy student in the classroom.

4. The instructor asks that students not wear hats inside the classroom as the practice is often viewed as discourteous and can serve as a distraction to others and as a suspicion to the instructor, especially during testing.

5. Books, folders, and other materials or devices should be hidden or stowed from view to any student during testing. If this is not done, expect to be told prior or during a testing exercise.

6. Students should maintain appropriate, mature, and respectful standards of conduct and behavior during class time. Cheating on exams, copying from other students, or plagiarism from any source are all considered major academic offenses and will result in a penalty.
ranging from a zero (0) on the assignment in which the offense occurred to being dropped from the course (or if college rules dictate, suspension from school). Refer to the WCJC catalog to review the college’s policy on student conduct.

8. Cheating, plagiarism, or other major academic offenses will result in severe penalties that will affect a student’s grade or class status, ranging from a zero (0) on an assignment or test, withdrawal from the course, failure of the course, or other penalty as dictated by college policy regarding academic honesty. “Cheating” includes possessing and/or using a copy of the current course exam for use in preparing for an exam or using another student’s project (past or present) toward completion of the semester project, or acquiring information toward a grade at any time by any unethical means as determined by standard academic practice.

9. It is the student’s responsibility to retain graded material and/or scores that is/are returned by the instructor in the event that a grading question arises concerning an assignment.

10. Failure to complete any required work (unit exams, final exam, and the semester project) by their established deadline or assigned time will result in a zero grade for that assignment without exception!

Pertinent College Policies: Withdrawal from the Class: The withdrawal date (last day to officially drop a course) for the semester is: **November 20, 2015**. **Students are responsible to withdraw themselves from this class.** If a student does not attend class, and/or does not complete required assignments or examinations, the student will receive a grade of “F” in the class. Under certain circumstances, the instructor may withdraw a student but is under no obligation to do so. **FOR FIRST TIME COLLEGE STUDENTS (since FALL 2007):** New college and university students attending public institutions of higher education in the State of Texas are allowed a maximum of six (6) drops (W’s) throughout their college and university careers regardless of their present or future institution.

Presentation and Methodology: The basic methodology used in Sociology 1301 is lecture. Students are expected to take notes in class as a great amount of material presented is not found in the textbook or from available sources. Class discussion is expected and may permeate class lecture virtually at any time. The instructor welcomes student questions at any time during the lecture process.

Competencies: Sociology 1301: Introduction to Sociology will be presented in three units.

**Unit 1:** Sociological History, Theory, and Practice

Upon completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

a. Identify the major sociological perspectives and theorists
b. Compare and differentiate between the various schools of thought within the sociological discipline including Italian sociology, counterrevolutionary, and postmodernist sociology
c. Differentiate between the various sociological research methods
d. Describe several classical sociological studies and the research methods they employed
e. Describe flaws and shortcomings of research methods

**Unit 2:** Culture, Society, Social Interactions, Groups, and Deviance

Upon completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

a. Define culture, society, and the basic social institutions
b. Cite cross-cultural differences regarding culture and social interactions
c. Identify domestic norms, values, moral standards, and ethical considerations as well as global comparisons of the same
d. Classify the historical types of societies as distinguished by economic activity and level of technology
e. Discuss Weber's analysis of bureaucracy as well as identify other smaller forms of groups and collections of people
f. Discuss theories of deviant behavior and types and functions of deviant behavior
g. Discuss Merton's Strain Theory including the concept "anomie"

**Unit 3:** Social Stratification, Social Institutions, Politics and Economy, Population, and Urbanization

Upon completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

a. Recognize and identify the four hierarchies of social stratification
b. Understand the political implications of stratification in society
c. Discuss normative differences and institutional forms from around the world as well as the role of technology in institutional forms
d. Discuss classical political theory as it applies to sociology
e. Cite current population statistics from the United States and around the world, including the relationship between population and the economy
f. Recall current population trends and their possible influence on the future of our society
g. Identify demographic tools and theories, applicable to the study of population today

Part V: Grading

Examinations and Makeup Policy: There will be four (4) exams given in Sociology 1301 during the semester and NO EXAM MISSED MAY BE MADE UP FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER! REPEATING, THERE ARE NO MAKEUP EXAMS SO PLEASE DO NOT ASK. MISSING MORE THAN ONE EXAM WILL RESULT IN A ZERO GRADE FOR EACH MISSED BEYOND THE FIRST MISSED. Arrangements to take an exam early with good reason can be arranged with the instructor at his discretion. Exams are progressively comprehensive to some degree (i.e. Each exam may include some material covered since the beginning of the course.) All students MUST take the final examination. It will be a comprehensive exam which is the standardized departmental exit exam. The grade made on the final examination will account for 25% of the course grade. If an exam is missed, the semester project can take the place of the missed exam grade or the grade on the student’s departmental exam (the final) will serve the same purpose. The semester project may also be used to replace the lowest unit exam grade. Generally, exams are multiple-choice (with 4-5 choices) and normally contain 50 or 66 questions (but questions may be in any format and exams in any form at the discretion of the instructor). NOTE: AS THE INSTRUCTOR EXPECTS STUDENTS TO BE IN ATTENDANCE WHEN GRADED EXAMS ARE RETURNED AND REVIEWED (AS THIS IS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE), THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT NOT TO AWARD ANY EXAM CURVE TO STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO ATTEND THE CLASS PERIOD IN WHICH GRADED EXAMS ARE RETURNED AND REVIEWED!!

Exam Notes:

- The final exam MUST be taken by all students.
- Students are expected to be on time, especially on exam days. If a student is excessively tardy on the day of the scheduled exam, the instructor has the right to deny access to testing on that occasion. It is the instructor’s firm policy that no one may begin an exam after someone in the class has already finished and any latecomer allowed to begin an exam must finish their exam no later than the last non-tardy student in the classroom.
- All students normally will have approximately 50 minutes to complete each unit exam.
- Study aids or a class review are generally provided for each exam. Refer to the section entitled "Late Work Policy" for more information regarding testing policy.

Semester Project: Each student will be assigned a semester project assignment which will replace the lowest exam grade earned by a student (including a missed exam grade). Failure to complete (and submit for grading) the semester project within the allocated time frame for doing so will result in a zero grade on the assignment. Details of the semester project follows in a section entitled, "Semester Project Requirements." The DEADLINE for submitting the project is at the beginning of class on the class period PRIOR to the last day to officially drop the course. (See Semester Project handout or link [provided by the instructor later]).

Extra Credit: There are NO extra credit opportunities for SOCI 1301. Students should all concentrate their time and energy on making the best grades they can on the required components of the class. Good attendance and completing the semester project are normally the best opportunities to enhance one’s grade.

Late Work Policy: ABSOLUTELY NO LATE WORK OF ANY KIND WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON. NO EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER THE TIME DURING WHICH THEY WERE SCHEDULED. ANY WORK NOT TURNED IN PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE FOR ITS SUBMISSION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED OR GRADED AND MAY RESULT IN A POOR OR EVEN FAILING GRADE FOR THE COURSE. THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS FOR ANY REASON. (With good reason, a student who knows that they will be absent on the day of an exam may arrange to take the exam PRIOR to the scheduled time if such arrangements are planned and approved by the instructor.)
Grading Policy/ Semester Project: Semester Projects will be graded using the following criteria:
60% - factual presentation of ALL requirements stated in instructions
40% - neatness, creativity, format requirements, etc.

Calculation of Final Grade: The final grade for Sociology 1301 will be calculated as follows:

A. Weightings of examinations and assignments:

- 3 unit exam grades @ 25% each—lowest score dropped .......... 50%
- Semester Project @ 25%.................................................... 25%
- Departmental Final Exam ................................................ 25%

B. Grading system: (standard ten point system)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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</tbody>
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[Any fractional point is rounded]

Part VI: Class Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Unit Topics</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments</th>
<th>Exams &amp; Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Sociological History, Theory, and Practice | Chapters 1 & 2: Theory and Research Methods
Read text and notes provided which pertain to this section. Take lots of notes on theory in class.--review notes/provided study aids | First exam will be given approximately six to seven weeks into the semester. Unit one is a LONG UNIT! |
| 2    | Culture, Society, Social Interactions, Groups, and Deviance | Chapters 3, [insert part of 11—types of societies], 4, 5, 6
Pay special attention to Weber's, Bureaucracy, Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft, and Merton's Strain Theory of Deviance in textbook and notes -- review notes/provided study aids | Exam 2 will be given approximately three to four weeks following Exam 1 in non-summer semesters. Semester Project Deadline: (All project deadlines are at the beginning of the class period prior to the official college semester drop date)

Actual Semester Project Deadlines:
MWF classes: Wednesday, November 18, 2015;
TR classes: Thursday, November 19, 2015

Drop date: November 20, 2015 |
| 3    | Social Stratification, Social Institutions, Politics and the Economy, Population, and Urbanization | Chapters [Parts of 7, 8, 9, 10] & 15 plus Demography (lecture/notes)
Sections of these chapters will be covered in class without being formally or entirely read -- review notes/provided study aids | The third exam will be given at the last (or next to last) class meeting prior to the beginning of campus-wide final examinations or as a take-home exam.

Departmental Final Exam will primarily cover only the core learning objectives found in Chapters 1-7 |

Part VII: Semester Project Requirements

SPECIFIC WRITTEN PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED BY ONLINE HANDOUT POSTED ON INSTRUCTOR’S FACULTYWEB PAGE SEVERAL WEEKS INTO THE SEMESTER. The written project is usually a minimum of 1250 words (about 5 typed pages) in length (using an academically-accepted format like APA or Chicago Style). ALWAYS FOLLOW THE PROJECT ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS PRECISELY AND SPECIFICALLY! DEPTH AND DETAIL MATTERS!

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: The beginning of class on the class period PRIOR to the official college “last day to drop a course with a ‘W’” day
This semester, that date is:
In MWF classes: November 18, 2015;
In TR classes: November 19, 2015

NOTE: The project grade will replace the lowest unit exam grade made in the course (other than the final exam) but NO GRADE CAN REPLACE THE PROJECT GRADE! PROJECTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE—THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON THE DATE STATED ABOVE. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS! The instructor will provide details about how the project will be submitted (e.g. hard copy, electronic file, in BlackBoard, etc.) but all projects MUST be submitted before or at the established deadline to receive a non-zero grade.

Part VIII: Referenced Readings

Here are some potential readings/sources for completion of the semester project and/or for additional insight into the scope of sociology or that may have been referred to in lecture (all of these are optional sources of information):


Spengler, Oswald. *The Decline of the West, Vol. II., Chapters X-XIV*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1994). (These chapters deal with the areas covered by the project ranging from religion to the state, to progress and modernity.)


Part IX: Additional Information

NOTES:

* Any student with a disability or other special circumstance requiring academic accommodations or other consideration in order to successfully complete the requirements of this course should identify himself or herself individually to the instructor to discuss the matter in a private and confidential manner.

** Misconduct for which discipline may be administered at WCJC includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the college (plagiarism and cheating refer to the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test, copying tests, assignments, reports, or term papers).

NOTE ON PLAGIARISM: Due to an increase in the number of students submitting plagiarized papers (recycled papers from past semesters as well as cut and paste papers from internet sources) the
instructor may require additional safeguards and checks to prevent or detect plagiarized papers. The instructor may use SafeAssign, Turnitin, or other methods to detect academic dishonesty. Any plagiarized paper will result in a ZERO GRADE AND/OR IMMEDIATE FAILURE OF THE COURSE. If any student plans on plagiarizing their paper/project, they should immediately withdraw from the course.

NOTE ON CHEATING: Due to an increase in the number of students cheating on exams and assignments (copying answers, texting information, cheat notes, possessing exam copies prior to the exam, colluding with others on take-home assignments, etc.) the instructor reserves the right to utilize any and all safeguards, checks, and methods to prevent or detect cheating. Any assignment where cheating occurs as determined by the instructor will result in a ZERO GRADE AND/OR IMMEDIATE FAILURE OF THE COURSE. If any student plans on cheating in this course, they should immediately withdraw from the course.