

SOCI 4650: Sociology of Education

Fall 2023

Instructor Contact

Name: Phoebe Ho

Office Hours: Tu and Tr, 2:15-4:30PM or by appointment (Sycamore Hall, 288AA)

Email: phoebe.ho@unt.edu

Class Meeting Schedule: TuTh 12:30 - 1:50PM

Class Location: GATE 131

Course Communications and Office Hours:

All relevant course communications outside of class will occur through Canvas. Make sure your primary email account is set up in Canvas to avoid missing course communications. For individual questions and concerns, email me directly or schedule a meeting during office hours.

When sending an email:

- Make sure that the answer is not already in the syllabus or elsewhere on Canvas.
- Include an informative subject line and start with Dear Professor Ho.
- Have a clear and succinct inquiry.
- If you have not received a reply within 24 hours, you may send a polite reminder (above rules still apply).

Office hours can be reserved at this link or through Canvas: <https://calendly.com/phoebeho/15min>

Meetings are set in 15-minute increments. If you think you will need more than 15 minutes, you may reserve additional meeting slots within reason. Do not be late as it may impact other students' schedules. If you cannot make your appointment, make changes as soon as possible so that other students have the chance to sign up. You may request appointments outside of these hours by emailing me several date and time options (meetings outside of regular office hours are likely to be via Zoom).

Course Description

Explores the role of education and schooling in society, educational inequalities in the U.S., global comparisons of schooling, and educational policy from a sociological perspective.

Course Structure

The course is organized around four modules: 1) Course Introduction; 2) Student Experiences in Education; 3) Schools and Other Educational Organizations; 4) Education Research in the Field, and 5) Research, Data, and International Perspectives. Each module contains specific readings and assignments. A detailed breakdown of each module is available on Canvas. Class meets on Tuesdays and Thursday. Class sessions will typically revolve around a brief lecture and small-group and whole-class discussion.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

There are no course prerequisites for this course.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

- Have a solid foundation of sociological approaches to studying the education and schooling
- Understand how broader social contexts shape education systems

- Develop an ability to interpret and critically analyze social science research
- Be able to clearly communicate and explain sociological concepts related to education and schooling

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings. Up to three no-questions-asked absences and three excused absences (with documentation and consistent with UNT policy) are allowed for the semester. Each additional absence beyond this will result in a loss of participation points. Students are also expected to log in to the course Canvas site on a regular basis to access course materials and otherwise engage with the course and classmates.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to UNT's student academic integrity policies. Instances of academic dishonesty may be considered grounds for academic penalties, up to and including failure in the course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication (including the usage of artificial intelligence software). Students who have questions about whether a particular approach to an assignment is appropriate should consult with me beforehand.

Late Work and Extensions

Most assignments, unless otherwise noted, have a no-questions-asked 24-hour courtesy extension. As long as eligible assignments are submitted within 24 hours of the original due date, they will not be penalized for lateness.

Eligible assignments submitted after the 24-hour courtesy window but within 48 hours of the original due date will have 10% of the score deducted. Eligible assignments submitted after 48 hours but within 72 hours of the original due date will have 20% of the score deducted. Eligible assignments submitted later than 72 hours from the original due date will receive no credit. Students do not need to make any special arrangements to make use of this policy.

If there is an emergency that requires a longer extension, you must contact me for accommodations before the assignment deadline. Further extensions will be provided solely at my discretion. It is your responsibility as a student to contact me as early as possible if you anticipate difficulties in meeting any of the deadlines.

Grade Disputes

You are required to wait 24 hours before contacting me to dispute a grade. Within that time, I expect that you will review the assignment details and grading rubric and reflect on the quality of the work you turned in. To petition for a grade review:

- Sign up for office hours
- At least 12 hours before the meeting, email me a version of the assignment(s) in question in which you have highlighted and provided clear and specific comments on sections that you believe demonstrate a higher quality of work than the score you received based on the provided grading rubric.

If you miss your scheduled meeting, you forfeit your right to a grade dispute. If you do not contact me to schedule a meeting within seven days of receiving your grade, you also forfeit your right to a grade dispute.

Technical Issues

It is **your responsibility to document any technical issues** you may experience that prevent you from completing or submitting assignments. This includes, but is not limited to, screenshots of error screens or messages,

confirmation from IT of a specific issue, and/or other clear evidence that you experienced an issue. This documentation should then be emailed to me if you are requesting an extension or other accommodation.

Extra Credit

Refer to Assignments on Canvas for details on how to earn extra credit. Any additional extra credit will be provided at my discretion.

Materials

There are two required texts for the course. Both are available as e-books through UNT libraries.

Required Books:

- Domina, Thurston, Benjamin G. Gibbs, Lisa Nunn, and Andrew Penner, eds. 2019. *Education and Society: An Introduction to Key Issues in the Sociology of Education*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press.
- Turner, Erica O. 2020. *Suddenly Diverse: How School Districts Manage Race and Inequality*. University of Chicago Press.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Assignment	Points Possible	Percentage of Final Grade
Participation Attendance and in-class participation.	150	15%
Quizzes Five quizzes, lowest dropped. (50 points each)	200	20%
Motivation Essay Details and rubric on Canvas.	50	5%
Case Study Group Presentation Details and rubric on Canvas.	50	5%
Education & Society Interview Project Details and rubric on Canvas.	125	12.5%
International Comparisons Group Presentation Details and rubric on Canvas.	50	5%
Civic Engagement in Education Assignment Details and rubric on Canvas.	125	12.5%
Data Literacy Assignment Details and rubric on Canvas.	50	5%
Sociological Imagination Poster Assignment Details and rubric on Canvas.	150	15%
Reflection Essay Details and rubric on Canvas.	50	5%
Total Points Possible	1,000	100%

Grading

A = 900-1000 (Excellent work)

B = 800-899 (Good work)

C = 700-799 (Fair work)

D = 600-699 (Passing work)

F = 0-599 (Failing work)