

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
Department of Sociology.
SOCI 1510: Introduction to Sociology,
Fall, 2015, Life Bldg. Rm 204

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I. Learning Objectives:

- A. To gain an understanding of American society, its characteristics and reasons why it is the way it is;
- B. To gain an understanding of the sociological perspective, including basic sociological concepts and social theories;
- C. To gain an understanding of social research methods used to examine societies and their components; and
- D. To gain knowledge of a variety of sub-fields of sociology such as marriage and family, culture, inequality, social groups, and social change.

II. Learning components

- A. Readings: To help meet the objectives, the following books are required (available on Amazon or at UNT bookstore):

REQUIRED: Henslin, James M. (2015, 11th edition). Essentials of Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach. Boston, MA: Pearson.

Henslin, James M. (2011, 4th edition). Life in Society, Boston, MA: Pearson. (you can use an earlier edition but you may need to get copies of some of the readings in the most recent edition if the assigned readings have changed between editions).

- B. Class time: will be focused on the objectives through lectures, class discussions, movies, small group activities, and guest lecturers.

III. Course Policies

- A. Class Attendance: regular and punctual class attendance is expected. It will be difficult to master all the material if class is missed. While students will not be penalized for missing class *they will be penalized for coming to class late or leaving class early since these disrupt the class*. If you need to come late or leave early, please let Dr. Yeatts know beforehand. Students can gain extra credit points by attending class (see below). Students who miss a lot of class will be given no leeway in grading while students who miss no or only a few classes will be given much leeway in grading.
- B. Academic integrity: as the student guidebook points out, academic integrity is required. Plagiarism and cheating will result in failure and a report to the Dean.
- C. Acceptable Student Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior (including continual txting during class) will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr
- D. Special Needs: UNT's counseling center provides free career and personal counseling to UNT students (up to 8 sessions per year). Appointments can be made by calling 940-565-2741. For our class, appropriate adjustments and auxiliary aid are available for persons with disabilities. See Dr. Yeatts and/or call 817-565-2456 (TDD access 1-800-735-2989).
- E. Cell Phones and txting: you should know that many professors and instructors find it insulting when a student is constantly texting or otherwise using their phones during class. Consequently, if the time comes that the student could use some "leeway" in her/his grade, and the student has constantly used his/her phone during class, no leeway will be given and points could be removed.

F. Laptops may not be used in class unless the student sits in the front row. Unfortunately, past experience shows that some students with laptops use them for purposes other than the class and this, in turn, distracts students around them.

G. Grading: final grades will be based on the following:

1. Four (4) tests will be given worth 20% each of your final grade. The fourth test will not be cumulative. The format is expected to include multiple choice and true/false questions. Grades will be posted on Dr. Yeatts' web page. (go to www.yeatts.us, click on 1510, click on grades).

You are responsible for using the restroom prior to the beginning of a test so **do not ask to use the restroom** in the middle of a test (unfortunately a few of us would use this as an opportunity to review our notes in the middle of taking the test).

2. A two to five page paper is required. It is worth 20% of your final grade. A description of the paper requirements will be provided.

<u>September 24</u> , test 1	20%
<u>October 22</u> , test 2	20%
<u>November 3</u> , Research Paper (see handout for details)	20%
<u>November 12</u> , test 3	20%
<u>December 10</u> , Test 4, (during exam week, not cumulative)	20%

3. Make-up Tests: may be allowed within one week from the original exam day. The test score will be reduced by one letter grade unless there is documentation verifying an illness or other serious situation.
4. Class Participation: Those who contribute meaningful, thoughtful, and knowledgeable comments/ideas will receive extra points added to their final grade if their final grade is close to the next higher grade. For example, an 88 would be raised to a 90. Similarly, those who attend all (or almost all) classes will receive extra points.

5. Extra Credit Opportunities: There are two ways to obtain extra credit. Please see the "**Opportunities for Extra Credit**" below for details.

F. How to Study for Tests:

1. Read carefully and give thought to the assigned chapters and readings to be covered on the test (ideally keep up weekly).
2. Read the assignments before they are discussed in class so you are more prepared to contribute to discussions.
3. Learn the major concepts (bolded and italicized concepts) in the chapters and what they mean.
4. Know the answers to the **study guide questions** that are placed on Dr. Yeatts' web page (www.yeatts.us). These questions were developed from the test questions. If you can answer the study guide questions you will increase your chances of knowing the answers to the test questions.

IV. Topics to be Covered/Reading Assignments

(all Chapter assignments refer to the Henslin text book (11th edition);
Henslin Readings refer to the Henslin Life in Society book

Week 1 (August 25):

Overview of class, Chapter 1 (Sociological Perspective)

Youtube—what is sociology?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFdUtCAXAUM&feature=related>
China Fullbright

Week 1 (August 27):

Chapter 1 continued: Origins of sociology (social theory)

Henslin Readings: 1, 2, 3, 5

Possible movie: Why Sociology (MV9404)

W.E.B. DuBois (MV 7620, first 30 minutes)

Hull House (MV4227)

Weeks 2 (September 1):

Chapter 1 continued: Social Research Methods

Possible movie: How to Read and Understand a Research Study
(DVD 10566R; 25 minutes)

Weeks 3 (September 8):

Chapter 2: Culture

Possible movie: Chinese Business Culture (MV 7265)

YouTube examines health care:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVgOl3cETb4>

Week 4 (September 15):

Chapter 3: Socialization

Possible movie: Socialization (MV 8902)

Who Are You? (MV 2291, V.8, first 21 minutes)

Men, Women, and Sex Difference (MV 4157)

Week 5 (September, 22, Tuesday): Chapter 3 continued

**Test 1 on chapters 1-3, Henslin readings 1, 2, 3, 5, and class materials
(September 24, Thursday)**

Week 6 (September 29):

Chapter 4: Social Structure and Social Interaction

October 1st spend time on how to write **Sociological Analysis Paper**

Henslin Readings 4, 6 - 8

Possible movies: Group Think (MV 2152)

Social Groups (MV 5789, 25 min.)

Week 7 (October 6):

Chapter 5: Social Groups and Formal Organizations

Possible movie: Lyrics lead to violence (MV 8699, 22 min.)

Violence (MV6268, 30 min)

Week 8 (October 13):

Chapter 6: Deviance and Social Control

Possible movie: Quite Rage (jailers/prisoners study; MV5305, 40+m)

Diary of a Terrorist (MV7706, 52 min)

Week 9: (October 20, Tuesday):
Chapter 6 continued

**Test 2 on chapters 4-6, Henslin readings 4, 6-8, and class materials
(October 22, Thursday)**

Week 10 (October 27):

Chapter 7: Global Stratification

Henslin Readings 9, 10, 12

Research Paper due November 3 (see handout for details)

Possible movie: Social Stratification (MV6964, 29 min)

Diary of a Terrorist (MV7706, 52 min)

Week 11 (November 3):

Chapter 8: Social Class in the U.S.

Turn in Research Paper (only hard copies accepted/no emailed copies)

Possible movie: Tumaini (AIDES, prostitution, Africa; MV10099, 30)

Untouchable (Caste and Class changes in India;
MV7401 v.18, 25 minutes)

Critical Condition

Week 12 (November 10, Tuesday):

Chapter 9: Race and Ethnicity

Possible movies: Solving Inner-City Poverty (MV 3256, 28 min)

History of NAACP (MV7064)

Race the Power of an Illusion (how racist U.S. has
been, importance of supreme court; M9028 v3 52m)

Life of Dubois

**Test 3 on chapters 7-9, Henslin readings 9, 10, 12, and class materials
(November 12, Thursday)**

Weeks 13 (November 17):

Chapter 10: *Gender and Age*

Henslin Readings 11, 16, 21, 22

Possible movie: Alzheimers (MV 5739A, 34 min)

Women, (MV6480, 34 min)

Breaking the Glass Ceiling (MV8082 v1; 23 minutes)

The Double Shift (MV 7504)

Possible Speakers: Director of Women's Studies

Week 14 (November 24):

Chapter 12: *Marriage and Family*

Possible movies: Family Violence (MV7341, 29 min)

Family Matters (MV3737)

Behind Closed Doors (MV7341, 29 min)

Possible Speakers: Friends of Family; Professor Seward

Week 15 (December 1):

Chapter 15: *Social Change and the Environment*

Possible movies: Collective Behavior and Social Movements (MV4528)

Culture Change (MV 9871)

The Black Soil (MV10084, locating near poor)

A Bientot (MV9384, interviews workers in France in 70s about working conditions, unionization, strikes)

Critical Condition (follows 4 families without insurance)

Test 4 on chapters 10, 12, 15, Henslin readings 11, 16, 21, 22, and class materials; Taken on Exam Day, Thursday, Dec 10, 10:30-12:30

Research Paper

All students who take Introduction to Sociology must write a sociological analysis paper. The paper should be 2 - 5 pages long and provide an analysis of several tables that will be provided to you. You will be provided a three page handout that gives detailed instructions on how to write the paper.

Opportunities for Extra Credit

1. Five Page Library Research Paper

Collect cartoons and comic strips that draw on a sociological topic, such as changing perspectives on marriage, family life, prison life, life in other countries, how human social life is similar/comparable to some other thing, etc. At the same time, do a library search on the topic to identify scholarly, peer-reviewed research articles on the topic (you can use popular magazines such as Time or "internet" sources but these should be no more than 10% of your citations/references). Write a 5 page paper, double spaced, that reviews the topic. You will receive up to 3 extra points added to your final grade.

For the paper do the following: (1) present copies of the cartoons and strips in color where possible (these do not count as part of the 5 typed, double-spaced pages), (2) discuss the topic using peer reviewed journal articles and citing them in the paper and providing the full citation at the end of the paper, and (3) for a **fourth extra-credit point** you can present your project to the class, if approved by the professor. The paper must be turned in no later than November 19. If you present your paper, use powerpoint or some other way of displaying some of the most interesting cartoons/comic strips. If you wait until the last few days before deciding to do this, it will show in what you turn in.

2. In-Class Assignments

1. Students will be given the opportunity to obtain extra credit points during class. For example, students may be asked to work in groups during class to solve one or more problems and then each student will turn in their own answer(s) before the end of class and one or more extra points will be added to the student's next test grade. Students who are absent, or come to class late, or leave class early will not be eligible for these extra points. A student who does not miss class will typically accumulate 5 - 6 points to be added to her/his next test grade.