

# University of North Texas

## Department of Sociology

SOCI 3200: Introduction to Sociological Theory

Instructor: Kevin McCaffree, PhD

Teaching Assistant: Marshall McCready; marshall.mccready@unt.edu

Room: Zoom (<https://unt.zoom.us/j/9466560178>)

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2pm-4pm

This course provides an introduction to sociological theory from the 1840s to the present day, though it concentrates on the classical era of sociological theory from the Industrial Revolution through World War I. The course provides a foundation for taking 3000- and 4000-level sociology courses, and it is intended primarily, although not exclusively, for sociology majors and minors.

Textbook:Social Theory: Roots & Branches 6th Edition by Peter Kivisto.

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Minimum Technology Requirements for the Course:

• Computer

• Reliable internet access

• Microsoft Office Suite

• Canvas Technical Requirements (<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>)

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. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UNT Help Desk: (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

Telephone Availability:

• Sunday: noon-midnight

• Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight

• Friday: 8am-8pm

• Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

Assignments and Grading:

This course has three basic aspects—a testing aspect, an essay-writing aspect and a participation/discussion aspect. All discussions, testing and essay submissions will be done (and all grades will be posted) on the CANVAS site for this course.

Exams: There are five exams for this course—one every three weeks--which must be completed by the due date specified on the syllabus.

Exams will be posted on Canvas early in the week and can be taken at any time throughout the week (up until Friday by midnight). Each exam is worth 50 points for a total of **250 points** possible.

Discussion/Participation: You will be expected to engage in weekly discussions (**not including finals week, not including the first week of class and not including the week of 2/22-2/26)** of the assigned material, and this will take place on the course’s message board on Canvas.

Your posts on the message board can address any components of the assigned reading for the week—the content and perspective expressed in the post is up to you, so long as it **directly relates** to the readings for that week.

Your contributions on the message board must be interactive and engaging: consider the readings from different points of view, ask questions of your fellow students and comment reflectively on the posts of others. These weekly discussions are worth 10 points each, for a total of **130 points.**

You can access these discussions each week under the “Discussions” tab on the course Canvas site.

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

1. Full engagement
   1. **Make** **(at least) one** original post of at least 200 words each week
   2. **Provide (at least) one** response to your classmates’ posts 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.

Essay: There is one essay in this course, which will be due during finals week (see the course schedule below). The essay should be composed of a full 10 pages (double spaced), with 12-point font (Times New Roman). The final essay is worth **200 points.**

* 1. This essay will require the following components:
     1. Pick four of the readings in the class, and briefly summarize them. Keep the summaries short: do not use this as an opportunity to fill your whole paper up with just summaries. Keep summaries very brief (1-2 pages total).
     2. Specify (1) areas of agreement/synergy that you perceive across the readings as well as (2) areas of disagreement/inconsistency that you perceive across the readings.
     3. Also, for each of the four readings you choose, specify (1) what you found interesting or helpful to your understanding and/or (2) what you found uninteresting or unhelpful/confusing.

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\***Students commonly make several predictable—and preventable--mistakes in writing their essays. Avoid them. They are: (1) using excessive spacing/margins in order to fill space so you don’t have to write as much, (2) using huge font or large titles/subtitles or extensive quotes in order to fill space so you don’t have to write as much, (3) adding a title page and a works cited page in lieu of writing the full 10 pages (title pages and works cited pages are fine, but they don’t count toward the total 10 pages), (4) copy/pasting text without attributing it to a source, (5) “mosaic plagiarism,” where students copy/paste text from others and change a word here or there to try and pass it off as their own writing (Canvas will detect all forms of plagiarism, this is simply the most common).**\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

No late work will be accepted without evidence of a documented, verifiable medical emergency.

Instances of plagiarism will result in an immediate F and referral to the Dean of Students.

Grading Scale:

A = 90 to 100% of all 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 Dean of Students office. Note that any and all work submitted in order to meet the requirements of this course must be originally created for this course. In other words, you may not turn in anything submitted for another course and/or section of this course you have previously taken.

University Policy 06.003 states, “UNT promotes the integrity of learning processed and embraces the core values of trust and honesty. Academic integrity is based on educational principles and procedures that protect the rights of all participants in the educational process and validate the legitimacy of degrees awarded by the university. In the investigation and resolution of allegations of student academic dishonesty, the university’s actions are intended to be corrective, educationally sound, fundamentally fair, and based on reliable evidence.”

For more information on what constitutes plagiarism, as well as tips on citing your resources, visit [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org/). If you require clarification on what counts as academic dishonesty, it is your responsibility to ask the instructor of the course.

**Academic Accommodations:**

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. 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. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at [http://disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu/). You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Course Schedule\*:

**Week 1:** 1/11-1/15 **Topic:** Classical Foundations, Contemporary Developments

* Read the syllabus (posted on Canvas) and email your TA with any questions, or, come see me during office hours on Zoom.
* Read *Social Theory: Classical Foundations and Contemporary Developments* in the Kivisto book.
* Take Sociological Theory Proficiency Exam (on Canvas) by Friday at midnight.

**Week 2:** 1/18-1/22 **Topic:** Introduction to Sociological Theory

* Readings (from Kivisto book):
  + *What is a Social Fact?* (Emile Durkheim)
  + *Anomic Suicide* (Emile Durkheim)
  + *Alienated Labor* (Karl Marx)

**Week 3:** 1/25-1/29 **Topic:** Classical Theoretical Perspectives

* Readings (from Kivisto book)
  + *On Mechanical and Organic Solidarity* (Emile Durkheim)
  + *The Structure of the Societal Community* (Talcott Parsons)
* **Exam One on Canvas, Due 1/29 by 11:59pm**

**Week 4:** 2/1-2/5 **Topic:** Classical Theoretical Perspectives

* Readings (from Kivisto book)
  + *Society and Symbolic Interaction* (Herbert Blumer)
  + *Performances* (Erving Goffman)

**Week 5:** 2/8-2/12 **Topic:** Shame and Repugnance

* Readings (from Kivisto book)
  + *Shame and Repugnance (Norbert Elias)*
  + *Multiple Modernities (S.N. Eisenstadt)*
  + *On Living in a Liquid Modern World (Zygmunt Bauman)*

**Week 6:** 2/15-2/19 **Topic:** Capitalism, Urbanization, and Social Conflict

* Readings (from Kivisto book)
  + *Class, Status, Party* (Max Weber)
  + *Conspicuous Consumption* (Thorstein Veblen)
  + *Bureaucracy* (Max Weber)
  + *The Spirit of Capitalism (*Max Weber)
  + Manifesto of the Communist Party (Karl Marx & Fredrich Engels)

**Week 7:** 2/22-2/26 **Topic:** Capitalism, Urbanization, and Social Conflict

* Readings (from Kivisto book)
  + *On Individualism* (Alexis de Tocqueville)
  + *Individualism and the Intellectuals* (Emile Durkheim)
  + *Structures and Habits* (Pierre Bourdieu)
  + *The Metropolis and Mental Life* (Georg Simmel)
* **Exam Two on Canvas, Due 2/26 by 11:59pm**

**Week 8:** 3/1-3/5 **Topic:** Major American Theorists

* Readings (from Kivisto book)
  + *Of Our Spiritual Strivings* (W.E.B. Dubois)
  + *Situated Actions and Vocabularies of Motive* (C. Wright Mills)
  + *The Unanticipated Consequences of Social Action* (Robert K. Merton)
  + *What Pragmatism Means* (William James)

**Week 9:** 3/8-3/12 **Topic:** Major American Theorists

* Readings (from Kivisto book)
  + *The Fusion of the 'I' and the 'Me' in Social Activities* (George Herbert Mead)
  + *Social and Individual Aspects of the Mind* (Charles Horton Cooley)
* **Exam Three on Canvas, Due 3/12 by 11:59pm**

**Week 10:** 3/15-3/19 **Topic:** Feminist Sociology

* Readings (from Kivisto book)
  + *Doing Gender* (Candace West & Don H. Zimmerman)
  + *Toward an Afrocentric Feminist Epistemology* (Patricia Hill Collins)
  + *The Dependence of Women* (Charlotte Perkins Gilman)

**Week 11:** 3/22-3/26 **Topic:** Cultural Theory

* Readings (from Kivisto book)
  + *Freudian Theory and the Pattern of Fascist Propaganda* (Theodor W. Adorno)
  + *Advertising* (Jean Baudrillard)
  + *Nationalism and the Cultures of Democracy* (Craig Calhoun)

**Week 12:** 3/29-4/2 **Topic:** Symbolic Interactionism and Structuralism

* Readings (from Kivisto book)
  + *Interaction Ritual Theory* (Randall Collins)
  + *The Stranger: An Essay in Social Psychology* (Alfred Schutz)
  + *Studies of the Routine Grounds of Everyday Activities* (Harold Garfinkel)
  + *Structures and Habitus* (Pierre Bourdieu)
* **Exam Four on Canvas, Due 4/2 by 11:59pm**

**Week 13:** 4/5-4/9 **Topic:** Exchange Theory

* Readings (from Kivisto book)
  + *Social Behavior as Exchange* (George C. Homans)
  + *Formulation of Exchange Theory* (Peter Blau)
  + *Human Capital and Social Capital* (James S. Coleman)
  + *Fairness and Norms* (Jon Elster)

**Week 14:** 4/12-4/16 **Topic:** World Systems and Globalization

* Readings (from Kivisto book)
  + *Nationalism and the Cultures of Democracy* (Craig Calhoun)
  + Mapping the Global Condition (Roland Robertson)
  + *The Cosmopolitan Condition: Why Methodological Nationalism Fails* (Ulrich Beck)
  + *The Three Instances of Hegemony in the History of the Capitalist World-Economy* (Immanuel Wallerstein)
* Take Sociological Theory Proficiency Exam (on Canvas) by Friday at midnight.

**Week 15:** 4/19-4/23 **Topic:** Race, Ethnicity, Nationalism

* Readings (from Kivisto book)
  + *The Theoretical Status of the Concept of Race* (Michael Omi and Howard Winant)
  + *Ethnicity Without Groups* (Rogers Brubaker)
* **Exam Five on Canvas, Due 4/23 by 11:59pm**

**Week 16:** **Finals Week**

* **Final Essay Uploaded to Canvas, by 11:59 pm on 4/28**

\*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>) for this course.