

South Plains College

Common Course Syllabus: SOCI2336 - Criminology

Revised: December 2019

Department: Behavioral Science

Discipline: Sociology

Course Number: SOCI2336

Course Title: Criminology

Available Format: Internet

Campuses: May include Levelland, Reese, Plainview, Lubbock Center, Dual-Credit

Course Description: The course surveys various theories of crime, with an emphasis on understanding the social causes of criminal behavior. The techniques for measuring crime as a social phenomenon and the characteristics of criminals are examined. This course addresses crime types (such as consensual or white-collar crimes), the criminal justice system, and other social responses to crime.

Prerequisite: No prerequisite for conventional sections; must be TSI compliant in reading for Internet sections including dual credit.

Credit: 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 0

Textbook: Siegel, Larry J., *Criminology: The Core*, 7th edition, Cengage

Supplies: Computer and Internet access for all course formats and campuses.

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Component Area (080)

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:

- **Communications skills**—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Empirical and quantitative competency skills**—to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- **Social Responsibility**—to include the demonstrated knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Approval number 45.0401.51 25

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Define key concepts associated with criminology.
- Identify major criminological theories.
- Describe the major categories of crime.
- Explain the various methodological approaches used to research crime and criminal behavior.
- Describe the components and explain the dynamics of the criminal justice

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: See instructor's course information sheet for information on assessment that may include the following: pretests and posttests, quizzes, discussions, essays and/or other types of assessment tools.

Course Evaluation: Refer to instructor's course information sheet for specifics on coursework and grading.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

See instructor's course information sheet for additions to the attendance policy.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Diversity Statement: In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Disability Statement: Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability

Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

Nondiscrimination Policy: South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement: If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To [activate](#) accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or [email cgilster@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

Campus Concealed Carry: Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.

First, I would like to say **THANK YOU!** I consider it an honor that you have chosen to be in my course. I want to thank you in advance for the time and hard work that you will put into this learning experience. One of the keys to being successful in college is to maintain communication with your instructor. Feel free to call, e-mail, or to make an appointment if I can help you be successful in this course. I hope that your grade in this course will reflect the effort you put into it. – Brant Farrar

Course Information Sheet for Criminology, Soci2336

Fall 2021

Professor Brant Farrar

Note: All deadlines are on Tuesdays. Late work is not accepted for grading.

All deadlines are at noon. The deadlines are the DUE dates but you need to set your DO date ahead of the official DUE date.

Office Hours and Location:

Monday:	8:30am to 9:30am; 12:15pm to 1:00pm	(Reese Center-405E)
Tuesday:	8:30am to 9:30am; 2:15pm to 3:00pm	(Lubbock Center-TBD)
Wednesday:	8:30am to 9:30am; 12:15pm to 1:00pm	(RC-405E)
Thursday:	8:30am to 9:30am; 2:15pm to 3:00pm	(LC-TBD)
Friday:	9:00am to 12:00pm	(RC-405E)

*****And office hours by appointment if necessary**

Email Address: bfarrar@southplainscollege.edu (preferred method of contact)

Office Telephone: (806) 716-4657 → If you leave a message include your name, class you are in, phone number, and a short message. I have several courses and sections that I teach so it is important that you include your class information in the message.

COVID19 Statement from SPC President Robin Satterwhite:

1. In compliance with GA-38, SPC will not require any person to wear a face covering. However, we support anyone who chooses to wear a face covering to maintain safety as greater numbers of students, employees, and visitors come to our different campuses.
2. In compliance with GA-38, SPC will not require any person to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to visit our campuses or attend class. However, we strongly recommend getting the vaccine to better protect yourself and others from the COVID-19 virus.
3. Students, faculty, and staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for a 14-day period. Faculty should be prepared to accommodate students who are quarantined so they may continue their education without any unreasonable delays. If students, faculty, or staff test positive for COVID-19, they should contact their healthcare provider immediately to determine appropriate healthcare treatments, and they should contact DeEtte Edens to evaluate their quarantine requirements. Students should also contact their instructor to notify them they will be quarantined and to receive instructional guidance from their instructor.
4. Since we will not require face coverings and vaccines, it will be very difficult to mandatorily quarantine students, faculty, or staff who have a known positive exposure. However, we encourage anyone who has a known positive exposure and has not been vaccinated to consider a self-quarantine or wear a face covering for the same 14-day period.
5. Signs have been posted across all campuses encouraging anyone to go home and seek medical attention if they are experiencing any of the signs of COVID.
6. We encourage all faculty, staff, and students to diligently continue personal health and safety protocols such as handwashing, covering coughs/sneezes, and considering vaccinations.

If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, please do not attend class and either seek medical attention or get tested for COVID-19.

- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Muscles or body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea

- New loss of taste and smell

Please also notify DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at dedens@southplainscollege.edu or 806-716-2376.

SPC Return to Campus Plan Comprehensive Resources:

<http://www.southplainscollege.edu/emergency/return-to-campus-plan.php>

And

Actual Return to Campus Plan:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/emergency/SPCReturnToCampusPlans.pdf>

Funding for student assistance during Covid: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/paying-for-school/financial-aid/arp.php>

***Contact method:** Once the session has started, you are to use the e-mail link within your Blackboard course. You will log into your Blackboard account (do NOT use the Send email link on that page) and click on your SOCI2336 course in order to be able to access that e-mail account. Once you are in the course, you will see the “Course – e-mail” link on the left-hand side of the page. I will typically respond to all student messages within 24 hours on weekdays and within 48 hours on weekends and/or holidays unless I have notified you differently.*

Textbook: Siegel, Larry J. Criminology: The Core, 7th edition, Cengage. You may purchase a used book as this course does not require access to the publisher’s on-line content.

COVID19 Statement:

As per the Return to Campus Plans –7/21/2020: It is the policy of South Plains College for the Fall 2020 semester that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the SPC community. Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students properly wear CDC-compliant face coverings while in SPC buildings including in classrooms, labs, hallways, and restrooms. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Dean of Students on the Levelland campus or the Dean/Director of external centers for Student Code of Conduct Violation.

Attendance Policy: See Common Course Syllabus above. Since this course is a virtual classroom, attendance will be taken per the following:

- Participating in class discussion by posting to the discussion board.
- Submitting chapter quizzes on or before the noon due dates.

Note: Simply logging into the course or logging into the course and/or sending an e-mail is NOT considered attendance for this course. You MUST participate in the course by submitting work during any given week to be considered “in attendance”.

Late work:

All deadlines are Tuesdays at noon. **Note: Deadlines are DUE dates but you need to set your DO date ahead of the official DUE date.** If you have to work in the mornings or have classes, set your personal DO date Monday at midnight or even earlier so if you have questions or technical issues, you will have time to address those before the deadline. It is a best practice to work ahead of the deadline.

No work will be accepted for grading after the deadline. Excuses such as "The network was down," or "I could not figure out how to send the assignment through the assignments function" or "I got really sick and had to go to the ER last night" are not acceptable. In short, plan ahead, work ahead of the deadline, and do not wait until the last minute to submit your assignments. It is best practice to turn in assignments, submit quizzes and post discussion messages early.

Administrative Drop Policy:

Due to Financial Aid and South Plains College **requirements for participation/attendance: a student who fails to submit 6 quizzes or fails to participate in 3 grading periods for discussions or fails to participate by submitting course work in the course for 14 consecutive days during the session may be dropped with a grade of "X" or "F" from the course.** Note: Logging into the course does NOT count as attendance in this course. If you miss course work after the final drop date the grade earned will be the final grade.

Course Technology:

Since this course are entirely online, participants are expected to have at least an elementary knowledge of their microcomputer operating system and basic knowledge of software and tools such as a word processor, e-mail, an Internet browser, and search engines.

Required hardware:

- Computer available for download/installation of software and plug ins
- Speakers / Sound card

Required software:

- Microsoft Office (Word) – **Acceptable files are .docx, .rtf or .pdf. Do NOT submit .pages, google docs or other types of files. Points will be deducted if you use a file that is not on the acceptable file list.**
- Blackboard (see note below)
- Internet access – regular, dependable, fast enough to watch videos
- Web browser – a **current** version of one of the following – Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, or Google Chrome. Downloads for the newest browser versions are available free of charge from their websites.
- Virus protection
- Latest version of Java [Available here](#)

Blackboard:

Blackboard is an electronic learning resource that is designed to provide students with information requirements related to the courses. This includes up-to-date announcements, course information, assessment, assignments, deadlines, and the like. For this resource to function to its full potential, it is important that students log in multiple times during the week.

Students will post their responses to discussion prompts on the Discussion Forums through Blackboard. Students can also monitor their progress in the course by using the “My grades” link on the left-hand side of the course page.

Blackboard can be accessed via an Internet link:

<https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/>

You may also use the link to Blackboard in the upper right-hand side of the SPC Homepage. It is recommended that you bookmark the Blackboard page. Your log-in is the same as you MySPC log-in.

Technical support:

If you have any questions or need assistance, you are to contact Blackboard technical support at blackboard@southplainscollege.edu or call 806-716-2180. A note, contact your instructor for any questions you have about course content as technical support is only for issues concerning computers or Blackboard performance.

What to do if you experience technical problems:

If you are unable to submit an assignment, complete a quiz, or otherwise participate in our course because of an issue with Blackboard, it is YOUR responsibility to notify me via email when the problem occurs. It is also YOUR responsibility to notify technical support (contact information is in the box above) for assistance and to document your attempts to resolve the problem. In addition, take a screenshot to document your problem and submit this with your email to me and to technical support. If Blackboard outage is verified by the Division of Instructional Technology staff, I will work with you to make alternative arrangements. However, you are responsible for your technology and ability to submit work (including your access to an Internet connection). I strongly recommend that you submit your work early to avoid last minute problems. I also strongly recommend that you save a copy of your discussions and/or assignments to the course in case of technology disruption. Also, I strongly recommend that you have a back-up plan in case you have technical issues.

Open Computer Lab: There is an Open Computer Lab located on the Levelland campus in the Technology Center. It is available to all students, with priority given to those students enrolled in computer classes. Computers are also available on the Reese Center, Lubbock, and Plainview campuses. Check with libraries and labs for hours.

I recommend that you **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TURN ASSIGNMENTS IN OR YOU MAY HAVE PROBLEMS!** Remember the saying "TECHNOLOGY HAPPENS" and as stated above, late work is not accepted.

Anti-virus Software: Please make sure that your computer has an up-to-date antivirus software program installed.

Course work:

See the course calendar for deadlines. All deadlines are every Tuesday. All deadlines are by noon. If you work or have class in the morning, I recommend that you set your personal deadline at midnight the night before the deadline. Better yet, work a day or two ahead of the deadline and avoid the stresses and risks that may come with working close to the deadline. The deadline listed on the calendar/checklist is the FINAL time that course work can be submitted but you can ALWAYS submit ahead of the deadline. I don't accept late work for grading. **The choice is yours when it comes to how close you work to a deadline.**

“Get out of Jail Free” Option:

The get out of jail free points are for you to use in case of illness. There is a chance of illness with the spread of COVID-19 as well as other viruses such as the flu. If you are quarantined at home and are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms, you will be expected to complete your work as scheduled. The time to use your points is when you are too ill to focus on completing your course work and I will not require documentation of illness for use of points if that is the situation.

It is important to save your get out of jail free points for when you are ill. If you use the points because you don't want to do the work for a particular deadline or you forget a deadline, you won't have those points if you get sick.

If you are seriously ill and hospitalized to the point where you miss more than the work for one deadline, you will need to furnish documentation of the hospitalization. Each case of serious illness will be handled individually and will include use of get out of jail free points, late submission of work and/or assignment of “Incomplete” for the course grade along with the contract for completing the course. If an “Incomplete” is submitted at the time of grade submission, as per South Plains College policy, it is the responsibility of the student to complete the work according to the contract between professor and student or the grade will be changed to an F.

How to use Get out of Jail Free points:

For quizzes or discussion postings you may use the “Get out of jail free” card option twice during the semester. The maximum point value for the jail card is 100 points so the total will not exceed that total for the semester.

- You may use points for any two grading periods.
- You will receive full credit for these assignments (up to a total of 100 points) if you submit your “jail card” request **within one week of the missed assignment or course work.**
- The points may also be used to replace a low score but again must be used within one week of the original due date for that assignment.
 - On replacing a low score, if you earn a 10 on a quiz and want to use points to replace that grade, the entire 30 points for the quiz will be counted as points used.
 - On replacing a low discussion grade, if you earned a 30 because the original post was late and you want to replace the grade, the entire 50 points will be counted as points used.
- The work that you do not submit but use points for the grade will be counted as “missed” or not submitted for the purpose of the drop policy. It is important that students participate in all areas of the course work but discussions are particularly important

because this portion of the course work is part of the assessment of critical thinking skills, understanding of sociological terms and communication skills.

- The following is the policy for using points for discussions:
 - If you use points for two discussions, those discussions are counted as “missed” because you did not participate in the discussion. As per the drop policy, if you miss participating in three discussions, you may be dropped from the course. For this reason, you will be required to participate in all remaining discussions because not participating in a third discussion puts you at the drop criteria for the course.
 - If you miss a discussion and do not request the use of points, that discussion is counted as “missed”. You will be able to request the use of get out of jail free points for one other discussion but not a second discussion because that will be a total of three discussions that did not have participation and that meets the drop policy.
- **The requests will not be honored at the end of the semester to “fill in the blanks” in your gradebook.**
- The cards may not be used the Letter from Former Students assignment, the essay assignment, Letters to Future Students assignment or any type of course work other than what is listed above.

Pay attention to your grades as the course goes along and use this option for emergency situations such as illness, technology problems, accidents, deaths in the family etc.

All course work is in your Learning Modules in the Blackboard course.

Chapter Quizzes

Notes: You must submit an Online Participation Agreement Quiz and earn full points before the remainder of the course work will be available to you.

Then, there is a thirty-question multiple choice and true/false quiz for each of the chapters of the textbook that the course will cover. The chapter quizzes are 60 minute timed quizzes and will close at the deadline. These are "open book" quizzes but you will probably not have enough time to look up all the answers without reading and studying the material prior to taking the quiz. Do not click on the link until you are ready to take the test as once you enter the quiz and get out of it, you cannot re-enter the quiz. Quizzes will not be accepted after you surpass the time limit or after the deadline so plan ahead. Late quizzes aren't accepted. Practice quizzes are available to use as a study tool and are taken from the same test bank as the chapter quizzes. If you fail to submit 6 quizzes you may be dropped from the course.

Essay

See the module for the assignment and grading rubric.

Class Participation/Discussion Board postings

Discussion Board information and grading rubric

Note: You MUST post your original message before you will be able to view the posts of other students.

This course includes an Introduction Discussion that will help us get to know a little about each other and Discussions for each module that will include a video, article, or other material related to information that is covered in that section of the textbook.

Each Substantive Discussion (Disc) is worth 50 points and includes one Original Discussion and at least two Reply Discussions. Each Original Discussion is worth 20 points and the Reply Discussions are worth 15 points each. For each Disc, you will be graded on (1) your original post and (2) your replies to classmates' discussion of that same discussion topic.

The Online Discussion component of this course is comprised of weekly Discussion topics and is an important part of the class. Each week there will be discussion related to the course material. The faculty member posts weekly main discussion prompts that may include questions, videos, articles, or other resources related to a topic that is being covered for that week. Students are expected to respond to ALL Discussions.

Online discussion is a very important part of online learning. Through your responses to weekly discussions, you will learn to integrate class material into your thoughts and learn more about how others view the topics that are covered in the course. Additional discussion with classmates and the professor help us all learn more about the material. As such, each week you are also expected to make at least two thoughtful and substantial responses to classmates.

I suggest that members participate at least two times per week. It is a good idea to check in early in the deadline period and again closer to the final day of the deadline period. This assures that you are an active member of the class throughout the week and have ample opportunity to interact with other members. Discussions will be due at 12:00 p.m. (NOON), so if you work or have classes in the mornings, you may need to set your personal deadline at midnight the night before the noon deadline. See the course calendar/checklist for deadlines.

Discussion posts are not accepted for grading after the deadline. Drop policy is if you fail to participate in 3 discussion grading periods you may be dropped from the course. [See the note in the Get Out of Jail Free Points section for more information about missed discussion\(s\).](#)

Online Discussions will be graded as follows:

Discussion Grading Rubrics

Original discussion posts – worth up to 20 points (first round of grading). See note below rubric.

Late original posts will not be graded. However, you may post an original post after the deadline so that you can see the posts of others and reply to at least two others to earn the reply portion of the grade.

Grading category	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Outstanding
Demonstrates understanding of connection between video/prompt and textbook material. (Recap of the video does not meet this area of grading.) Up to 10 points	Post shows no to little evidence of the understanding of the connection between video/prompt and textbook. Mainly a recap of the video. 0 – 4 points	Post shows some evidence of the understanding of the connection between video/prompt and textbook. Some recap of the video with some textbook information. 5 – 9 points	Post shows understanding of the connection between video/prompt and textbook. More textbook information discussed along with applicable text information compared to the amount of video information discussed. 10 points
Page citation(s) included for required textbook information and citation for optional outside information if used. Up to 5 points	No page citation given for required text information or outside information if used. 0 – 1 points	Page citations given for some but not all textbook information or outside information if used. 2 – 4 points	All textbook information used cited. Cited any outside information used. 5 points
Spelling and grammar Up to 5 points	Post contains multiple errors, uses text-messaging shortcuts and/or hard for readers to follow. Fails to use capitalization and/or punctuation. 0 – 1 points	Post contains minor errors that do not cloud the meaning. Contains 3 to 5 grammar, spelling, punctuation and/or capitalization errors. 2- 4 points	Post is clear and articulate. Has 0, 1 or 2 grammar, spelling, punctuation and/or capitalization errors. 5 points

Note: The first round of grading is by the grading rubric above. As per the section below the rubric that is in the syllabus, there are additional requirements for the length of the post and use of the sociological perspective. Points will be deducted from the grade earned in the grading rubric for short posts or for posts that do not use the sociological perspective.

Original discussions should:

- You must post your original discussion message before you will be able to see the posts of other students.
- Be made before the deadline stated on the course calendar/checklist.
- Contain a minimum of 200 words.
- Be thoughtful, organized, and analyze the information in the video/prompt.

- Demonstrate an understanding of the questions/video/prompt and the course material. Each question/video/prompt is chosen because it illustrates at least one topic related to criminology. You are to identify and discuss the topic(s) that are shared content of the question/video/prompt and the course material. Base your discussion post on the material you have read in the textbook as well as information you find on credible websites. Show me you have read and understand the course material in your posts.
- Contain more than just your opinion: justify your statements using course materials as well as information from credible websites.
- Do NOT simply state a recap of the video if a video is provided. Everyone should have watched/read the material and I am looking for a deeper level of thought than just stating what was in the video/prompt.
- Incorporate ***and cite information from the textbook***, outside academic sources, credible websites, etc. Textbook citations should include the page number(s) and other sources should include citations to show where you located the information. Note: Wikipedia is NOT an academic source.
- You may include personal experiences and/or reactions. CAUTION: Remember to use the sociological perspective in all of your course work as per the syllabus.
- Discussion forums are public so don't post anything that you don't want everyone else to read.
- Utilize appropriate language, grammar, and spelling

Reply discussion posts – worth up to 15 points each for a total of 30 points (first round of grading). See note below rubric.

Grading category	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Outstanding
Interaction with others	<p>Replies do not contribute to the discussion in a meaningful way.</p> <p>Reply is inappropriate for an academic setting.</p> <p>The student makes a personal attack; language might suggest bias toward a group member or others.</p> <p>The student appears unaware of cultural differences in conducting discussions.</p>	<p>Replies attend to the discussion but contributes little new knowledge or ideas.</p> <p>Most of the reply is a restatement of what was posted in other messages.</p> <p>Some awareness of cultural differences is shown but shows some bias.</p> <p>Disagreement is respectful but no invitation to respond is extended.</p>	<p>Replies are thoughtful and reflective and carry the discussion forward in a meaningful way.</p> <p>Replies to others are responsive to the statement and indicate that the student understood it and thought about it.</p> <p>When disagreeing, the student does it respectfully. The nature of the disagreement is stated and an invitation to respond extended.</p> <p>The student is aware of cultural differences</p>

Up to 10 points per reply post for a total of 20 points overall			in social interactions and behaves in an appropriate fashion. 20 points
Up to 5 points per reply post for a total of 10 points overall	Replies contain multiple errors, uses text-messaging shortcuts and/or hard for readers to follow. Fails to use proper grammar, spelling, capitalization and/or punctuation. 0 – 3 point	Replies contain minor errors that do not cloud the meaning. Contains 3 to 5 grammar, spelling, punctuation and/or capitalization errors. 4 – 8 points	Replies are clear and articulate. Has 0, 1 or 2 grammar, spelling, punctuation and/or capitalization errors. 9 – 10 points

Note: The first round of grading is by the grading rubric above. As per the section below the rubric that is in the syllabus, there is additional requirement for the length of the post. Points will be deducted from the grade earned in the grading rubric for short posts.

Responses to Original discussions should:

- Be made before the deadline stated on the course calendar/checklist.
- Contain a minimum of 75 words.
- Include at least two responses to classmates.
- Add to the overall value of the discussion (simply posting a statement similar to “I thought this week’s ideas were interesting” or “I agree”) will not count towards your points for a grade.
- Ask questions to encourage other students to think more deeply. Just asking, “What do you think?” will not earn full points here.
- Share your own experiences that relate to the topic of discussion.
- Constructively and/or respectfully disagree at times.
- Refer to class course work (text or video information) and apply the information or ask other students how they are applying course information.
- If you repeat yourself in your reply messages you will not earn full points.
- Utilize appropriate language, grammar, and spelling.

ONLINE ETIQUETTE:

A few words about communication and online discussion are in order. As you imagine, some conversations easily become emotional, especially if we touch on deeply held beliefs of others. Unfortunately, online postings can mislead one into thinking that cyberspace is an "anything goes" kind of forum. This isn't the case. Civil interaction is as much expected here as in the "traditional" classroom. Below I provide some guidelines for communicating more effectively online. I will deduct points from posts that violate the spirit of these suggestions.

Keep in mind:

- There may be disagreement and this is okay, otherwise we will be bored.
- Disagreement can be very constructive; it encourages us to reconsider our own positions and either recommit, expand, or discard them.
- I must at all times hear/see you debating the IDEA and not making a personal attack on an individual. Note that this is a skill to learn like any other so learn how to debate and get your point heard.
- Personal insults and attacks impede the development of critical thought. Avoid "you" statements, which can be more easily interpreted as accusations ("you don't know what you're talking about", "the problem is people like you," etc., etc.). Try, instead, to use "I" statements ("I disagree with your position on "X" and then explain your viewpoint using course material to validate that viewpoint or "I find that Durkheim was actually saying ...").
- In addition, people have to be given the benefit of the doubt on occasion. Because this is an online class and we cannot see each other's facial expressions or hear the tone in our voices, it is important to clarify issues that are confusing. Before jumping to a conclusion and putting words in someone's mouth, ask them to clarify their point. And if someone asks you to restate your opinion, do not be afraid to restate it.
- Finally, I will be most impressed with individuals who can incorporate course materials into their posts. A key skill you should leave college with is the ability to support your positions; this online forum is an appropriate place to hone this skill. Refer to readings and module material to support your points.

*Adapted from Soc 101: Introduction to Sociology An Online Course, by Professor Marisol Clark-Ibanez, Ph.D.

All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. (This means no "texting" abbreviations or shortcuts!) This includes discussions.

Writing Tips for all written work in the course:

1. All written work should be typed or computer generated, double spaced, with one inch margins in a standard 12 pt. font. [Acceptable files are .docx, .rtf or .pdf. Do NOT submit .pages, google docs or other types of files. Points will be deducted if you use a file that is not on the acceptable file list.](#)
2. Any references used should be listed at the end of the paper using APA style and within the body of the text according to APA procedure. Using reference material without proper documentation constitutes plagiarism which is a serious academic offense. Wikipedia is not considered a valid academic source. Do not use it!
3. For the assignments in this class, it is better to write using first or third person pronouns. Therefore, it is appropriate to use "I, me, mine" or "he, she, their, we." It is not appropriate to use "you" or "your." Please avoid writing in 2nd person.
4. Be sure to proofread your work for grammatical and spelling errors. Use the "enable html" button within the email, assignments, and discussion functions to run a spell check. Also

remember that "healthy" paragraphs are usually comprised of at least three sentences organized around a central idea.

Academic Integrity: See Common Course Syllabus. Students found guilty of plagiarism in this course will receive a grade of zero (0) for the work in question for the first offense and will be dropped from the course with an "F" should a second offense occur.

- This course requires students to submit only their OWN WORDS for all parts of the assignments and discussion. Give proper citation for any information taken from any source including the textbook, Internet sites or any other source. For this course, the main source of information is your textbook and you are to cite the page number where you found the information that you use.
- I know students want to help each other but when another student provides you with past questions and/or answers, that is a violation of academic integrity and could result in failure for the class. The same is true if you provide another student with questions and/or answers.
- Using on-line websites that provide questions and/or answers is also a violation of academic integrity and could result in failure for the class.
- For further information and examples please see <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/information-for/current-spc-students/library/cslibrary/v1/plagiarism.php> or <http://tlt.its.psu.edu/plagiarism/tutorial> .

Student Appeals: See *SPC Student Guide* and/or *SPC General Catalog*.

Student Conduct: See Common Course Syllabus section. Also, please note that this is an online environment and others will see your comments posted to the discussion board area and/or in e-mail communications. Do not post any pictures, comments or data that others may find offensive. Since this is an on-line classroom, any e-mails or correspondence sent by the instructor to a student or students are considered lawful directions.

Equal Opportunity: See Common Course Syllabus section. In addition, in this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world, and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

South Plains College strives to accommodate the individual needs of all students in order to enhance their opportunities for success in the context of a comprehensive community college setting. It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age. In addition, this instructor will not tolerate remarks nor gestures that can be construed to be sexist, racist, heterosexist or in any way disparaging to another person in this classroom. Students who exhibit such behavior will be dropped from the class with a semester grade of "F" regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, religion, or sexual orientation. . In short, "Bigotry will not be tolerated."

Sociological perspective: Students will use what is termed the Sociological Perspective since you are now students of Sociology. This perspective stresses the social context in which people live and steps away from what is termed "person blaming." Sociologists look beyond individuals and individual experiences. This perspective strives to understand human behavior by placing it within its broader social context. Depending on a person's characteristics such as gender, age, race, sexual orientation and religion among others, we each have different experiences. Sociologists using this perspective (and that includes you, the student) evaluate people and behaviors in terms of what is typical or atypical (or not typical) by studying society and finding general patterns of behavior. They do NOT judge others or their behaviors with terms such as good/bad, moral/immoral or right/wrong. Do NOT use these terms in your assignments or discussion posts or you will lose points.

Accommodations: See Common Course Syllabus section. Please note: Instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided.

Grading criteria for student’s final grade in the course:

Your grade will be calculated on a cumulative point total based on the following scale: A = 810 – 900; B = 720 – 809.99; C = 630 - 719.99; D = 540 - 629.99; F – 0 – 539.99. Another way to calculate your average is to take your total points earned and divide by 900. Grades are **NOT** automatically rounded up.

Point Distribution:

Online Participation Agreement Quiz	10 points
Introduction Discussion	40 points
E-mail assignment	10 points
Letter from former students assignment	40 points
Quizzes 12 chapters @ 30	360 points
5 Discussion postings (1 original and 2 replies each) @ 50 points	300 points
Essay	100 points
Letter to Future Students	<u>40 points</u>
Total points possible	900 points

Calendar and Checklist: See the “Start here” area of the course for the full course calendar with checklist.

Deadlines are EVERY Tuesday at NOON. Remember that the **official deadlines** are when the work is **DUE** but I recommend that you set your **personal deadlines** for when you **DO** your work a couple of days before the official deadline. The policy for this course is that late work is not accepted.