

# University of North Texas

## Department of Sociology

## Introduction to Sociology (SOCI 1510)

**Summer 2019**

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Contact via email during summer courses

This is a general introductory course to the field of sociology. As an introduction, the course has a very broad scope, covering the development of the field, strategies of data collection, and prominent/influential theories of culture and cognition. The field of sociology has been developing for over 150 years and, as a result, this course may challenge your intuitions about how family, religion, the economy, health/medicine and other institutions function. When this course is over, however, you will have the theory and data available to create a “sociological imagination,” which provides an analytical, historically informed, and context-dependent understanding of social dynamics.

**Course Purpose and Goals:**

1. Describe the development and nature of the field of sociology.

2. Identify and describe important sociological theories.

3. Identify and describe significant methodological issues and strategies in sociology.

4. Identify important research methods and be able to compare and contrast their strengths and weaknesses.

5. Identify and critically discuss contemporary issues or themes in current scholarship in sociology.

**Textbook:**

Thompson, Angela and Keith Whitworth. 2016. *SociologicalYou*. Fort Worth, TX: United Instructors and Textbook Authors Co-op.

See our CANVAS course site for information about obtaining the text.

Assignments and Grading:

This course has two basic aspects—a testing aspect and a participation/discussion aspect. All discussions and testing will be done (and all grades will be posted) on the CANVAS site for this course.

Exams : There are five exams for this course, which must be completed by the due date specified on the syllabus and on the CANVAS course site.

Exams can be taken at *any time* throughout the week (up until Friday by midnight the day they are due). Each exam is worth 100 points for a total of **500 points** possible.

Discussion/Participation : We will be having weekly discussions of the assigned material. Your contributions on the message board must be interactive and engaging: consider the topic from different points of view, ask questions of your fellow students and comment reflectively on the posts of others. These weekly discussions are worth **200 points in total (40 points per week).**

You can access these discussions each week under the “Discussions” tab on the course CANVAS site. Feel free to create a thread (or respond to a thread created by someone else).

Your discussion posts will be graded on the basis of how well they meet the following criteria:

1. Full engagement
   1. **Make** **one** original post of at least 200 words each week
   2. **Make two** responses to classmates each week

2) Make sure your posts are relevant to the topic(s) of the assigned chapters each week

3) Make sure to incorporate/make specific reference to material from the text. When drawing directly from text material, *put passages in quotations and cite text page numbers.*

4) Emphasize your thoughtfulness and curiosity

5) Watch spelling, grammar, and organization

Feel free to give your thoughts and opinions, to ask questions of your classmates, and be ready to explain your point of view.

Grading Scale:

A = 90 to 100% of possible points (700 possible points)

B = 80 to 89%

C = 70 to 79%

D = 60 to 69%

F = Below 60%

**Academic Integrity:**

It is the responsibility of each student to be familiar with UNT’s Policy on Academic Integrity. Plagiarism, copying, cheating, or giving assistance to other students during examinations is a violation of academic integrity. Cases of suspected cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the office of Student Affairs.

**Assisted Learning:**

Students with special learning needs must inform me as soon as possible to ensure that those needs are met in a timely manner. I am strongly committed to maintaining an environment that provides full access to educational programs for all students. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at: <http://disability.unt.edu/> . Their phone number is 940.565.4323.

**Course Schedule\*:**

**Week 1:** 6/3-6/7 **Topic:** Introduction, Chapters 1-3

* Read the syllabus and email me with any questions (kevin.mccaffree@unt.edu)
* Discussion 1 due (on Blackboard) FRIDAY by MIDNIGHT.
* Exam 1 due (on Blackboard) FRIDAY by MIDNIGHT.

**Week 2:** 6/10-6/14 **Topic:** Socialization and Organizations, Chapters 4-6

* Discussion 2 due (on Blackboard) FRIDAY by MIDNIGHT.
* Exam 2 due (on Blackboard) FRIDAY by MIDNIGHT.

**Week 3:** 6/17-6/21 **Topic:** Norms and Stratification, Chapters 7-9

* Discussion 3 due (on Blackboard) FRIDAY by MIDNIGHT.
* Exam 3 due (on Blackboard) FRIDAY by MIDNIGHT.

**Week 4:**6/24-6/28 **Topic:** Race, Religion and Politics, Chapters 10-12

* Discussion 4 due (on Blackboard) FRIDAY by MIDNIGHT.
* Exam 4 due (on Blackboard) FRIDAY by MIDNIGHT.

**Week 5:** 7/1-7/5 **Topic:** Family, Health and Social Organizing, Chapters 13-15

* Discussion 5 due (on Blackboard) FRIDAY by MIDNIGHT
* Exam 5 due (on Blackboard) FRIDAY by MIDNIGHT.

\*This syllabus, with its course schedule, is based on the most recent information about the course content and schedule planned for this course. Its content is subject to revision as needed to adapt to new knowledge or unanticipated events. Updates will remain focused on achieving the course objectives and students will receive notification of such changes. Students will be notified of changes and are responsible for attending to such changes or modifications posted on the CANVAS site for this course.