Sociological Theory (soci 3200)

Spring 2023; Online Course

# Instructor Information

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| Instructor | Email | Office Location & Hours |
| Kevin McCaffree, PhD | Kevin.mccaffree@unt.edu | Fridays 2-5 (on Zoom: <https://unt.zoom.us/j/9466560178>) |

# General Information

## Description

This is an internet-only course. I will be happy to meet with you to discuss the material on Zoom, but there will be no lecture or face-to-face component of this course.

This course provides an overview of sociological theory from the 1800s to the present day. Theories are simply our best attempts to model and think about variable relationships in society. Variables come in many form—the population density of your city, the parenting style of your upbringing, or the sorts of exchange relationships that characterize your social networks. Theory is critical to inquiry because theoretical frameworks help to both generate hypotheses and interpret results. The goal for this course is to acquaint you with the important theoretical questions and findings of our time, and to begin using sociological theory—past and present—to generate new insights.

## Required Texts

**Turner, J.H., Beeghley, L., Powers, C. The Emergence of Sociological Theory, 7th Edition. New York: Sage.**

**\*\*\*\*\*referenced on the course calendar (below) as the “TBP” text\*\*\*\*\***

**Turner, J. H. (2012). Contemporary Sociological Theory, 1st Edition. New York: Sage.**

**\*\*\*\*\*referenced on the course calendar (below) as the “T” text\*\*\*\*\***

# Course Assignments

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| --- | --- |
| Type of Assignment | Details and Due Date |
| Reading Reflection | These reading reflection papers are to be 350-500 words and will be due midnight Friday of each week (uploaded to Canvas).  There will be no reading reflections due (see course schedule below):   * the first two weeks of class (i.e., weeks 1 and 2; this will ensure all students have adequate time to obtain the texts), * the last two weeks of class (i.e., week 16 and Finals Week), * Spring Break week (week 9), * or during weeks when you have an exam (weeks 5, 8 and 12)   Each reflection is worth 10 points. Possible grades are 10, 5 and 0.  “10” papers are cohesive, well-organized, logical, no or few spelling and grammar errors, and meet the requirement for the minimum number of words.  “5” papers are generally well-written but may be too short, non-specific, repetitive, logically inconsistent, or have distracting spelling and grammar errors.  “0” papers are too short, poorly written, demonstrate consistent misunderstanding of the material and often have serious logical flaws and spelling and grammar errors.  9 reflections, 10 points each= 90 possible points for this assignment. |
| Exams | There are four multiple choice exams in this course, three during the regular course of the semester and one during Finals Week. These will be of varying lengths, but easily completed within about a 60-minute period.  All exams will be available on Canvas for the duration of the day they are due. All exams will be due midnight Friday (see course schedule below).  Each exam is worth 100 points, for a total of 400 points. |
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# Exam Schedule

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| --- | --- |
| Date | Subject |
| 2/17 | Exam One |
| 3/10 | Exam Two |
| 4/7 | Exam Three |
| 5/9 | Exam Four |

# Grade Breakdown

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| --- | --- |
| Assignment | Possible Points |
| Reading Reflections | 90 points; ~18% of final grade |
| Exams | 400 points; ~82% of final grade |
| Extra credit for taking pre- and post-course assessment (available on Canvas) | 10 points |
| TOTAL | 500 points |

**General Policies:**

\*\*Late work will not be accepted unless there are emergency circumstances; a doctor’s note will be required, and will need to be emailed to the Dean of Students for approval.

\*\*Instances of plagiarism will result in an automatic F and referral to the Dean of Students.

\*\*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 an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course.

# Course Schedule\*

| Week | Topic | Reading | Exercises |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1 (1/17-1/20) | Syllabus/Introductions/ Assessment | None | None |
| Week 2 (1/23-1/27) | What is Sociological Theory? | TBP, Chp. 1  T, Chp. 1 | None |
| Week 3 (1/30-2/3) | The Origins of Sociology (Comte) | TBP, Chp. 2,3 | Reflection paper due on Canvas by midnight (11:59 pm) Friday |
| Week 4 (2/6-2/10) | The Origins of Sociology (Spencer) | TBP, Chp. 4,5 | Reflection paper due on Canvas by midnight (11:59 pm) Friday |
| Week 5 (2/13- 2/17) | The Origins of Sociology  (Marx) | TBP, Chp. 6,7 | ***Exam 1 on Canvas, due by midnight on 2/17*** |
| Week 6 (2/20-2/24) | The Origins of Sociology (Weber) | TBP, Chp. 8,9 | Reflection paper due on Canvas by midnight (11:59 pm) Friday |
| Week 7 (2/27-3/3) | The Origins of Sociology (Simmel) | TBP, Chp. 10,11 | Reflection paper due on Canvas by midnight (11:59 pm) Friday |
| Week 8 (3/6-3/10) | The Origins of Sociology (Durkheim) | TBP, Chp. 12, 13 | ***Exam 2 on Canvas, due by midnight on 3/10*** |
| Week 9 (3/13-3/17) | SPRING BREAK | None | None |
| Week 10 (3/20-3/24) | Contemporary Sociology (Systems Theory) | T, Chp. 3,4 | Reflection paper due on Canvas by midnight (11:59 pm) Friday |
| Week 11 (3/27- 3/31) | Contemporary Sociology (Cultural Evolution) | T, Chp. 6,7 | Reflection paper due on Canvas by midnight (11:59 pm) Friday |
| Week 12 (4/3- 4/7) | Contemporary Sociology (Cultural Evolution) | T, Chp. 8,9 | ***Exam 3 on Canvas, due by midnight on 4/7*** |
| Week 13 (4/10- 4/14) | Contemporary Sociology (Conflict Theory) | T, Chp. 11,12 | Reflection paper due on Canvas by midnight (11:59 pm) Friday |
| Week 14 (4/17-4/21) | Contemporary Sociology (Self, Identity, Networks) | T, Chp. 16,18 | Reflection paper due on Canvas by midnight (11:59 pm) Friday |
| Week 15 (4/24-4/28) | Contemporary Sociology (Self, Identity, Networks) | T, Chp. 19, 29 | Reflection paper due on Canvas by midnight (11:59 pm) Friday |
| Week 16  (5/1- 5/5) | Post-Assessment |  | None |
| Finals Week |  |  | ***Exam 4 on Canvas, due by midnight on 5/9*** |

\*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 are responsible for attending to such changes or modifications posted on the CANVAS site ([https://unt.instructure.com](https://unt.instructure.com/)) for this course.