

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

SOCI 1510 | Summer 5W2 2021

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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 concepts.
- Understand how to apply the sociological imagination to the cultural medium of music.
- 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:

Dalton Conley. 2019. *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist*, W.W. Norton. 6th edition. **ISBN: 978-0-393-67417-0**

Students must get 6th edition. The best way to obtain the required course materials is through the UNT book store on campus. If you use any other version, you will most likely be doing the wrong assignments and you will receive a zero (0) for your work. Not having the required material for the course by week one of the course is not a sufficient excuse for missing class or the assignments.

This class is 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.

Technical Requirements and Skills

All students must be 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 systems.
 - 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) (<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://it.unt.edu/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 three assignments.

	Points	Percent of total
Quizzes (5 x 60 points)	200	30%

Discussion boards (5 x 60 points)	400	30%
Assignments	400	40%
	1,000	100%

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:

Assignments	Due	Value
5 discussion boards Weekly participation will be assessed through small group discussion boards. 5 x 60 points = 300 points	Main post (40 points) due on Thursday before midnight. Two response posts (10 points each) due by Sunday before midnight.	300 Pts
5 weekly quizzes Weekly readings will be assessed through quizzes. Each quiz is made up of 12 questions worth 5 points each. 5 x 60 points = 300 points You will have the option to take a sixth quiz to replace your lowest score.	Due online Sunday before midnight.	300 Pts
Part 1 Assessment Sociology in Practice Assignment	Due online Sunday 7/18 by 11:59 p.m.	100 Pts
Part 2 Assessment Song Assignment	Due online Sunday 8/1 by 11:59 p.m.	200 Pts
Part 3 Assessment Inequality Assignment	Due online Friday 8/6 before noon, 11:59 a.m.	100 Pts
TOTAL		1,000 Pts

Discussion Board Participation

We will have five discussions in this course, one each week. To make these discussions more productive, students will be randomly assigned into smaller groups of 8-12 students. These are worth 60 points each, making up a total of 30% of your grade.

Weekly discussions will have a major post (worth 40 points) and two response posts (10 points each) for peer feedback. Major posts should be at least 300 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. No late discussion posts will be accepted for credit.

On the first week, students will complete an introductory discussion board. This will be graded for completion and count as extra credit (+10 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 30 minutes to take each quiz. All students get just 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.

Students cannot make-up quizzes for any reason. If students miss a quiz due date, they have missed the opportunity for those points.

There is a sixth optional quiz that students can take to drop their lowest quiz score. This quiz opens during the last week of class and covers all the material we have learned over the course of the semester.

Assignments

There are three assignments in this class that correspond to each part of the class. These are worth 40% of your final grade: a Sociology in Practice Assignment (10%), a Song Assignment (20%), and an Inequality Assignment (10%). All students must submit original work. All assignments will be run through [Turnitin](#) upon submission to check for plagiarism.

Part 1: Sociology in Practice (SIP) Assignment

The SIP consists of watching a short film clip about the song *Strange Fruit* by Billie Holiday. After watching the film, you will answer a few short questions pertaining to the film and the impact music (in general) has on society in writing. This short assignment will serve to prepare you for the more involved Song Assignment paper that you will write analyzing a song of your

own choosing. Detailed instructions for how to complete the SIP can be found in Canvas. To earn credit, you must follow these instructions exactly as they are written.

Part 2: Song Assignment

Students will analyze a song using their sociological imagination. The Song Assignment is worth 200 possible points (or 20% of your final grade). Please think of this as a written exam and follow the instructions carefully. Directions for completing the Song Assignment can be found in Canvas. There are three chapters for you to choose from: Ch. 8 Gender, Ch. 9 Race, or Ch. 10 Poverty. You get to pick which chapter to focus on for this paper.

Please note that the Song Assignment cannot be submitted late or made up. There will be no rewrite options for the Song Assignment.

Part 3: Inequality Assignment

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.

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.

Grade	Total points
A	899 – 1,000
B	799 – 898
C	699 – 798
D	599 – 698
F	<598

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

Under ordinary circumstances, no late work will be accepted. Due dates will only be shifted if the student reaches out to the instructor *prior* to the due date. The dates for all graded material listed here will not change. Students requiring accommodations for exams should speak with me after obtaining an accommodation form from the Office of Disability Access.

Because this course is accelerated, I do my best to return grades promptly and provide feedback within a week of the due date. If I determine that grading will take longer than a week, you will see an announcement from me with an update. Any assignment sent via email or received in person will not be graded.

You earn the grade you receive in this class. I do not curve or scale quizzes, assignments, or final grades. If you become concerned about your grades, meet with me immediately. Except in extreme circumstances, I do not give incompletes.

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 Skype.

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 are 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: [UIT 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>)

Course Schedule

**This is subject to change – please check Canvas for accurate due dates and times.*

Date (Mon-Sun)	Topic	To do	Due dates
Week 1 (July 5-11) Part I: Using your sociological imagination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch. 1: The Sociological Imagination Ch. 2: Methods Ch. 3 Culture and Media 	Complete the “Get Started” and “About this Class” modules. Read textbook chapters 1-3 Watch videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paradox Animation Video All “Sociological Conversations” Extras listed on Canvas Study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review PowerPoint slides Use Chapter Outlines to take notes Practice terms with Flash Cards 	Due on Wednesday by 11:59pm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductions discussion post Due on Thursday by 11:59pm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main discussion post Due on Sunday by 11:59pm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion response posts Week 1 Quiz Thinking ahead: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review SIP Assignment, which is due next week
Week 2 (July 12-18) Finish Part I Submit Part I Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch. 4: Socialization and the Construction of Reality Ch. 6: Social Control and Deviance <i>(note: we are skipping Ch. 5)</i>	Read textbook chapters 4 and 6 Watch videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paradox Animation Video All “Sociological Conversations” Extras listed on Canvas Study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review PowerPoint slides Use Chapter Outlines to take notes Practice terms with Flash Cards Write: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete SIP Assignment 	Due on Thursday by 11:59pm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main discussion post Due on Sunday by 11:59pm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion response posts Week 2 Quiz SIP assignment
Week 3 (July 19-25) Part II: Fault Lines... Social Divisions and Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch. 7: Stratification Ch. 8: Gender Ch. 9: Race 	Read textbook chapters 7-9 Watch videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paradox Animation Video All “Sociological Conversations” Extras listed on Canvas 	Due on Thursday by 11:59pm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main discussion post Due on Sunday by 11:59pm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion response posts Week 3 Quiz

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <p>Study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review PowerPoint slides • Use Chapter Outlines to take notes • Practice terms with Flash Cards 	<p>Thinking ahead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Song Assignment, which is due next week
<p>Week 4 (July 26-August 1)</p> <p>Finish Part II</p> <p>Submit Part II Assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 10: Poverty • Ch. 11: Health and Society 	<p>Read textbook chapters 10-11</p> <p>Watch videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paradox Animation Video • All “Sociological Conversations” • Extras listed on Canvas • <p>Study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review PowerPoint slides • Use Chapter Outlines to take notes • Practice terms with Flash Cards 	<p>Due on Thursday by 11:59pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main discussion post <p>Due on Sunday by 11:59pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion response posts • Week 4 Quiz • Song Assignment <p>Thinking ahead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Inequality Assignment, which is due next week
<p>Week 5 (August 2-6)</p> <p>Part III: Building Blocks: Social Institutions</p> <p>Submit Part III Assessment</p> <p>Note: <i>Due dates shifted as it is the last week of class.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 12: Family • Ch. 13: Education • Ch. 14: Capitalism and the Economy 	<p>Read textbook chapters 12-14</p> <p>Watch videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paradox Animation Video • All “Sociological Conversations” • Extras listed on Canvas <p>Study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review PowerPoint slides • Use Chapter Outlines to take notes • Practice terms with Flash Cards 	<p>Due on Wednesday by 11:59pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main discussion post <p>Due on Thursday by 11:59pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion response posts • Week 5 Quiz <p>Due on Friday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inequality Assignment by noon • *Optional* Quiz 6 by 11:59pm