# SOCI 3110.400: SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL ILLNESS, & MENTAL HEALTH CARE (Online)

# FALL 2025

## Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Helen Potts

Email: [Helen.Potts@unt.edu](mailto:Helen.Potts@unt.edu)

Office Location: Sycamore Hall, Suite 288F

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 1-2:30pm, or by appointment

Course Classroom: Online

Class Meeting Time: Online (no required meeting times)

### Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

Sociology of Mental Health, Mental Illness, & Mental Health Care is a 3-hour course that studies the effects of social stresses and social integration on the mental health of various age, sex, ethnic and other groups within society. We will also explore the mental health care system and problems of access to that system among different subgroups in the population.

*Please be prepared to discuss sensitive topics throughout this course.*

### Course Structure

This course is taught completely online. There are no in-person meetings or exams. All course information will be posted in CANVAS. This course is 16 weeks long. In general, to keep pace with the course you will be responsible for one chapter per week. There are three modules in this course grouping four or five chapters together.

### Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

There are no prerequisites for this course. However, students should have a reliable internet connection, access to a computer, and proficiency in Word and CANVAS. Please know there is a 24-hour computer lab available at Willis Library.

### Course Objectives

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

1. Apply sociological theories related to mental health.
2. Identify demographic trends in mental disorders.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the interrelationship between sociological theory and examples of mental disorders.
4. Critique trends in current mental health diagnosis.

## Sociology of Mental Disorder [Book]Required/Recommended Materials

Cockerham, W.C. (2017). *Sociology of mental disorder* (12th ed.). New York, NY: Routledge. ISBN: 9781032526041.

This course has digital components.  To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System. If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content.  Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at [Learn Anywhere](https://online.unt.edu/learn) .

## How to Succeed in this Course

As this is an online course, I am available via email to answer any questions or concerns you may have. My door (or email inbox) is always open. I will respond to any student email within 48 hours on weekdays (usually sooner). However, my goal is to take weekends and holidays off from email.

Students will be responsible for keeping up with the readings (both the text and module summaries). Students should feel welcome to reach out if they do not understand topics or feel lost. It is always best to reach out early on as topics tend to build upon themselves throughout the course. I am happy to meet with students at a time that works best for them. Please stay aware of the deadlines and due dates given in the course. Based upon the format of this course, students are expected to work at their own pace and maintain a high level of personal responsibility.

The best way to succeed in this course is to complete all readings in a timely manner so you have the information to best answer the quiz and exam questions correctly. Please stay on top of all due dates as no extensions can be provided. Please also utilize exam reviews listed in the modules as you read through the chapters. This will help you narrow down the information you will need for the exams.

Below is UNT’s ADA accommodation statement:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access) website. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

If you would like to connect with UNT’s ODA office you can begin the process here: [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access).

## Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

Sociology, by its nature, recognizes and values diversity. Much of the material we will approach in this course investigates issues of diversity and structural hinderances to equity and inclusion. While I encourage participation and discussion, please remember to be respectful to others. I encourage you to review UNT’s student code of conduct, so we are all on the same page [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct).

## Grading Scale

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Letter Grade:* | Point Range: | Percentage Range: |
| *A* | **397-442** | **90-100%** |
| *B* | **353-396** | **80-89%** |
| *C* | **307-352** | **70-79%** |
| *D* | **265-306** | **60-69%** |
| *F* | **264 or below** | **59% or below** |

**No late work will be accepted.** A rubric for each assignment is attached to the assignment page. If a problem arises, please contact the professor as soon as possible.

## Course Requirements

Below is a list of all required assignments and graded activities for this course.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Number of: | Points per: | Total Points: |
| Exams | **3 (1 per module)** | **100** | **300** |
| Chapter Quizzes | **14 (1 per chapter)** | **3** | **42** |
| Module 1 Assignment | **1** | **50** | **50** |
| Module 2 Assignment  \*EXTRA CREDIT\* | **\*1\*** | **\*10\*** | **\*10\*** |
| Module 3 Assignment | **1** | **50** | **50** |
| TOTAL |  |  | **442** |

## Course Schedule

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MODULE** | **CHAPTERS IN MODULE** | **ASSIGNMENTS IN MODULE** | **POINTS** | **DUE DATE** |
| **1** | 1: Madness and Society | a. Chapter Quizzes: 1 2 4 5 6  b. Module 1 Assignment:   Young Adult Book Analysis Paper c. Module 1 Exam | a. 15 b. 50 c. 100 | Mon., Sept. 29th  by midnight |
| 2: The Types |
| 4: Causes & Cures |
| 5: Deviant Behavior |
| 6: Social Epidemiology |
| **2** | 7: Social Class | a. Chapter Quizzes: 7 8 9 10  b. Module 2 Assignment-**Extra Credit**:  Advertisement Discussion b. Module 2 Exam | a. 12 b. \*10\*  c. 100 | Mon., Nov. 3rd  by midnight |
| 8: Age, Gender, Marital Status |
| 9: Race |
| 10: Urban v Rural, COVID, Mig |
| **3** | 11: Prepatient Experience | a. Chapter Quizzes: 11 3\* 12 13 14 b. Module 3 Assignment:   Film Analysis Paper  *(due Mon., Dec. 1st)\*\** c. Module 3 Exam | a. 15 b. 50\*\* c. 100 | Wed., Dec. 10th  by midnight  *\*\*Paper due Dec. 1st!!!* |
| 3: Acting Mentally Disordered |
| 12: Patienthood |
| 13: Stigma |
| 14: Community Care & Policy |
| **COURSE TOTAL POINTS** | | | **442** | |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MODULE** | **WEEK** | **WEEK OF:** | **COVERING** |
| **1** | 1 | 8/18 | Chapter 1: Madness & Society |
| 2 | 8/25 | Chapter 2: Types of Mental Disorders |
| 3 | 9/1 | Chapter 4: Mental Disorder: Concepts of Causes & Cures |
| 4 | 9/8 | Chapter 5: Mental Disorder as Deviant Social Behavior |
| 5 | 9/15 | Chapter 6: Mental Disorder: Social Epidemiology |
| 6 | 9/22 | Catch-up and review |
| **2** | 7 | 9/29 | Chapter 7: Mental Disorder: Social Class |
| 8 | 10/6 | Chapter 8: Mental Disorder: Age, Gender, & Marital Status |
| 9 | 10/13 | Chapter 9: Mental Disorder: Race |
| 10 | 10/20 | Chapter 10: Mental Disorder: Urban v. Rural Living, COVID, & Migration |
| 11 | 10/27 | Catch-up |
| 12 | 11/3 | Catch-up and review |
| **3** | 13 | 11/10 | Chapter 11: Help-Seeking Behavior & The Prepatient Experience |
| 14 | 11/17 | Chapter 3: Acting Mentally Disordered: The Example of Schizophrenia, Anxiety, & Depression  Chapter 12: Patienthood in Institutions |
| 15 | 11/24 | THANKSGIVING BREAK |
| 16 | 12/1 | Chapters 13: Stigma & 14: Community Care & Public Policy |
| 17 | 12/8 | Finals Week: No Classes |

## Academic Integrity/Plagiarism/AI Usage

All papers, exams and quizzes should be **done individually**. However, you may use all texts and notes. Please keep in mind that all quizzes and exams are timed. If you have technical difficulty, please stop and email me immediately**. There are no makeup papers, quizzes or exams in this course and no exceptions.** If you have an issue arise, please talk to me before the due date and as soon as possible. Students are advised to contact the student helpdesk and document the remedy ticket number before contacting Dr. Potts.

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. 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. [Academic Integrity Policy (PDF)](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.049_Standard%20Syllabus%20Policy%20Statements_supplement.pdf).

Every student in my class can improve by doing their own work and trying their hardest with access to appropriate resources. Students who use other people’s work without citations will be violating UNT’s Academic Integrity Policy. Please read and follow this important set of [*guidelines for your academic success*](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003). If you have questions about this, or any UNT policy, please email me or come discuss this with me during my office hours.

### Turnitin Required for All Assignments

Students are required to submit written assignments for this class to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism and AI generation detection service. Before submitting your paper to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information. Any paper that is not submitted to Turnitin will not be accepted by the instructor and will not be graded.

## Attendance and Participation

This class is 100% online. Students are expected to work at their own pace and abide by all due dates listed in the syllabus. Students who log into our Canvas course and spend time reviewing the notes, and watching the recorded lectures, tend to do better than students who do not. The instructor will use the tracking feature in Canvas to monitor student activity. Students are also required to participate in all class activities such as papers, quizzes and exams.

Please note that students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class and describe that the calendar is subject to change, citing the [Emergency Notifications and Procedures Policy (PDF)](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.049_Standard%20Syllabus%20Policy%20Statements_supplement.pdf).

## Academic Support & Student Services

### Student Support Services

#### Mental Health

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)