

SOCI 1510: Introduction to Sociology

University of North Texas – Fall 2026

Contact Information:

Professor: Dr. Allison Helmuth (she/her)
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*zoom link available on Canvas

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Regular Class Meetings

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:35-10:55am, GAB 104 (General Academic Building)

SOCI1510 UNT Course Catalog Description:

Introduces significant sociological concepts, theories, and social research methods, including social structure, culture, poverty, inequality, health, race, class, gender, and social change.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Course Objectives: This course introduces students to the field of sociology, examines fundamental sociological ideas, and applies them to a variety of topics. We will learn about three broad ways sociology helps us understand the social world: 1) sociological perspectives for understanding everyday life; 2) sociological perspectives on inequalities; and 3) sociological perspectives on social problems.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understand what is distinctive about sociology as a science.
2. Question taken-for-granted and common-sense aspects of social life.
3. Use sociological ideas to better understand common life experiences.
4. Discuss sociological research and theories about current social problems and inequalities.

UNT Core Curriculum

Soci 1510 is part of the UNT Core Curriculum and satisfies the Social and Behavioral Sciences Requirement. "Courses in this category focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human. Courses involve the exploration of behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture." Soci 1510 meets the Core Objectives of critical thinking skills, communication, skills, empirical and quantitative skills, and social responsibility. "The University Core Curriculum is designed to ensure that all UNT students graduate with breadth of knowledge gained through their general education classes as well as depth of knowledge gained from courses in their major area of study. [...] Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning." <http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=30&navoid=3325>

Required Texts and Materials

Textbook: Instead of using a standard textbook, this course will use a digital textbook where chapters can be purchased individually for \$1 per chapter. The textbook is called *A Sociology Experiment* and can be located here: <https://sociologyexperiment.com/>. We will use a total of seven chapters (e.g., \$7). The chapters you should purchase include the following:

- A Sociology Experiment: Introduction (4th Edition)- \$1
- Social Structure and the Individual (4th Edition)- \$1
- Culture (4th edition) - \$1
- Gender and Sexuality (4th edition)- \$1
- Race and Ethnicity (4th edition)- \$1
- Research Methods (4th edition) - \$1
- Social Class, Inequality, and Poverty (4th edition)- \$1

All other assigned readings will be available free of charge online or posted as PDFs via the course website on Canvas.

Please also bring a pen/pencil and paper to class to complete in-class activities and take notes!

In addition to the required readings, students must familiarize themselves with the Canvas course webpage (unt.instructure.com). This is where you will be able to access the syllabus, readings, copies of PowerPoint slides, assignment instructions, and your scores from assignments and exams. Students must have access to a computer, MS Office or Google Docs (Canvas will only accept .doc, .docx, and .pdf file extensions), and internet connectivity that will allow them to complete this course. **Students should check the course site and UNT email daily to be sure not to miss important course updates or communications.**

Preparing for Class

To succeed in this class, students should actively read all of the assigned chapters and articles, as well as attend class to participate and actively engage with the lecture material. During each of the required exams in this course, students will be assessed on their understanding and application of information and theories from the required readings as well as in-class activities and lectures.

Attendance and Participating in Class

To succeed in this class, students must attend class regularly in-person and fully participate by actively listening, engaging in class discussion, and participating in in-class activities and assignments. Please note: the majority of assignments in this course require in-person attendance in order to receive full credit. Make-up assignments are not permitted, except in a documented case of emergency or other authorized absence in accordance with [UNT's attendance and absences policies](#).

Assignments and Exams

In-Class Activities: In-Class Activities are mini assignments or exercises that will be completed during class-time. Please bring a pen/pencil, notepaper that you can write on and submit to me for grading, and either a laptop or smartphone (if available) to class. Students will also have the option to collaborate with a peer during class if they are not able to bring a laptop or smart phone on any given day. In-class activity days are listed on the syllabus and cannot be made-up or completed outside of class. In-person attendance is required for credit. To allow for some flexibility, each student may miss up to two in-class activities without impacting their final grade.

Learning Societies: Everyone brings a unique perspective to this course. When we read sociology, we filter information through our own experiences and understandings of the world. In order to learn from each other and practice discussing scholarly material, we will break into small discussion groups (i.e., “Learning Societies”) on five scheduled Learning Society days. To receive full credit for these assignments, each student must a) complete and submit a notetaking assignment on the required reading (by the deadline) for each of the scheduled discussion days; and b) come to class prepared to discuss the reading with your discussion group. Please note the schedule of discussion days in the syllabus and jot these down in your calendar at the beginning of the semester. Attendance is mandatory in order to receive full credit for these assignments.

Inequality Assignment: This assignment is required by the University of Texas as part of its core curriculum. The assignment asks students to write a 2-to-5-page paper in which you apply sociological concepts from our course to your analysis and interpretation of quantitative social data. Instructions for completing this assignment are located under the “Inequality Assignment” module on Canvas. Please refer to the rubric for guidance on how the assignment will be graded.

Exams: There will be two non-cumulative in-class examinations that will take place in-person during our regularly-scheduled class time. The exams will be made up of a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and matching questions. We will spend the class period prior to the exam reviewing for the exam. In-Class exams cannot be made-up, except in the case of documented emergencies in accordance with UNT’s [absence and attendance policies](#). An optional, cumulative final exam will be offered at the end of the semester and will replace any student’s lowest prior exam score.

Grade Policies

Your final grade is made up of the following components:

1. In-Class Activities	10%
2. Learning Societies	40%
3. Inequality Assignment	20%
4. Exam 1	15%
5. Exam 2	15%

100% Total

The cutoffs for final letter grades are as follows. I will round final grades up at the 0.5 threshold (i.e., 89.5% becomes 90%).

A	90-100	Excellent Work
B	80-89	Good Work
C	70-79	Fair Work
D	60-69	Passing Work
F	0-59	Failure

Absence Policies

This course is designed to be a face-to-face and discussion oriented. This means that regular in-person attendance and participation in the course is expected. Eighty percent of the final course grade will be based on assignments that require in-person attendance for full credit. However, there are some cases when you may benefit from asking for an accommodation: e.g., if you have a disability that limits your

ability to attend class on an ongoing basis; if you have required military service or a religious holiday; if you have experienced a sudden emergency; or some other extenuating circumstance that is impacting your ability to attend class in accordance with [UNT's attendance and absence policies](#). Generally, accommodations cannot be made for occasional absences due to routine illness, oversleeping, or work/scheduling conflicts. However, to allow for some flexibility in the event of missed exams or in-class activities, all students will have their lowest two in-class activity scores dropped from their final grade and will have the option to take a cumulative final exam (not required) to replace their lowest exam score.

Late Work

Late work will only be accepted for the Inequality Assignment and reading notes for the Learning Society discussions. A late penalty of 5% will be deducted for each 24-hour period the assignment is late, starting the first minute after the original deadline. Late work will not be accepted for in-class activities, exams, or the discussion component of Learning Society assignments. If an emergency makes it impossible to complete an assignment on time and you would like to discuss whether an accommodation can be made, please visit my office hours to discuss the situation or email me to set up an appointment.

Academic Integrity Policy

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. Please note that the use of generative artificial intelligence software (like ChatGPT), (un)intentionally copying from the Internet, copying from a classmate, etc. are all example of violations of UNT's Student Academic Integrity policy.

AI Policy

In this course, I want you to engage deeply with the materials and develop your own critical reading, thinking, and writing skills. For this reason, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools, like Claude, ChatGPT, and Gemini, is not permitted. While these tools can be helpful in some contexts, they do not align with our goal of fostering the development of your independent thinking. Using GenAI to complete any part of an assignment, exam, or coursework will be considered a violation of academic integrity, as it prevents the development of your own skills, and will be addressed according to the Student Academic Integrity policy.

Disability Accommodations

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is only a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

Contacting Us

Please contact us (Professor or TA) by email or make an office hours visit (in-person or by Zoom) if there is anything we can do or that we need to know to help make your experience better. You can always walk into office hours without an appointment, or you can email us to set up an appointment at another time.

COURSE SCHEDULE*

*Readings on this list may be changed or updated with at least one-week advanced notice. Please check an updated version of the course schedule prior to each class.

Part 1. Sociological Perspectives			
Week	Date	Readings (To be read by class-time on the date listed)	Due
Wk1	Tues, Aug 18	No reading today Review Syllabus and familiarize yourself with Canvas	In-Class Activity (Getting To Know Each Other)
	Thurs, Aug 20	<u>What is Sociology?</u> Chapter: "Introduction (A Sociology Experiment)" \$1 at https://sociologyexperiment.com/	
Wk2	Tues, Aug 25	<u>Structure and Agency</u> Chapter: "Social Structure and the Individual," \$1 at https://sociologyexperiment.com/	Syllabus Quiz due by class time In-Class Activity (Beast of Man)
	Thurs, Aug 27	<u>Culture</u> Chapter: "Culture," \$1 at https://sociologyexperiment.com/	
Wk3	Tues, Sept 1	<u>The Social Self</u> - Nickerson, Charlotte. 2022. "<u>Impression Management and Self Presentation (Goffman).</u>" January 18, 2022. <i>Simply Psychology</i> - Ceban, Felicia. 2020. "<u>Through the looking-glass. An investigation into the imprint of COVID-19 on sense of self.</u>" November 24, 2020. <i>the Strand</i>.	In-Class Activity (20 Questions Test)
	Thurs, Sept 3	<u>Fashion</u> [Pages 541-545] Simmel, Georg. 1957. "<u>Fashion.</u>" <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 62(2):541-558. - Nahman, Haley. 2021. "<u>Is Denim in an Identity Crisis?</u>" November 10, 2021. <i>New York Times</i>. Tweet thread by Derek Guy @dieworkwear	

Wk4	Tues, Sept 8	<u>Music and Fan Culture</u> • [Pages 187-191 and 194-196]. Roy, William G., and Timothy J. Dowd. 2010. "What Is Sociological about Music?" <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> 36. • Neely, Anthony and Vittorio Malone. 2014. "From Fan to Fam: The Bounding 'Counters' in the Juggalo Culture."	In-Class Activity (Fandoms)
	Thurs, Sept 10	<u>Religion</u> • Emerson, Michael. 2016. "The Sociology of Religion: An Overview." Pages 105-119, Chapter 6 in <i>Religion: Social Religion</i>. • Gullotta, Daniel N. 2022. "America, Land of Unbelieving Believers." June 29, 2022. <i>The Bulwark</i>.	Learning Society #1
Wk5	Tues, Sept 15	No new reading today *In-Class Activity: Review Session for Exam 1	In-Class Activity: Exam Review
	Thurs, Sept 17	EXAM 1 <i>*Note that Exam 1 must be taken in-person during class time on September 17th. No make-up exams will be offered for missing this exam.</i>	Exam 1 – To Be Taken In-Person
Part 2: Social Inequalities			
Wk6	Tues, Sept 22	<u>Methods</u> • Chapter: "Research Methods," \$1 at https://sociologyexperiment.com/	
	Thurs, Sept 24	<u>Social Class</u> • Chapter: "Social Class, Inequality, and Poverty," \$1 at https://sociologyexperiment.com/	
Wk 7	Tues, Sept 29	<u>The Class Domination Theory of Power</u> • Domhoff, William. "The Class Domination Theory of Power" (PDF located on Canvas)	
	Thurs, Oct 1	<u>Sociology of Race and Ethnicity</u> • Chapter: "Race and Ethnicity," \$1 at https://sociologyexperiment.com/	In-Class Activity (guided viewing worksheet)
Wk8	Tues, Oct 6	<u>Race/Ethnicity and Health Inequalities</u> • Kenen, Joanne, and Elaine Batchlor. 2022. "Racist Doctors and Organ Thieves: Why So Many Black People Distrust the Health Care System." December 18, 2022. <i>Politico</i>.	Leaning Society #2

	Thurs, Oct 8	<u>Race/Ethnicity and Health Inequalities, cont.</u> • Park, William. 2019. "The Simple Words that Save Lives." September 20, 2019. <i>BBC Future</i>. • Gonzalez de Gispert, Jaime, 2015. "Hispanic paradox: Why immigrants have a high life expectancy." May 29, 2015. <i>BBC News</i>. • Lewis, Tanya. 2022. "The U.S. Just Lost 26 Years' Worth of Progress on Life Expectancy." October 17, 2022. <i>Scientific American</i>.	
Wk9	Tues, Oct 13	<u>Sociology of Gender</u> Required: • Chapter: [Pages 5-38] "Gender and Sexuality," \$1 at https://sociologyexperiment.com/	
	Thurs, Oct. 15	<u>Gender and the Sociology of Gaslighting</u> • Sweet, Paige. 2022. "How Gaslighting Manipulates Reality"	Learning Society #3
Wk10	Tues, Oct 20	<u>Sociology of Sexuality</u> • Chapter: [Pages 39-50] "Gender and Sexuality," \$1 at https://sociologyexperiment.com/	
	Thurs, Oct 22	<u>LBGTQ Inequalities</u> Required: • Stone, Amy, Elizabeth Nimmons, and Robert Salcido, Jr. 2024. "Refusing Gender: Intimate (Mis)Recognition of Gender Identity and Its Relation to Family Instabilities." <i>Gender and Society</i> https://doi.org/10.1177/08912432241277218	
Wk11	Tues, Oct 27	<u>Intersectionality</u> • Collins, Patricia Hill. 1990. "Toward a New Vision: Race, Class, and Gender as Categories of Analysis and Connection"	In-Class Activity (Roll of the Dice)
	Thurs, Oct 29	No Class Today Dr. Helmuth is available to meet via Zoom or in-person during class time today to answer questions about the Inequality Assignment (or anything else you'd like to discuss!).	Inequality Assignment Due
Part 3: Social Problems			
Wk12	Tues, Nov 3	<u>Residential Segregation</u> • Greene, Turner, and Gourevitch. 2017. "Racial Residential Segregation and Neighborhood Disparities." Urban Institute.	In-Class Activity (guided viewing worksheet)

	Thurs, Nov 5	<u>Residential Segregation, cont.</u> Ch. 1, "If San Francisco, then Everywhere?" from Richard Rothstein's book, <i>The Color of Law: The Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America</i>.	Learning Society #4 <i>*Note: Nov 6 is the last day to drop the course with a grade of W</i>
Wk13	Tues, Nov 10	<u>Housing and Homelessness</u> - Joshua Fechter, "Texans face a bigger burden than ever to pay rent, study finds," <i>Texas Tribune</i> January 25, 2024. - Alan Greenblatt, "How Houston Cut Its Homeless Population by Nearly Two-Thirds," <i>Governing.com</i>. Aug. 30, 2023. - Christian McPhate, "As Homelessness in Denton Nearly Tripled from 2019 to 2025, Agencies Feel the Strain," <i>Denton Record-Chronicle</i>, July 10, 2026.	In-Class Activity (redlining maps)
	Thurs, Nov 12	<u>Extremism</u> - Cooter, Amy. 2022. "Citizen Militias in the U.S. Are Moving toward More Violent Extremism." January 1, 2022. <i>Scientific American</i>. - Goff, Kerby, and John D. McCarthy. 2022. "No, antifa didn't 'infiltrate' Black Lives Matter during the 2020 protests. But did it increase violence?" February 8, 2022. <i>Washington Post</i>. - Abrams, Zara. 2021. "Deradicalizing domestic extremists." July 21, 2021. <i>Monitor on Psychology</i>.	
Wk14	Tues, Nov 17	<u>Social Movements and Social Change</u> Morris, Aldon. 2021. "From Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter." February 3, 2021. <i>Scientific American</i>.	Learning Society #5
	Thurs, Nov 19	<u>Public Sociology</u> Laura Nichols, "Public Sociology"	
Wk15	Tues, Nov 24	No class this week – Thanksgiving Break	
	Thurs, Nov 26	No class this week – Thanksgiving Break	
Wk16	Tues, Dec 1	No new reading today *In-Class Activity: Review Session for Exam 2	In-Class Activity (Review Game for Exam 2)
	Thurs, Dec 3	EXAM 2	Exam 2 – To be Taken In-Person

		<i>*Note that Exam 2 must be taken in-person during class time on September Dec 3th. No make-up exams will be offered for missing this exam.</i>	
	Dec. 7-11	<i>University Exam Week</i> *An <u>optional</u> Final Exam will be offered via Canvas on Thursday, December 10th. *In-Person attendance is NOT required for this optional Final Exam. This is a cumulative exam covering the entire semester. If you decide to take it, it will replace your lowest previous exam score.	