

# Department of Sociology

SOCI 3200: Sociological Theory

Instructor: Miles Brickell

Email: Milesbrickell@my.unt.edu

Office Hours: Friday 2pm - 5pm & by appointment

Zoom: https://unt.zoom.us/j/6935421104

## Course Description:

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 4000-level sociology courses, and it is intended primarily, although not exclusively, for sociology majors and minors.

**Textbooks**:

[Turner, J.H., Beeghley, L., Powers, C. The Emergence of Sociological Theory, 7th Edition. New York: Sage](https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/the-emergence-of-sociological-theory/book237235)

[Turner, J. H. (2012). Contemporary Sociological Theory, 1st Edition. New York: Sage.](https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/contemporary-sociological-theory/book237240)

## Important Communication:

I will communicate with you via emails and announcements. Please be sure to check these regularly for correspondence from me and your other instructors. Read this document and the course schedule very carefully. Save the schedule to your desktop or print it off. This will allow you to always know what is coming up. Things can go wrong in Canvas, and I highly recommend you not rely entirely on the due date function. You are responsible for all assigned work, even if something happens in Canvas and an assignment does not appear under your To Do/Coming up list. It is always better to have a general idea of what is due than to have missing work!

## 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 types of assignments: A Pre- and Post-Course Evaluation, four exams and nine written reflections. All assignments and grading will take place on CANVAS for this course.

## Pre and Post-Course Evaluation:

The University is requiring all students to take a course evaluation at the beginning and end of the course. These will be completion grades. As long as you complete these evaluations, you will receive these points. In total, 10 points.

## Exams:

There are four multiple choice exams in this course, three during the regular course of the semester and one during Finals Week.

Each exam is worth 100 points, for a total of 400 points.

## Reflections / Participation:

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),
* during spring break and finals week
* or during weeks when you have an exam (weeks 5, 12 and 1)

Each reflection is worth 10 points. Possible grades are 10, 5 and 0.

“10” papers are cohesive, well-organized, logical, with 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.

## 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: 1/16 - 1/21** **Topic:** Syllabus Week

* Read the syllabus and email me with any questions.
* Sociological Theory Proficiency Test (Extra Credit)

**Week 2: 1/22 - 1/28** **Topic:** Introduction to Sociological Theory

* Readings (Emergence of Sociological Theory)
  + Chapter 1
* Readings (Contemporary Sociological Theory)
  + Chapter 1

**Week 3: 1/29 - 2/04** **Topic:** Auguste Comte

* Readings (Emergence of Sociological Theory)
  + Chapters 2 & 3
* Watch the videos posted underneath the week 2 tab labeled “videos.”
* Reflection paper – Due Sunday by midnight.

**Week 4: 2/05 - 2/11 Topic:** Herbert Spencer

* Readings (Emergence of Sociological Theory)
  + Chapters 4 & 5
* Reflection paper – Due Sunday by midnight.

**Week 5: 2/12 - 2/18** **Topic:** Karl Marx

* Readings (Emergence of Sociological Theory)
  + Chapters 6 & 7
* Exam 1 – Due Sunday by midnight.

**Week 6: 2/19 - 2/25** **Topic:** Max Weber

* Readings (Emergence of Sociological Theory)
  + Chapters 8 & 9
* Reflection paper – Due Sunday by midnight.

**Week 7: 2/26 - 3/03** **Topic:** Georg Simmel

* Readings (Emergence of Sociological Theory)
  + Chapters 10 & 11
* Reflection paper – Due Sunday by midnight.

**Week 8: 3/04 – 3/10** **Topic:** Emile Durkheim

* Readings (Emergence of Sociological Theory)
  + Chapters 12 & 13
* Exam 2 – Due Sunday by Midnight

**Week 9: 3/11 – 3/17** **Topic:** Spring Break

* Spring Break

**Week 10: 3/18 – 3/24** **Topic:** Systems Theory

* Readings (Contemporary Sociological Theory)
  + Chapters 3 & 4
* Reflection paper – Due Sunday by midnight.

**Week 11: 3/25 – 3/31** **Topic:** Cultural Evolution

* Readings (Contemporary Sociological Theory)
  + Chapters 6 & 7
* Reflection paper – Due Sunday by midnight.

**Week 12: 4/01 – 4/07** **Topic:** Cultural Evolution Cont.

* Readings (Contemporary Sociological Theory)
  + Chapters 8 & 9
* Exam 3 – Due Sunday by midnight.

**Week 13: 4/08 – 4/14** **Topic:** Conflict Theory

* Readings (Contemporary Sociological Theory)
  + Chapters 11 & 12
* Reflection paper – Due Sunday by midnight.

**Week 14: 4/15 – 4/21** **Topics:** Self, Identity, Networks

* Readings (Contemporary Sociological Theory)
  + Chapters 16 & 18
* Reflection paper – Due Sunday by midnight.

**Week 15: 4/22 – 4/28** **Topic:** Self, Identity, Networks Cont.

* Readings (Contemporary Sociological Theory)
  + Chapters 19 & 29
* Reflection paper – Due Sunday by midnight.
* Post-assessment quiz (Extra Credit)

**Week 16: 4/2 – 5/05** **Topic:** Course Final

* Exam 4 – Due Sunday 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 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.