

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION**  
**SOCI 4350.900/950**  
**Internet Course**  
**FALL 2018**

Instructor:	Jennifer Knudsen
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Class Time:	Online Class
Office:	Sycamore Hall 288U
Office Hours:	M/W from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM CST/CDT (or by appointment)

**REQUIRED TEXT**

Robert Putnam. Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community. New York: Simon & Schuster.  
ISBN: 9780743203043.

Blackboard: Additional course readings will be made available on the UNT Blackboard at <https://learn.unt.edu/>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

This is an undergraduate course about community organization. The course examines the nature, structure, and functioning of human communities through a sociological perspective. It applies a historical perspective on community organization, primarily encompassing the United States. The course uses empirical evidence and theoretical conceptions alike to analyze questions of community organization and disorganization. The basic elements of social communities such as civic, political, and religious participation, formal and informal social relations, and more, will be examined. We will see how the history of American community has changed since postwar times through the early 21st century, focusing on its observed decline and potential of its renewal during the last part of the 20th century.

1. Increase the student's awareness and understanding of the society in which we live, the social phenomena which we observe, and the world in which we live;
2. Students will learn and comprehend the basic elements of Community, primarily in the American context;
3. Students will be able to analyze, understand, and explain how and why the sense of community exists, persists, or changes in society;
4. Students will be able to relate and compare different characteristics of community organization as a whole, including politics, civil society, and religion, family and personal relations;
5. Students will be able to apply sociological concepts, principles, and methods to better understanding and addressing current issues of community organization;
6. Students will be able to critically evaluate the evolution of community in the American context, assess its current and future implications, and propose possible interventions for handling the negative consequences;
7. Students will be able to increase their capacities and motivations or interests in further studying community organization and related sociological subjects at undergraduate and graduate levels.

**COURSE PRE-REQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES, AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS**

Course Pre-requisites: None  
Instructor Permissions: None

## COURSE INFORMATION

This course is conducted exclusively via the Internet. You should check the course website on a regular basis and go online to see if there are new updates, messages, postings, discussions, email, etc. With the exception of weekends and holidays, I check my course email regularly and respond as quickly as possible. Except in an emergency, please do not send course-related messages to my UNT email. You may use the UNT email, Eagle Connect. If you do use Eagle Connect, please be sure to use my faculty email (above) and put the course heading in the subject section. ***This helps me help you***, allowing for faster response times.

I am available for meeting during my open office hours or by appointment and welcome the opportunity to assist students. Ask questions if there is anything you do not understand or wish to clarify. Especially in regard to assignments. Do not fall behind in your readings and assignments. If you begin to fall behind or experience difficulty, be sure to consult with me. ***Do not wait*** until late in the semester, inform me as soon as possible if there are any issues. It is your responsibility to complete the coursework on time. You may not be reminded of work that you have missed. I value discussion and input into the course and work to create opportunities for you to do so. I also highly value respect. I will treat you with respect and expect that you will do the same for your classmates. This syllabus is not to be treated as a contract and is subject to change with advance notice to the student by the instructor.

## IMPORTANT DATES

August 27, 2018	First Class Day
Sept 3, 2018	Labor Day (no classes)
Nov 22-25, 2018	Thanksgiving Break (no classes)
Dec 6, 2018	Last Class Day
Dec 7, 2018	Reading Day (no classes)
Dec 8-14, 2018	Finals

## GRADES AND GRADING STRUCTURE

**Readings:** The student is responsible to complete each week's assigned readings. In order to be able to fully participate in the course and complete assignments, it is important to keep up with the readings. A chapter outline will be available for each week's module which can be used as a guide to read the chapters. It is the students' own responsibility for class notes, outlines, announcements, etc.

**Exams:** There are two (2) exams in this course, a midterm and the final. Both exams are worth up to 100 points for a total of 200 points. Exams will be taken online (UNT Blackboard) during the specified time period with specific time limits. In order to complete and pass this course, you must take both exams. The exams will be objective such to evaluate the students' reading, knowledge, and grasp of the readings. The exam will include multiple choice questions (usually 50). Exam score will be computer-generated. Therefore, there will be no subjective elements in how exam scores are determined.

**Late Exams:** Exams cannot be taken late, without proper documentation, and missed exams will result in a zero (0). If an online exam is missed with documentation, a make-up exam can be completed no later than two days after the specified exam period. This ***only*** applies to the midterm. The final cannot be taken late for any reason. The instructor should be notified ***as soon as*** the student is aware of any exam schedule conflicts.

**Internet:** It is the student's responsibility to have proper Internet connection and computer when taking the exam. As the exam scores are computer generated, exam scores are final and cannot be changed under any circumstances. Exams must be taken individually and independently of other students, and not in groups and collaboratively. If it is determined that an online exam is taken in groups and collaboratively, this will be treated as academic dishonesty and pursued accordingly. Scores will not be curved.

**Technical instructions (from UNT CLEAR):** Avoid using a wireless connection for exams unless one is certain of its reliability. Take exams using a supported web browser on a computer or laptop rather than using an iPad. If using an iPad, the Chrome browser is recommended. Contact the UIT Helpdesk at 940-565-2324 for assistance in the event of technical problems affecting the ability to access or complete a test.

**Quizzes:** During the course of the semester, you will have to take four (4) quizzes, approximately every two or three weeks. Quizzes will be available from **Wednesday at 5:00 am to Sunday at 11:59 p.m.** on the specified week. Quizzes are worth up to 10 points for a total of 40 points toward your final grade. Quizzes will be given so as to assess your progress in the course and as a self-check for mastering the material and will help prepare you for exams. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice questions and some questions may appear on your exams, so it is in your best interest to check your responses and take notes on the content of these quizzes.

**Blogs:** One of the greatest objectives of this class is to develop your ability to use the concepts and theories you learn in order to construct your own meanings about community and make sense of various elements of community organization and experience. Blogs will give you an opportunity to apply your knowledge from the course. You will have the chance to create **three (3) blog-like entries** throughout the semester. Think of them as online discussion posts where you must include images, videos, and links to websites or articles. A different topic/question will be provided each time for you to organize your blog entry. The blogs will be available from **Wednesday at 5:00 am until Sunday at 11:59 pm** on the designated weeks. Blogs will be graded like an essay.

**Class Paper:** For the purposes of this class, you are required to write a class paper where you demonstrate your ability to apply concepts and knowledge acquired from the class material into real-life experience. You will be requested to visit a community organization of your liking, document your experience, and link it to the course material. Guidelines can be found on Blackboard.

Each of you will need to submit a **5-6 pages long paper**, 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, 1-inch margin. A detailed list of the elements you will be expected to include in the paper and a grading rubric is posted on your course page on Blackboard. The final paper will be due on **Sunday, November 18 at 11:59 pm** on Blackboard via the Turnitin link.

**Discussions:** This is an *optional* activity. There will be **six (6)** discussion boards in total available for extra credit opportunities (4 points each for a total of 24 points), starting with a discussion forum where you can introduce yourselves during the first week of classes. Students will have to post their discussion on the given topic of the discussion board and reply to two of their fellow students. Although this is an optional activity, students are expected to prepare their discussion in order to demonstrate their understanding of the related concepts and will be graded for quality, timeliness, and use and application of theories and concepts from the course material. Discussion forums will be available from **Wednesday at 5:00 am to Sunday at 11:59 pm** on a given week. Discussion forums can be very useful in preparing for the midterm and the final exam.

It is the policy of this course that *no* extra-credits or 'special treatments' will be given individually to students—No additional assignments, chances, requests, and exceptions.

#### GRADING POINT SYSTEM

GRADING SOURCE	POINTS
Two Exams (100 points each)	200
Four Quizzes (10 points each)	40
Three Blogs (30 points each)	90
Class Paper (100 points)	100
Total Points	430

#### GRADING SCALE

GRADE	POINTS REQUIRED
A	387-430
B	344-386
C	301-343
D	258-300
F	0-257

## COURSE POLICIES

I highly value respect. I expect that all students will respect the opinions and experiences of other students. When engaging other students you are expected to be respectful, thoughtful and considerate of others. This also includes acknowledging various perspectives even when they are different from your own. Derogatory statements and signs of disrespect will not be tolerated. Ask questions of your fellow classmates for clarification when you disagree with them. The focus should be on the ideas expressed, not on the individual themselves. If you find anything offensive, please let the course instructor know as soon as possible. All discussions are to remain confidential. Respect for your fellow classmates also includes respecting their privacy. Classmates may divulge personal experiences or anecdotes, anything divulged by another person is theirs to tell, not yours to share with others. What your classmates say in class and post in discussions is to remain confidential.

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty (cheating and/or plagiarism) will not be tolerated at any time. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth by the University of North Texas, the College of Public Affairs and Community Service and the Department of Sociology. You will find the complete provisions of the code in the student handbook. Please note that I take academic dishonesty very seriously and the consequences will be very harsh.

Plagiarism is defined as the act of taking another's ideas, words, writings, or research findings and not giving them proper credit through quotations or citations. Even when we are paraphrasing another's ideas, we must give credit. To do otherwise is to allow the reader to think these ideas and words are your own when they are not. This act is considered theft of intellectual property. Plagiarism is considered one of the most serious transgressions that can be committed in the educational community. Further information can be found on the website:

<http://www.unt.edu/csrr/development/dishonesty.html>

In the case of plagiarism, there are several options available to an instructor, including verbal and/or written reprimand, assignment of a lower grade with an explanation from the instructor, expulsion from the course with the assignment of a passing grade (WP), expulsion from the course with the assignment of a failing grade (WF), and/or expulsion from the university.

Therefore, all written work should be properly cited when:

1. Describing the ideas of another (even if it is not a direct quotation),
2. Describing the research of another (even if it is not a direct quotation),
3. Using the words, phrases, paragraphs, or pages of another, and/or
4. Quoting the words of another.

## DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

The University of North Texas seeks to provide appropriate academic adjustments for all individuals with disabilities. This University will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines, specifically Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), with respect to providing appropriate academic adjustments to afford equal educational opportunity. However, it is the responsibility of the student to register with and provide medical verification and academic schedules to Disability Support Services (DSS) at the beginning of each semester and no later than the second week of school unless otherwise determined by the coordinator (i.e., no later than September 7th). The student also must contact the faculty member in a timely manner to arrange for appropriate academic adjustments. Appropriate adjustments and auxiliary aid are available for persons with disabilities. Call [940-565-2456](tel:940-565-2456) (TDD access [1-800-735-2989](tel:1-800-735-2989)).

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (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

accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of 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 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 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 see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at: <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

### **F-1 STUDENTS TAKING DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSES**

U.S. Federal Regulation: For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken online or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An online or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no online or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at:

<http://www.oea.gov/index.php/links/electronic-code-of-federal-regulations>

The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at:

"Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f) (6) (i) (G)" and can be found buried within this document:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2012-title8-vol1/xml/CFR-2012-title8-vol1-sec214-2.xml>

### **UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS COMPLIANCE**

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

1. Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
2. Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

## STUDENT ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Links to all of these services can be found on the [Academic Support tab](#) within Blackboard Learn:

- Academic Resource Center: buy textbooks and supplies, access academic catalogs and programs, register for classes, and more.
- Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities: provides Code of Student Conduct along with other useful links.
- Office of Disability Accommodation: ODA exists to prevent discrimination on the basis of disability and to help students reach a higher level of independence.
- Counseling and Testing Services: CTS provides counseling services to the UNT community as well as testing services; such as admissions testing, computer-based testing, career testing and other tests.
- UNT Libraries: online library services
- Online Tutoring: chat in real time, mark up your paper using drawing tools and edit the text of your paper with the tutor's help.
- The Learning Center Support Programs: various program links provided to enhance the student experience.
- Supplemental Instruction: program for every student, not just for students that are struggling.
- UNT Writing Lab: offers free writing tutoring to all UNT students, undergraduate, and graduate.
- Math Tutor Lab: located in GAB, room 440.
- Succeed at UNT: how to be "a successful student" information.

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS AND ASSISTANCE

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparation for the technological aspect of the course.

- UIT Help Desk: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>
- Hardware and software necessary to use Bb Learn: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/> Browser requirements: <http://kb.blackboard.com/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=84639794>
- Headset/Microphone (if required for synchronous chats) Word Processor
- [Other related hardware or software necessary for the course]

### Minimum Technical Skills Needed:

Examples include:

1. Using the learning management system,
2. Using email with attachments,
3. Creating and submitting files in commonly used word processing program formats,
4. Copying and pasting,
5. Downloading and installing software, and
6. Using spreadsheet programs.

### **STUDENT TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

The University of North Texas [UIT Student Helpdesk](#) provides student technical support in the use of Blackboard and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:

Email: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

Phone: 940.565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Our hours are:

Monday-Thursday 8am-midnight

Friday 8am-8pm

Saturday 9am-5p

Sunday 8am-midnight

### **VOLUNTARY PRODUCT ACCESSIBILITY TEMPLATE (VPAT) Blackboard Learn Release 9.1**

The [Voluntary Product Accessibility Template](#)® or VPAT® documents Blackboard Learn 9.1's conformance with the accessibility standards under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. '794 d), as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (P.L. 105 - 220), August 7, 1998.



### COURSE TOPICS, READING AND QUIZ/EXAM SCHEDULE

Week Month/ Day		Topics	Readings	Discussions, Assignment, & Exams
1	Aug, 27	Thinking about Social Change in America	Chapter 1 (p. 15-28)	Discussion Forum: Introduce Yourself
	Sept, 2			
2	4	Political Participation & Civic Participation	Chapters 2 & 3 (p. 31-64)	Discussion Forum
	9			
3	10	Religious Participation	Chapter 4 (p. 65-79)	Blog 1
	16			
4	17	Connection in the Work Place & Informal Social Connections	Chapters 5 & 6 (p. 80-115)	Quiz 1
	23			
5	24	Altruism, Volunteering, and Philanthropy & Reciprocity, Honesty, and Trust	Chapters 7 & 8 (p. 116-147)	Discussion Forum
	30			
6	Oct, 1	Against the Tide?	Chapter 9 (p. 148-180)	Blog 2
	7			
7	8	Midterm	Monday at 5:00 am to Friday at 11:59 p.m.	Chapters 1-9, and Quiz #1
	14			
8	15	Pressures of Time and Money & Mobility and Sprawl	Chapters 11 & 12 (p. 184- 215)	Discussion Forum
	21			
9	22	Technology and Mass Media & What Killed Civic Engagement?	Chapters 13 & 15 (p. 216-246 & 277-284)	Quiz 2
	28			
10	29	Education and Children's Welfare & Safe and Productive Neighborhoods	Chapters 17 & 18 (p. 296-318)	Discussion Forum Blog 3
	Nov, 4			
11	5	Economic Prosperity & Health and Happiness	Chapters 19 & 20 (p. 319-335)	Quiz 3
	11			
12	12	Democracy & The Dark Side of Social Capital	Chapters 21 & 22 (p. 336-363)	Discussion Forum & Class Paper Due Nov. 18 at 11:59 p.m.
	18			
13	19			
	22	Thanksgiving Break		
14	26	Lessons of History: The Gilded Age and the Progressive Era	Chapter 23 (p. 367-401)	Quiz 4
	Dec, 2			
15	3	Review for Final Exam		
	5		Reading Day: Friday, Dec. 6 <sup>th</sup> : No Classes	
		Dec 8-14 finals	Monday at 5:00 am to Wednesday at 11:59 p.m.	Chapters 11-13, 15, & 17-23, Quizzes #2-4

**\*Weeks start on Monday and run through Sunday**