# **Introduction to Sociology**

# SOCI 1510

## Spring 2024 / Online

## Curtis Joseph

## **IMPORTANT UNT DATES**

Classes Begin: January 16th

Spring Break: March 11th - 17th

Semester Ends: May 10th

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Contact with Professor: You may email me at curtis.joseph@unt.edu. I will check email periodically. I will also monitor your progress in the course and correspond with you through grading comments. Please note: I will NOT respond to non-UNT emails. Please use your official UNT email address when contacting me through email.

Office Hours:This course is entirely online. I will not hold office hours on campus. This does not mean I am not available for help. If you need help or need to discuss the course, please send a message in the Inbox in Canvas. We can also set up a ZOOM appointment if you would like.

Inbox Canvas:If you need to speak to me privately, the absolute BEST way to do so is through theInbox inCanvas.Please allow 24 hours for a response. Please email me again if you do not receive a response within 24 hours.

Unavailable:I may not respond to emails or messages in the evenings and on weekends. If you email me then, please expect a reply the next business day.

## **UNT INFORMATION**

The University of North Texas (UNT) is a major public research university deeply committed to advancing educational excellence and preparing students to become thoughtful, engaged citizens of the world.

### **College of Liberal Arts and Sciences / Mission and Vision**

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (formerly the College of Arts and Sciences) began in 1945 with a diverse set of 14 departments. Today, our family of 22 academic departments and programs remains eclectic. And so are the college's alumni, who number in the tens of thousands and live throughout the United States and many countries worldwide. Our alumni have distinguished themselves in areas ranging from scientific research to politics to business and finance.

**Mission:** Our mission is to kindle the thirst for truth, justice, and beauty; to foster cultural literacy and scientific investigation; and cultivate thinking, speaking, and writing abilities characterized by clear expression and logically coherent, evidence-based arguments. We see these as the values, forms of knowledge, and skills most needed by citizens of a democracy and productive members of the global workforce.

**Vision:** We seek a future in which the achievements of our faculty and students reach even greater heights of excellence and public recognition; in which a spirit of inclusion and mutual respect is maintained and strengthened among faculty and students with differing viewpoints and from diverse backgrounds; and in which increasing interdisciplinary collaboration opens up new opportunities for intellectual, empirical, and creative discovery.

### **Department of Sociology**

We are a dynamic community of faculty, staff, and students who share a commitment to developing sociological imaginations in ourselves and others. Our mission as a department is to provide undergraduate and graduate students with conceptual and methodological tools to analyze social patterns productively. High-level sociological training prepares our students for careers in education, marketing, social services, government, data science, health care, and many other fields.

## **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

SOCI 1510 (1301). Introduction to Sociology. 3 hours. Introduction to Sociology. 3 hours. Introduces significant sociological concepts, theories, and social research methods, including social structure, culture, poverty, inequality, health, race, class, gender, and social change. Required of all sociology majors.

## **COURSE LEVEL OBJECTIVES**

* By the end of the course, students will be able to:
	+ Define and apply the sociological imagination.
	+ Explain what constitutes social structure and how to study it.
	+ Demonstrate knowledge and critical reasoning.
	+ Describe the role of social inequality in society and explain its impact.
	+ Describe the major social institutions in society and how they influence and are influenced by the larger society.
	+ Recognize how society changes over time.
	+ Employ the appropriate methods, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
	+ Analyze social institutions and processes across various historical periods, social structures, and cultures.
	+ Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
	+ Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
	+ Analyze the effects of several elements (i.e., historical, social, political, economic, cultural) on social institutions and specific aspects of social life.
	+ Identify differences and commonalities within diverse cultures.

## **REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

 ISBN: 978-0-393-88735-8

*The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology* (2022) Kerry Ferris and Jill Stein.

You must acquire this book ASAP! Everyone must have all their course materials by week one, day one of the semester. The publisher, W. W. Norton, offers the first 3 chapters free with trial access (<https://digital.wwnorton.com/realworld8>), so there is **NO EXCUSE** for not accessing this material. If you need help accessing the book beyond the trial period, please reach out to me so we can brainstorm ideas.

## **UNT ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

### **UNT Code of Student Conduct**

Click here to see the expectations regarding your conduct as a student of UNT. <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>

### **UNT Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity emanates from a culture that embraces the core values of trust and honesty necessary for full learning to occur. As a student-centered public research university, the University of North Texas promotes the integrity of the learning process by establishing and enforcing academic standards. Academic dishonesty breaches the mutual trust necessary in an academic environment and undermines all scholarship. For more information, see: <https://vpaa.unt.edu/fs/resources/academic/integrity>

### **UNT Participation/Attendance**

The University of North Texas recognizes that student success is promoted by regular attendance and participation in class. It is the responsibility of the faculty member to notify students in writing of any special attendance requirements for the class. This policy applies to all modes of course delivery. There are **no extra credit** opportunities available for this course. For more information see: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039>

### **Instructor’s Requirements**

You are expected to log into the Canvas site often and participate weekly in the course. You have work to complete every week in Canvas. If it appears that you are not participating in the course, I will use the Care Team reporting system to alert the university of your lack of participation. Someone will reach out to you.

### **Office of Disability Access**

UNT is committed to providing equal access to higher education for academically qualified students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Access assists students with disabilities in achieving their academic potential by coordinating a variety of services. The office acts as a liaison between the student, instructors, and other university resources and community agencies.

To be eligible for services, you must register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) and provide current documentation of the disability. ODA recommends that students contact the office at least eight weeks before enrolling at UNT to ensure sufficient time to plan for individualized academic modifications and services. While every effort is made to accommodate students with disabilities, it is the student’s responsibility to make needs known, provide proper documentation, and request services in a timely manner. See: <https://disability.unt.edu>

### **UNT Writing Center**

The Writing Center at the University of North Texas provides support for undergraduate and graduate writers across the disciplines. Their mission is to help students improve as writers at all levels, and they support a culture of teaching and learning at UNT through peer tutoring, interactive workshops, classroom support, and consultation with faculty and staff. For more information, see: <https://writingcenter.unt.edu/our-mission>

### **UNT Title IX Information**

The University of North Texas is committed to providing a safe environment for all community members. Dating violence, domestic violence, sexual harassment, sexual coercion, sexual exploitation, sexual violence, and stalking are prohibited. Please see their page on reporting sexual violence for more information. UNT is here to help. Find more information about sexual violence, including campus and community resources, at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/sexual-misconduct?utm_medium=deanofstudents&utm_source=web&utm_campaign=dsa-home-page>.

## **COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

### **What you can expect from your instructor**:

1. Respect and active listening.
2. Consistent grading with return time within one-two weeks.
3. Willingness to teach, learn, and answer questions.
4. To be prepared each week for our class.
5. To allow ample opportunity for you to do well in this course.
6. To be available by appointment for additional help.
7. To treat everyone equally and fairly.

### **What I expect from you**:

1. Patience with your instructor and all others participating in this class.
2. Active participation in our class as required by the syllabus.
3. To complete all assignments as they are scheduled in the syllabus.
4. Read the syllabus carefully each week and know what is supposed to happen. This is our contract. I will do all I can to abide by the syllabus, so I expect you to do the same.
5. To act with academic integrity during quizzes and completing all writing assignments. Your work should be your own. Cheating will not be tolerated! See above for the UNT policy on academic dishonesty.
6. Read the grading comments I provide on your assignments. Where necessary, I will incorporate tips about how you can do better on the next assignment. If you need extra help with your writing, I will suggest using the Writing Center on campus (Sage Hall).
7. To not plagiarize the reading materials used in this course. This means citing ideas and thoughts that are not your own.
8. To put assignments in the correct space in Canvas. If you put things in the wrong spot, you may receive a zero (0), and your work will not be graded.
9. To buy and use the correct version of the book (listed above).
10. To be responsible for your work and prepare for and handle situations of computer and Internet difficulties. If your Internet is out, go somewhere where it works, so you do not miss any assignments.
11. If you need additional help in this course, it is your responsibility to contact me to set an appointment.

## **ASSIGNMENTS & TECHNICAL ISSUES**

All assignments should be submitted by the indicated dates and times in the syllabus. There will be no extensions, except in cases of **emergencies**.

* Students are to contact me through the Inbox in Canvas to discuss your situation **BEFORE** missing the assignment if you think you need an extension.
* If your situation is very serious, I will prompt you to contact the Dean of Students to receive a blanket excuse from the University for your work.
	+ 940-565-2648.

Students are responsible for knowing the Canvas environment. This means that students are responsible for their training in Canvas. Technical problems with Canvas software are to be directed to the **Help Desk**.

[**UNT Help Desk**](https://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/)- 940-565-2324 / Sage Hall 330 / helpdesk@unt.edu
Monday - Thursday 8:00 am-midnight
Friday 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday noon-midnight

Technical problems with computers or Canvas **ARE NOT** satisfactory excuses for missing assignment deadlines. I suggest you **DO NOT** wait until the last minute to submit assignments. If you experience trouble with your computer or home Internet access, you are expected to use the computer clusters on campus to complete your work on time. If the campus is closed for some reason (e.g., due to COVID), you are expected to find other means to complete your work.

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| **Assignment Description** | **Due Dates** | **Point Values** |
| **Wk1 Syllabus Contract (Required)**To succeed in the course, you should be familiar with the course syllabus.  | Sunday, 01/21, Before 11:59 pm. | 50 points |
| **16 Chapter Quizzes (15 Required)**You are permitted to miss one without penalty, or if you take them all, the lowest grade will be dropped from your final grade calculation. | End of the module, Before 11:59 pm. | 600 points (15 @ 40 points each)  |
| **Inequality Assignment (Required)**The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate your ability to synthesize numerical data and sociological perspectives. | Sunday, 4/28, Before 11:59 pm. | 150 points |
| **Exams (Required)** Exam 1 covers Chapters 1-8, and Exam 2 covers Chapters 9-16 of the course textbook. All exam questions are multiple-choice and draw from the same pool of questions used for the chapter quizzes. | Exam 1 – 3/10, Exam 2 – 5/09, Before 11:59 pm | 100 points each (200 points total) |
| **TOTAL** |  | **1000 points** |

**Grading Scale**

At the end of the semester, I will base your grade on the Grading Scale below.

A = 900-1000

B = 800-899

C = 700-799

D = 600-699

F = 500-599

**Details on Course Assignments**

**Syllabus Contract- 100 Points**

A syllabus is a contract between you and your instructor. It contains the information you need to be successful in this course. You are expected to read and follow the syllabus throughout the semester. During week 1, you will read the syllabus and complete the Syllabus Contract acknowledging that you have completed this task and understand the course expectations. You are also responsible for reaching out to me if you have any questions or need clarification.

**Quizzes – 600 Points (16 (15 required) @ 40 points each):**

You will have approximately 3 weeks to complete each module, which typically includes 4 chapter quizzes. You may take these at any time while the module is open, but **ALL 4 quizzes MUST be completed by the End of Module deadline** (see tentative calendar at the end of this document and on Canvas). These quizzes are each worth 40 points, and there is 16 total. However, you are only required to complete 15. You may skip one without penalty or complete all of them, and I will drop the lowest score.

**Exams - 200 Points (2 @ 100 points each)**:

You will have two exams in this class. Each exam contains 50 questions and is worth 100 points. Exam questions are based on assigned readings and learning modules. Exams are multiple-choice. You will have a set amount of time to complete each exam. If you have a computer crash, lose internet service, or otherwise go away from the exam after starting it, the timer will continue to run down. If this happens, you can re-access the exam if the timer has not expired. If you do not finish the exam after the 60-minute window, what you have completed will automatically submit for partial grading/credit. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time. You will be allowed to make up a missed exam **ONLY** if you reach out before the deadline.

**Inequality Assignment - 100 Points:**

The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate your ability to synthesize numerical data and sociological perspectives. Throughout the semester, we will develop our understanding of various sociological theories, including conflict theories, functionalism, symbolic interactionism, and theories related to race, class, and gender (such as intersectionality). In this exercise, you will use data to identify numerical patterns and then apply any TWO sociological perspectives in explaining why these patterns exist. There are more details about the Inequality Assignment in Canvas. **The Inequality Assignment is due in Canvas by Sunday, April 28th, BEFORE 11:59 pm**. I will not accept late papers unless you contact me in advance of missing the assignment to arrange for a later date. All papers must be submitted through Canvas. If you email your paper to me, you may earn a zero (0). The Inequality Assignment cannot be made up. If you miss the deadline, you can no longer complete this assignment. You have missed the opportunity to earn these points.

**Course Evaluation**

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT. It allows students to confidently provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course. SPOT evaluations for this course become available on April 17, 2023, and will remain open until May 4, 2023.

Student feedback is an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14, and 15, April 17 – May 4 of the long semesters to allow students to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from “UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification” ([no-reply@iasystem.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjdl0126%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CTemp%5COneNote%5C16.0%5CNT%5C0%5Cno-reply%40iasystem.org)) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that it has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](http://spot.unt.edu/) (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email [spot@unt.edu](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjdl0126%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CTemp%5COneNote%5C16.0%5CNT%5C0%5Cspot%40unt.edu).

**Tentative Course Schedule**

**SOCI 1510: Introduction to Sociology: Spring 2024 Schedule**

Tentative Calendar of Readings, Examinations, Activities, and Assignments

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| Module | Date | Topic | Reading/Assignments |
| 1 | 1/16-1/21(**1 week**) | Course Orientation | **Read/Review**: All module pages (especially the syllabus).**Obtain**: REQUIRED textbook (21-day free trial available) **Complete**: Syllabus Contract (Due by Sunday, BEFORE 11:59 pm). |
| 2 | 1/22-2/11(**3 weeks**) | Chapters 1-4 | **Read/Review**: All Module materials & Chapters 1-4**Watch:** Suggested Videos (optional) **Complete**: Quizzes 1-4 (Due by Sunday, BEFORE 11:59 pm) |
| 3 | 2/12-3/03(**3 Weeks**) | Chapters 5-8 | **Read/Review**: All Module materials & Chapters 5-8**Watch:** Suggested Videos (optional) **Complete**: Quizzes 5-8 (Due by Sunday, BEFORE 11:59 pm) |
| 4 | 3/04-3/10(**1 Week**) | Exam 1  | **Review**: All module pages & Chapters 1-8 **Complete**: Exam 1 (Due by Sunday, BEFORE 11:59 pm) |
| 5 | 3/11-3/17**(1 Week)** | Spring Break | **Have fun!** Enjoy a safe and wonderful Spring Break! |
| 6 | 3/18-3/31(**2 Weeks**) | Chapters 9-12 | **Read/Review**: All Module materials & Chapters 9-12**Watch:** Suggested Videos (optional) **Complete**: Quizzes 9-12 (Due by Sunday, BEFORE 11:59 pm) |
| 6 | 4/01-4/21(**3 Weeks**) | Chapters 13-16 | **Read/Review**: All Module materials & Chapters 13-16**Watch:** Suggested Videos (optional) **Complete**: Quizzes 13-16 (Due by Sunday, BEFORE 11:59 pm). |
| 7 | 4/22-5/09(**3 Weeks**) | Exam 2 and Inequality Assignment | **Review**: All module pages & Chapters 9-16**Complete**: Inequality Assignment (Due 4/28, BEFORE 11:59 pm) and Exam 2 (Due 5/09, BEFORE 11:59 pm) |