

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

SOCI 1510 Section 001

M-W-F: 10-10:50am

MATT 311

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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 11:00 am – Noon; or by appointment

The sociological imagination enables us to grasp history and biography and the relations between the two within society. That is its task and its promise. To recognize this task and this promise is the mark of the classic social analyst. ~C. Wright Mills, 1959~

Required Reading

The required reading for this course will be delivered in an **e-book online** in Blackboard: **Andersen, M. L. & Taylor, H. F. (2011). *Sociology: The Essentials*, 8th edition. Wadsworth Publishing (Cengage Learning).** ISBN-10:1-285-43132-4 or ISBN-13: 978-1-285-43132-1

In addition to your UNT EUID and password, you will need a code from the publisher in order to access the readings and other course materials. Access codes may be purchased from the UNT Bookstore. The UNT Bookstore also carries a bundle which includes the access code and a printed version of the textbook. You may also purchase the access code direct from Cengage at: <http://www.cengagebrain.com/micro/1-1RAMGHO>. (You may need to cut and paste in browser)

Because you will be required to complete readings and a quiz each week, students who are unable to purchase this code by the end of the first week of class should drop the course.

Please note that the course design does not permit substitution of a used book.

Once you have received the MindTap access code from the publisher you can begin to work on the course. All reading materials are given through MindTap. The Course Key needed for our course is: MTPN-TRNP-PVMK. Any practice quizzes or exercises you complete in MindTap, even if they say they are graded, are only for your benefit. The actual quizzes and exams for this course which will comprise your grade are located in Blackboard.

Course Overview

This course introduces students to the social and cultural basis of human behavior and examines the impact of social groups and organizations in shaping personal identity, attitudes, and action. It explores social inequality and exposes students to the fundamental ways that social class, race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality affect individual life chances and opportunities in the United States

and throughout the world. Finally, this course acquaints students with major social institutions such as the family, religion, politics, the economy, and healthcare, and familiarizes them with how institutions shape and are shaped by individuals.

Course Objectives

Having successfully completed the course, students will be able to:

1. define and apply the sociological imagination;
2. explain what constitutes social structure and how to study it;
3. demonstrate knowledge and critical reasoning;
4. describe the role of social inequality in society and explain its impact;
5. describe the major social institutions in society and the ways in which they influence and are influenced by the larger society;
6. recognize the ways in which society changes over time;
7. employ the appropriate methods, technologies and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition;
8. analyze social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures and cultures;
9. use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories;
10. develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues;
11. analyze the effects of a number of elements (*i.e.*, historical, social, political, economic, cultural) on social institutions and specific aspects of social life;
12. identify differences and commonalities within diverse cultures.

Course Format

This is a “blended” course intended to provide you with a unique and engaged learning experience. Part of the course material will be delivered in face-to-face meetings and the other part will be administered online. You will attend two, 50-minute face-to-face meetings per week—once as a full class and then again in a smaller group. Meetings with the entire class will take place on Mondays each week and will typically be comprised of mini-lectures and discussion.

The small group meetings will be devoted to “hands-on” approaches to learning: group activities and applied learning exercises. You will be randomly assigned to a small group.

Prior to each week’s lecture, you will be introduced to new concepts and material online in Blackboard. You will have the ability to check your understanding and knowledge of the material each week through mastery quizzes administered online. The material you have been exposed to online will be reinforced in lecture and small-group meetings. It is a course expectation that you will complete the assigned online modules, quizzes, exams, and assignments in the time allocated on the course outline located at the end of this document. You should plan to spend at least two hours each week online. Part of this time “substitutes” for the third class meeting (50 minutes) associated with a three-hour course that meets M-W-F, while the remainder is considered normal class preparation.

Exams and Assignments

Exams: There will be a total of three exams: two exams will be worth 100 points each and the final exam will be worth 120 points. Exams will cover material from the assigned online modules, quizzes, lectures, class discussions and experiential learning exercises. The exams will be administered totally online and will consist of multiple choice questions. The dates and material covered by each exam is set forth in the course outline located at the end of this document.

To encourage students to master the material before testing, all exams will be timed. Students will be given 50 minutes to complete each of the first two exams and 60 minutes to complete the final. Please note that you will only be permitted to “move forward” during an exam. You may not skip a question and return to it later, or answer it and later try to change your answer after you have saved your response. Please be advised that the order of the exam questions will vary for each student.

Quizzes: You must complete the assigned online modules each week in order to successfully participate in class discussions and the experiential learning exercises. At the end of each module, you must successfully complete a 10-question multiple choice quiz by answering at least 7 questions correctly. You may repeat each quiz as many times as you wish to achieve the desired score; however, you will be required to wait at least one hour before repeating the quiz. All quizzes will be timed. You will be allowed 10 minutes to complete each quiz.

Students who fail to correctly answer a minimum of 7 questions or who do not complete the quizzes during the assigned time period will receive a zero. Please note that no make-up quizzes will be given.

Pop Quiz: Students will be assigned one unannounced or “pop” quiz in class at some point during the semester. This quiz will be worth 10 points. ***Please note that no make-up quiz will be given.***

Reflection Papers: Identifying how and why we behave and why we have certain attitudes and beliefs can be a daunting task. Three times during the semester, students will be asked to reflect on their beliefs related to a topic explored during a small group activity. Each reflection paper will be worth 25 points. ***Please note that you must be in class and participate in the assigned activity in order to write and submit the paper.*** Specific instructions for each paper will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard.

Survey Completion: Twice during the semester, students will have the opportunity to express their beliefs and opinions about a specific topic by completing a brief, online survey. These surveys will give students the opportunity to compare their views with those of their classmates in a non-threatening and anonymous way. While student responses will not be “graded,” students will be required to complete the surveys within the time provided. ***Please note that no make-up surveys will be given.*** Each survey is worth 10 points.

Semester Project: One of the most exciting areas of sociology deals with the dynamics of group behavior—especially collective action. Specific instructions for this activity will be provided in class. The semester project is worth 50 points.

Group Participation: This course will involve several group activities. Grading for these activities will include a combination of class attendance and peer evaluation. Specific instructions about how group participation will be graded will be provided in class. Group participation will be worth 50 points.

Attendance

Class attendance is important and is required. Absences not only cause students to miss the material presented and discussed in class, but also tend to disrupt group activities. In addition, students tend to do better in any college course if they attend regularly.

University approved absences will be considered excused and are not subject to penalty. University excused absences include those necessitated by university sponsored events, or an illness which results in some form of visit to a medical doctor. All excused absences require written documentation (*e.g.*, indication of illness by a medical doctor, form from athletic department) which must be provided within three days of return to classes. For more information on university approved absences, please consult the undergraduate catalog.

Student absences which do not qualify as “university excused” may be excused by the instructor on a case-by-case basis. Students are advised not to view the allowance of three unexcused absences as vacation from school, but rather as a contingency in case of an event that would not typically qualify as an excused absence (car problems, traffic issues, work conflict, etc.).

Grade Calculation

Final grades will be determined through the use of a point system. The maximum value of each exam and assignment along with the range of points associated with each letter grade are listed in the tables below. Throughout the term, students may keep up with their point totals by reviewing their grades on Blackboard.

| Assignment | Point Value |
|--|-------------|
| Exams (2 @ 100 points each) | 200 |
| Final exam | 120 |
| Reading Quizzes (14 @ 10 points each) | 140 |
| Pop Quiz | 10 |
| Reflection Papers (2 @ 35 points each) | 70 |
| Survey Completion (2 @ 15 points each) | 30 |
| TOTAL | 570 |

| Letter Grade | Point Range |
|--------------|---------------------|
| A | 513 - 570 points |
| B | 456 - 512 points |
| C | 399 - 455 points |
| D | 342 - 398 points |
| F | 341 points or below |

Additional Course Policies and Procedures

Blackboard: Copies of the syllabus and assignments will be posted on Blackboard. All assignments must be posted via Blackboard to receive credit.

Reading and preparation for class: Each student is expected to have completed all assigned modules before class. Please note that students are responsible for the assigned reading material whether we discuss it in class or not.

MindTap: All reading material, practice material, and the text can be found through MindTap. You will need to purchase the access code for the ebook through Cengage. You will also need the Course Key to login to our course.

Course Key: You will need the following course key for the ebook: **MTPN-TRNP-PVMK**.

Make-up policy: NO make-up exams will be provided.

Online Text and Access Code: Students are responsible for purchasing an access code. An access code and e-text are required for online access to materials and quizzes necessary for passing the class. There will be no extensions granted for not obtaining these or for allowing these to lapse or expire.

Make-up policy: There are NO make-up exams provided. All students must take the final exam. ***Any student who does not take the final exam will automatically fail the course.***

Students are typically given seven days to complete the reading assignments and associated quizzes. Regardless of the circumstances, students who miss quizzes will not be allowed to make them up. Also note that students will not be able to make-up flash mob activities, small group exercises or complete surveys after the deadline assigned.

Extra credit: There will be no extra credit in this course.

Late papers or assignments: All papers and assignments must be submitted via Blackboard before the posted deadline to be graded. ***Late papers/assignments will not be accepted. Any paper or assignment sent via email or received in person will not be graded.*** Students may either submit papers in Microsoft Word or PDF as attachments or they may cut and paste the content of their papers/assignments into the submission window in Blackboard. If in doubt, cut and paste! ***Papers that are submitted in a different format or that cannot be opened will not be graded.***

Cell phones: Use of a cell phone during class for any purpose **is not allowed** unless approved in advance by the instructor. Students caught using a cell phone (checking for messages, texting, etc.) will be asked to leave the class and 10 points will be automatically deducted from the student's grade.

Classroom conduct: Tardiness and leaving early are very disruptive to the instructor and other students. Class will start on time, so please make sure you are present at the beginning of the class period. Please let the instructor know prior to the beginning of class if you absolutely must leave early and make sure your exit distracts others as little as possible.

Please make every effort to respect others. Disagreements are allowed and expected, but the focus should be on ideas rather than on the individual who expresses them. Signs of disrespect that will not be tolerated include but are not limited to, having background conversations when others are talking, packing up early when others are still talking or asking questions, and working on material for other classes.

Students must secure permission from the instructors to use a laptop computer during class. Students who are given permission, but use the laptop for any purpose other than to take lecture notes, will lose that privilege.

Please note that poor classroom conduct will be reflected in your grade regardless of how well you do on exams, quizzes or other assignments.

University Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

The University of North Texas is very clear on this point. Students must do their own work. Cheating on exams, quizzes, plagiarism, or any other form of scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Detailed explanations of the UNT's standards of academic integrity for students may be found in the *UNT Policy Manual* at <http://policy.unt.edu/policydesc/student-standards-academic-integrity-18-1-16>.

If it is determined that a student has cheated on an exam or has committed plagiarism, he or she will automatically fail that exam or assignment and a zero will be entered for the grade. The student will also be reported to UNT's Office of Academic Integrity.

Students Requiring Special Accommodation

If you have a condition that requires accommodation in this course, please notify the instructor during the first week of class. Any necessary or appropriate accommodations will be made provided that timely notice is received, and that the arrangement is consistent with recommendations from Disability Services, when applicable. Students who require this type of assistance should contact the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) at (940) 565-4323, or at TTY (940) 369-8652 to make appropriate arrangements. Information on the services provided by the ODA as well as application procedures is available at <http://www.unt.edu/oda/index.html>. Information on UNT's policies related to disability accommodations is available at <http://policy.unt.edu/policy/18-1-14>.

Please note that disability accommodations are not retroactive. Accommodations will be made only after a disability is officially verified.

Problems, Questions, Concerns

Students are strongly encouraged to speak with the instructor if you are having problems with the course or if you have other concerns. *The best way to reach the instructor outside of class is by e-mail.*

COURSE OUTLINE

Face-to-Face Meeting Schedule:

| Week | Date | Day | Topic | Covers: |
|------|-------|-----|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 8.25 | M | Course Introduction | (Read Module 1) |
| | | W | <i>What is Sociology? (1)</i> | |
| | | F | On-line Work | |
| 2 | 9.1 | M | NO CLASS - Labor Day | |
| | | W | What is Sociology? cont'd | Module 1 (Read Module 2) Assign Reflection Paper 1 |
| | | F | On-line Work | |
| 3 | 9.8 | M | <i>Culture (2)</i> | Module 2 (Read Module 3) |
| | | W | Culture cont'd | |
| | | F | On-line Work | |
| 4 | 9.15 | M | <i>Research Methods (3)</i> | Module 3 (Read Module 4) |
| | | W | Research Methods cont'd | |
| | | F | On-line Work | |
| 5 | 9.22 | M | <i>Socialization (4)</i> | Module 4 (Read Module 5) |
| | | W | Socialization cont'd | |
| | | F | On-line Work | |
| 6 | 9.29 | M | Socialization cont'd | |
| | | W | Review | |
| | | F | Exam 1 - online | Modules 1-4 (Chapters 1-4) |
| 7 | 10.6 | M | <i>Social Structure (5)</i> | Module 5 (Read Module 6) |
| | | W | Social Structure cont'd | |
| | | F | On-line Work | |
| 8 | 10.13 | M | <i>Social Groups (6)</i> | Module 6 (Read Module 7) |
| | | W | Social Groups cont'd | Assign Reflection Paper 2 |
| | | F | On-line Work | |
| 9 | 10.20 | M | <i>Deviance (7)</i> | Module 7 (Read Module 8) |
| | | W | Deviance cont'd | |

| | | | | |
|---|--------------|----------|---|-----------------------------------|
| | | F | On-line Work | |
| 10 | 10.27 | M | <i>Social Class (8 & 9)</i> | Module 8 (Read Module 9) |
| | | W | Social Class cont'd | |
| | | F | On-line Work | |
| 11 | 11.3 | M | <i>Race & Ethnicity (10)</i> | Module 9 (Read Module 10) |
| | | W | Race & Ethnicity cont'd | |
| | | F | Exam 2 - online | Modules 5-9 (Chapter 5-10) |
| 12 | 11.10 | M | <i>Gender & Sexuality (11& 12)</i> | Module 10 (Read Module 11) |
| | | W | Gender & Sexuality cont'd | |
| | | F | On-line Work | |
| 13 | 11.17 | M | <i>Family & Religion (13)</i> | Module 11(Read Module 12) |
| | | W | Family & Religion cont'd | |
| | | F | On-line Work | |
| 14 | 11.24 | M | <i>Education & Healthcare (14)</i> | Module 12 (Read Module 13) |
| | | W | Education & Healthcare cont'd | |
| | | F | On-line Work | |
| 15 | 12.1 | M | <i>Politics & the Economy (15)</i> | Module 13 (Read Module 14) |
| | | W | Politics & the Economy cont'd | |
| | | F | On-line Work | |
| 12.6-12.12: Final Exam (Modules 10-14/Chapters 11-16) - Available Online | | | | |

NOTE: Every Friday night from 11:00pm until 2:00am CDT Saturday morning, Blackboard is offline. All quiz answers or submissions made during this time will NOT be recorded.

Blackboard/Online Student Help Line:

Email: clearhelp@unt.edu

Phone: (940) 565-2324

Online Schedule and Due Dates:

| Week | Activity | Start Date | Day | Start Time | Due Date | Day | Due Time |
|-------|---|-------------|------------|----------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Quiz – Module 1 | 8.25 | Mon | 5:00 pm | 10.2 | Thurs | 11:00 pm |
| 2 | Quiz – Module 2 | 8.25 | Mon | 1:00 am | 10.2 | Thurs | 11:00 pm |
| 3 | Quiz – Module 3 <i>Reflection Paper 1</i> | 8.25 | Mon | 1:00 am | 10.2 | Thurs | 11:00 pm |
| | | 9.3 | Wed | 5:00 pm | 10.12 | Sun | 11:00 pm |
| 4 & 5 | Quiz – Module 4 Online Survey #1 | 8.25 | Mon | 1:00 am | 10.2 | Thurs | 11:00 pm |
| | | 8.25 | Mon | 5:00 pm | 10.2 | Thurs | 11:00 pm |
| 6 | Exam 1 Quiz – Module 5 | 10.3 | Fri | 1:00 am | 10.3 | Fri | 11:00 pm |
| | | 10.4 | Sat | 1:00 am | 11.6 | Thurs | 11:00 pm |
| 7 | Quiz – Module 6 | 10.4 | Sat | 1:00 am | 11.6 | Thurs | 11:00 pm |
| 8 | Quiz – Module 7 | 10.4 | Sat | 1:00 am | 11.6 | Thurs | 11:00 pm |
| 9 | Quiz – Module 8 | 10.4 | Sat | 1:00 am | 11.6 | Thurs | 11:00 pm |
| 10 | Quiz – Module 9 | 10.4 | Sat | 1:00 am | 11.6 | Thurs | 11:00 pm |
| 11 | Exam 2 Quiz – Module 10 | 11.7 | Fri | 1:00 am | 11.7 | Fri | 11:00 pm |
| | | 11.8 | Sat | 1:00 am | 12.5 | Fri | 11:00 pm |
| 12 | Quiz – Module 11 | 11.8 | Sat | 1:00 am | 12.5 | Fri | 11:00 pm |
| 13 | Quiz – Module 12 | 11.8 | Sat | 1:00 am | 12.5 | Fri | 11:00 pm |
| 14 | Quiz – Module 13 | 11.8 | Sat | 1:00 am | 12.5 | Fri | 11:00 pm |
| 15 | Quiz – Module 14 | 11.8 | Sat | 1:00 am | 12.5 | Fri | 11:00 pm |
| | Online Survey #2 <i>Reflection Paper 2</i> | 11.23 | Sun | 1:00 am | 12.5 | Fri | 11:00 pm |
| | | 10.15 | Wed | 5:00 pm | 12.5 | Fri | 11:00 pm |
| 16 | Final Exam | 12.6 | Sat | 1:00 am | 12.12 | Fri | 11:00 pm |