INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

SOC 1510 | Summer 5W2 2022

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Email: Deborah.fessenden@unt.edu
Office: Sycamore Hall 288M (All summer meetings will take place via Zoom)
Zoom Link (Office Hours): https://unt.zoom.us/j/3114346681
Office Hours: Thursdays 2-3pm and by appointment
Teaching Assistant: Curtis Joseph
Email: curtis.joseph@unt.edu

Course Description and Objectives

This course provides an introduction to the study of society. It begins by introducing major paradigms of social thought and the methods that are used to conduct social scientific research. Although not comprehensive, it then introduces some of the major topics that sociologists study, including culture, inequality, race, class, gender, and education, among others. In the first part of the class, students will develop a sociological imagination to connect your individual experiences to the larger factors that shape social life. We will then discuss social divisions and inequalities with the goal of developing the tools to critically analyze the world around you and conclude by examining social institutions, which are the building blocks of society.

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Identify and define main sociological
- Understand how to apply the sociological imagination to the cultural medium of
- Apply the concepts, theories, and research related to inequality to the cultural medium of music.
- Evaluate numerical data and apply sociological perspectives to the Central Texas Sustainability project (CTSIP).

Course requirements for 5W2 summer session:
This is an asynchronous online course. That means there are no required in person meetings either face to face or online. In the 5W2 semester, we will cover the same amount of material as is covered in a regular long semester, but in just five weeks. That means that it is critical for students to stay on top of their readings and assignments.

All students must secure a copy of the textbook for this course:


You May Ask Yourself An Introduction to Thinking like a Sociologist (Sixth Edition) by Dalton Conley.pdf

(I've attached a PDF copy of the text above for those who don't have a book yet!)

To function in this course, students must have access to a working computer with reliable Internet access. Computer failures or Internet outages are not acceptable excuses for missed work.

Teaching Philosophy

My personal approach to teaching this course involves creating an inclusive online atmosphere where students can broaden their perspective on the changing structure of society in the U.S. and view the world from multiple perspectives. I wish to facilitate your understanding of the increasing diversity, increasing inequality, and long-term social changes which have occurred over the last 100+ years in the United States. To do this, students must cooperate by embracing the material in the assigned text so that they can engage one another in fruitful discussions about the changing shape of society in our country.

Land Acknowledgement:

In recognition of the history and ongoing processes of colonialism by which the land where our class and the University of North Texas exists, I would like to acknowledge that this space is the occupied/unceded/seized territory of the Wichita, Caddo, Commanche, and Cherokee tribes. These tribes have stewarded this land through several generations and we pay our respects to elders, both past and present. Note: Land Acknowledgement Statement adapted from the UNT Division of Institutional Equity and Diversity.

Technical Assistance:

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. At UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues. Here is information about how to contact them.
Student Helpdesk:
UIT Helpdesk - Sage Hall 130
940-565-2324

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help
(https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

Links to Miscellaneous Student Support Services

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to
turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature
of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your
academic success and mental well-being:

- **Student Health and Wellness Center:**
  (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
- **Counseling and Testing Services:**
  (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- **UNT Care Team:** (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- **UNT Psychiatric Services:**
  (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
- **Individual Counseling:**
  (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Other Student Support Services Offered by UNT

1. **Registrar:** (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
2. **Financial Aid:** (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
3. **Student Legal Services:** (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
4. **Career Center:** (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
5. **Multicultural Center:** (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
6. **Counseling and Testing Services:**
   (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
7. **Pride Alliance:** (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
8. **UNT Food Pantry:** (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)
9. **Academic Success Center:** (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
10. **UNT Libraries:** (https://library.unt.edu/)
11. **Writing Lab:** (http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)
12. **MathLab:** (https://math.unt.edu/mathlab)
**Technical Requirements and Skills**

All students must have access to a computer, reliable internet and Canvas in order to participate in this class. Here is a list of the minimum technology requirements:

- Access to a computer
- Reliable internet access
- An active UNT email account
- Microsoft Office Suite
  - Note that Canvas does not interface well with Pages and Google Docs. Do not upload your files using these word processing
  - This software is available at a discount to students at https://untsystem.onthehub.com/
- Active Canvas account
  - Canvas Technical Requirements (https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)
- Zoom
  - All students receive an institutional account with Zoom. For instructions on downloading the software, see https://classroomsupport.unt.edu/sign-into-zoom.
- Respondus Lockdown Browser
  - Students are required to download Respondus Lockdown Browser for use during quizzes. The download instructions are found here: https://aits.unt.edu/support/lockdown-browser

**Assignments & Grades**

A general overview: This course has three units broken into thirteen modules. Each module is based on one chapter of the textbook and has supplemental material for those chapters. Each week, students will take a quiz and participate in a discussion board based on both the textbook and the supplemental materials for that week. Each of the three units has one major associated assignment.

The final grade in the course is made up of weekly quizzes, discussion board participation, and one assignment.

This course is setup on a 1,000-point grading scale. As you move forward in the course, you will be working your way up from zero to 1,000 (a perfect score). In Canvas, there is a running total keeping track of your progress toward 1,000.

Here is the breakdown by points and due date:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Total Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction Post</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Posts</td>
<td>500 (100 x 5 = 500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>300 (60 x 5 = 300)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final: Inequality Assignment</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Coffee Office Hours (Extra Credit!)**

This semester, I will hold coffee office hours every week on Thursdays from 2-3 pm. Please grab a latte or favorite beverage and attend my Zoom office hours to discuss the chapters, modules, and course content assigned for that week. The point of coffee office hours is to offer students opportunities to engage with the course through live discussions. Come prepared to share your thoughts and ask questions about the weeks’ content! Each time you attend and participate in discussions, you will earn 5 extra credit points towards your course grade :)

**Discussion Board Participation**

We will have five discussions in this course, one each week. These are worth 100 points each.

Weekly discussions will have a major post (worth 80 points) and two response posts (10 points each) for peer feedback. Major posts should be at least 500 words and thoroughly answer the prompt and show that you read and processed the material. This is your chance to prove you really understand and have critically thought about the material. You must cite any sources you reference.

In addition to your original post, you will need to respond to at least two of your peers. Response posts are shorter, but must be at least 150 words). One of the response posts can be a response to feedback you have received from your peers (I strongly encourage this). Specific guidelines and the grading rubric are available on Canvas.

On the first week, students will complete an introductory discussion board. This will be graded for completion and count as extra credit (+100 points).

**Quizzes**

There are five quizzes that cover the course content for each week. Each made up of 12 multiple choice questions worth 5 points each, for a total of 60 points. You have 50 minutes to take each quiz. All students get only one attempt.
For all quizzes, students must use the Respondus LockDown Browser. Please download the software and review its functionality as soon as possible if you have not used it previously. When using the Respondus LockDown Browser, you will be unable to print, copy, go to another URL, or access other applications. When an assessment is started, students are locked into it until they submit it for grading. I highly encourage you have read the textbook and taken quality notes by hand to aid you in these quizzes.

**Assignments**

There is one assignment in the course, which is also your final, called the Inequality Assignment. All students must submit original work. All assignments will be run through Turnitin upon submission to check for plagiarism.

The Inequality Assignment is required for all students enrolled in SOCI 1510 at UNT. The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate your ability to synthesize numerical data and sociological perspectives. Throughout the semester, you will learn about a variety of theoretical perspectives. In this exercise, you will use the data in Canvas from the Central Texas Sustainability project (CTSIP), a comprehensive evaluation of sustainability indicators in Central Texas, to identify patterns in numerical data and then apply each of the perspectives in explaining why these patterns exist. Detailed instructions can be found in Canvas. To earn credit, you must follow these instructions exactly as they are written.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>“Ideal” Due Dates (See Late/Missing Work Policy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction Post</td>
<td>July 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion 1</td>
<td>July 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>July 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion 2</td>
<td>July 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
<td>July 22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion 3  
July 29

Quiz 3  
July 29

Discussion 4  
August 5

Quiz 4  
August 5

Discussion 5  
August 10

Quiz 5  
August 10

Inequality Assignment (Final)  
August 10

**Final grade**

Final letter grades will be based on the total number of points earned following the scale below. I do not curve grades, even if you are just a couple points away. Unless there is an error in calculation, you will be awarded the grade that you earned based upon the distribution below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Total points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>899 – 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>799 – 898</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Class Environment

I strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and civility in the virtual classroom. I encourage students to participate by expressing your opinions, asking questions, and presenting outside information to deepen your engagement with course material. Online courses provide few opportunities for face-to-face interaction between you, your professor, and your classmates. Since most of the interactivity that takes place in an online course involves text-only discussion, you cannot always accurately "read" body language, facial expressions, vocal inflections, or the changing pace of what's being said. This presents a number of challenges and opens up opportunities for classmates to misunderstand what one another is saying.

Please do your part to facilitate a stimulating and rewarding learning environment. This involves being respectful of one another, having an open mind, and being willing to have your ideas challenged. Course discussions may contain dialogue regarding race, gender, sexuality, religion, and politics. Respond in a respectful non-critical tone regardless of whether you agree or disagree with another person's posting or comments. In some cases, discussion threads may make you feel awkward, uncomfortable, or frustrated. When this happens remain open-minded and remind yourself that others are entitled to have their own perspectives on the issues.

When posting, avoid using language that is angry, sarcastic, or meant as a joke. Without seeing your facial expression or hearing your tone of voice, your classmates might not realize you are joking. When in doubt, ask questions and clarify what the other person is trying to say. Think carefully about the content of your message before posting. If you are uncertain about posting something, it may be best to set it aside, spend some additional time thinking about it, and come back to it later. Feel free to reach out to me privately if you are concerned about "inappropriate" content that's been added to a discussion or if you want to talk over your posting before you add it to the thread. Harmful words and actions will not be tolerated: This includes racist, sexist, classist, homophobic, or ableist language. I reserve the right to delete posts from discussion boards based on my discretion.
Be sure to read the full discussion thread before responding. To earn points, you need to contribute original responds. Keep your posts to the conversation relevant and clear. If you refer to something a classmate posted previously then quote a few lines from the post you are mentioning so that it will be clear what you are referring to.

Policy for Graded Materials

Late/Missing Work Policy: "Ideal" Due Dates

I understand that these times are frustrating and chaotic. COVID-19 has impacted our lives in many unfortunate ways. Many of us are overwhelmed with a plethora of new responsibilities that make it hard or nearly impossible to finish assignments on time. Therefore, I’ve decided to eliminate deadlines. You may turn your work in whenever you’d like to without penalty, up until August 10th. I will still accept materials on August 11th, but all assignments will receive a -10 point penalty per assignment submitted late. No assignments will be accepted on August 12th!

However, it is ideal that you try your best to stick to the recommended turn-in dates for assignments so that you do not fall behind in the course. My hope is that being flexible with assignment due dates will allow students the time necessary to submit quality work. Please do not take advantage of this flexibility and wait until the last minute to complete your assignments!

Communication Policy

This is an asynchronous online course. All the information for this class can be found in the course modules. I will communicate course information via Canvas announcements and email. It is your responsibility to check your email daily. Please set your communication preferences in Canvas so that you are notified of announcements and grade submissions. I recommend students download the Canvas app for notifications and reminders.

If you have a general question about the course or assignments, please post it to the Q&A discussion board in Canvas. Either I will answer it, or, one of your classmates will. This way we can all benefit from questions asked, and they can be answered in a venue that the whole class can see. You may also want to find someone in class to be a "buddy" with. This will give you at least one other person who you can email with questions.

If you have a private question, please contact me directly. I reply to emails within 24 hours and within the time frame of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please plan accordingly before exams and due dates. Students may also make an appointment to meet with me in person or online via Zoom.
This class requires computer use and internet access. It is your responsibility to make sure you are able to access this course material. If you need technical support, please reach out to the UNT Student Help Desk: http://it.unt.edu/helpdesk.

**Making a Suggestion or a Complaint**

Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor and then the departmental chair. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident.

**Accommodations**

**Students with Disabilities:** It is my goal to foster an inclusive learning environment in this class. If you require accommodations, please notify me during the first week of classes, or as soon as possible, by sending an email or presenting a letter from Office of Disability Access. If you need more information about accommodations, please review the UNT Policy 16.001 or contact Office of Disability Access at 940-565-4323 (voice) or online.

**Student Athletes:** Provide me with a game schedule for the semester, signed by the coach, in the first week of class in order to be eligible for any excused absence.

**Religious Holy Days:** If you plan to miss class to observe a religious holiday, UNT policy states that you must notify the instructor with as much advanced notice as possible. If, with proper notice, you miss a class, assignment, or exam, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable timeframe. For more information, see the UNT website on religious observances.

**Understanding Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UNT community have a responsibility to uphold this mission of the university and contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. For more information, see the policy. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, please refer to the appropriate resources.

**Academic Honesty**
I expect all students to abide by the UNT Code of Student Conduct: “As a student-centered public research university, the University of North Texas has established standards of conduct to foster a safe environment conducive to learning and development. Students and university student groups are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for the rights and property of others and upholds the integrity of the university community.” You are responsible for understanding the Code of Student Conduct.

All work you produce on assignments, discussions, and quizzes must be your own. If you use words or ideas that are not your own (or that you have used in previous class), you must cite your sources otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism and subject to academic disciplinary action, including failure of the course. All assignments will be evaluated with Turnitin, which sends both the student and instructor an originality report.

You a responsible for understanding what constitutes a violation, according to UNT Policy 6.003. If you are not familiar with a citation method, seek assistance from the instructor or the free University Writing Lab.

Please maintain a high standard of individual honor and integrity. Collaboration of any kind on quizzes will result in a failing grade for the exam. Cheating of any kind of assignments will also result in a failing grade. Scholastic dishonesty also includes, but is not limited to, providing false or misleading information to receive a postponement or an extension on an exam or assignment, and submitting a written assignment from a previous course without prior permission of both instructors. All this will be reported to the appropriate administrators in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

**Technical Assistance**

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. At UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues. Here is information about how to contact them.

Link: UNT Student Help Desk site [http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130 Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help ([https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328))