

Introduction to Sociology

Sociology (SOCI) 1510

Fall 2023

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PREREQUISITE

None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Social and cultural basis for human behavior; impact of societal groups and organizations on personal identity, feelings and actions; influence on the self in relation to the family, peer groups, social classes, religion and social institutions.

UNT CORE CURRICULUM

SOCI 1510 is part of the UNT Core Curriculum and satisfies the Social and Behavioral Sciences requirement. "Courses in this category focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human. Courses involve the exploration of behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions and events, examining their impact on the individual, society and culture."

SOCI 1510 meets the Core Objectives of critical thinking skills, communication skills, empirical and quantitative skills, and social responsibility.

"The University Core Curriculum is designed to ensure that all UNT students graduate with breadth of knowledge gained through their general education classes as well as depth of knowledge gained from courses in their major area of study. . . Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning." <http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=30&navoid=3325>

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course, we will:

- 1) develop an understanding of the sociological imagination, the process by which sociologists think about and analyze patterns of human social behavior.
- 2) develop a mastery of fundamental concepts and theoretical perspectives that sociologists employ to describe and analyze social behavior and groups.
- 3) become familiar with key sociological characteristics (e.g., structures and processes) of human societies in general and contemporary U.S. society in particular.
- 4) learn how to think critically and independently about claims that *anyone* makes about human nature, social behavior, and society.

- 5) develop an understanding of the social structures and processes that shape our own lives and influence our life chances.

REQUIRED READINGS

There is one required book for this course. The book may be purchased at the UNT bookstore. It is also available through Internet bookstores (addall.com is a good search engine for used books). **Please get your book as soon as possible.**

Book:

Ferris, Kerry and Jill Stein. 2022. *The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology*. 8th Edition. New York: W.W. Norton. ISBN: 9780393871494.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Students will need to be familiar with our CANVAS course webpage (<https://unt.instructure.com/>). This page houses the syllabus, relevant course materials, scores from quizzes, assignments and exams, etc. Students must have access to a computer, MS Office (CANVAS will only accept .doc, .docx, and .pdf file extensions, depending upon the particular assignment.), and Internet connectivity that will allow them to complete this course. **Students should check the course site and their UNT email daily.** Lack of access to needed technology is not an excuse for late and/or incomplete work.

To succeed in this class, students should actively read all of the assigned chapters. I expect students to read and be familiar with the assigned readings for each module.

Please remember that online classes are very fast paced; thus, it is important for students to stay on top of the assignments and complete them on time. It is essential to your grade to complete all work and submit your assignments by the due date(s) listed in this syllabus. This is imperative for success in this course.

For written assignments, please use one-inch margins with double spacing, and 12-point Times New Roman font.

If referring to any books/book chapters/articles, they must be properly cited using the American Sociological Association (ASA) format. Otherwise, it would be considered plagiarism. Remember to proof-read your work before submitting it as the clarity of your writing may influence your grades.

Quizzes, assignments, and exams will generally be turned off at 11:59 pm in this class.

No quizzes, assignments, or exams will be accepted after the deadline without prior approval from the instructor.

Please do not e-mail your assignment to the instructor or the teaching assistant unless prior approval is given.

Kindly do not procrastinate about completing your quizzes, exams, and assignments as there may be technical difficulties. Refrain from emailing about any technical difficulties at the last minute as the instructor cannot solve such issues and deadlines cannot be extended because of such issues. If you are experiencing technical difficulties, please contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number, and then contact the instructor with proper screenshots and

the ticket number. The instructor will take into consideration any such issues **only** if the student reaches out before the deadline.

Announcements will be made through CANVAS. Emails containing vital information may also be sent out. Students are expected to check CANVAS and their emails regularly.

I welcome your questions and concerns, and I will try my best to assist you. If you need to contact me, please email me. I will respond to emails generally within 24 to 48 hours, although email messages received on university holidays and weekends may be delayed until the following business day.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Mastery of the material in this course will be demonstrated through the following requirements. Students are encouraged to work with the UNT Writing Center (<https://writingcenter.unt.edu/>) to improve their writing. The written assignments in this class are designed to help students engage with the material, connect it to their own lives, and see how these sociological ideas/concepts/theories are applicable in the larger social world around them. All writing assignments will undergo a Plagiarism Review with Turnitin. Students should be familiar with UNT's policies and practices regarding Academic Integrity (<https://vpaa.unt.edu/ss/integrity>).

DETAILS ON COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Syllabus Contract. A syllabus is a contract between you and your instructor. It contains the information you need to be successful in this course. You are expected to read and follow the syllabus throughout the semester. During week 1, you will read the syllabus and complete the syllabus contract acknowledging that you have completed this task and understand the course expectations. You are also responsible for reaching out to me if you have any questions or need clarification.

Quizzes. You will have approximately 3 weeks to complete each module, which typically includes 4 chapter quizzes. **All quizzes must be completed by the given deadline** (see tentative calendar at the end of this document and on CANVAS). These quizzes are each worth 40 points, and there are a total of 16 quizzes.

Exams. You will have two exams in this class. Each exam contains 50 questions and is worth 100 points. Exam questions are based on assigned readings and learning modules. Exams are multiple-choice. You will have a set amount of time to complete each exam. If you have a computer crash, lose internet service, or otherwise go away from the exam after starting it, the timer will continue to run down. If you do not finish the exam within the 60-minute window, what you have completed will automatically be submitted.

Inequality Assignment. This course is used by the university to assess its Core Curriculum. As such, there is an assignment that is used for assessment purposes only. It is worth 50 points and will be scored following the "Course Grade Guidance" (below). The assignment must be turned in **twice**. The instructions are located under the "Inequality Assignment" module on CANVAS. There is a rubric included with the instructions to provide guidance. This assignment must be submitted as a **pdf**. And it must be submitted **twice**. The second submission will not be scored (it is only used by UNT).

Sociology in Practice. The sociology in practice consists of watching a short film clip about the song *Strange Fruit* by Billie Holiday. After watching the film, you are asked to answer in writing a few short questions about the film, and the impact music has on society.

COURSE GRADES

Syllabus contract	50 points
Quizzes	640 points (16 @ 40 points each)
Sociology in practice	60 points
Exams	200 points (2 @ 100 points each)
<u>Inequality Assessment</u>	<u>50 points</u> (assignment will need to be submitted twice)
Total	1,000 points

A = 100–90%,
B = 89.99–80%,
C = 79.99–70%,
D = 69.99–60%,
F = 59.99% and below.

COURSE GRADE GUIDANCE, I OF II

It may be helpful to think of your work as graded along a continuum, ranging from excellent to unacceptable work. Admittedly, this process is subjective; the advantage is the possibility of partial credit. To help address the subjective nature of grading written work, rubrics will be used for all assignments. Below are broad comments that provide insight into the grading of written work in this course.

- A range** **Excellent work.** Demonstrates superior ability to creatively and appropriately organize and express ideas. Provides a comprehensive and thoughtful response to all assigned questions.
- B range** **Good work.** Demonstrates good organization and expression of ideas. Provides a solid response to all assigned questions.
- C range** **Fair work.** Demonstrates moderate skill in organization and expression of ideas. Provides an acceptable response to all assigned questions.
- D–F range** **Marginal to Unacceptable work.** Demonstrates little to no clear ability to organize and express ideas in an understandable manner. Provides an incomplete response to some or all of the assigned questions.

COURSE GRADE GUIDANCE, II OF II

There is no rounding up. The grading scale used in this class is on p.5. At the end of the semester, there will be no rounding up of grades. In all classes, there will be students just short of the next grade level (e.g., 89.6%). While we do empathize, unfortunately there is nothing to be done. It is difficult to know an appropriate point at which to round. For instance, should an 89.5 be rounded up to an “A” but not an 89.49? In order for there to be fairness for all students, the syllabus course grades, established before the course even began, must be followed.

Question about grading or a grade? This class has a “24 hour/7 day” policy. Students must wait at least 24 hours before asking a question about grading and/or grades. This must be done in writing, and it must be submitted within a week of the grade being released. Critically, students must demonstrate that they have thoughtfully considered any feedback, consulted the syllabus and/or any other relevant documents, and taken a fresh look at their own work in light of that feedback.

EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENT

There is one way to earn extra credit in this class. That is by completing the course evaluation. Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT. Student feedback is an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. Students will receive an email from “UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification” (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that it has been submitted. To receive 20 extra credit points, please upload a screenshot to CANVAS showing that you completed the SPOT evaluation. Because these evaluations are anonymous, **please do not submit the actual evaluation, Submit only the screenshot showing it was completed.** Also, please do not email your submissions. To receive credit, you must upload the screenshot to CANVAS.

SOCI 1510: Introduction to Sociology: Fall 2023 Schedule
Tentative Calendar of Readings, Examinations, Activities, and Assignments

Module	Date	Topic	Reading/Assignments
1	8/21-8/27 (1 week)	Course Orientation	Read/Review: All module pages (especially the syllabus). Obtain: Required textbook (Complete: Syllabus Contract (Due by 8/27, 11:59 pm)).
2	8/28-9/17 (3 weeks)	Chapters 1-4	Read/Review: All Module materials & Chapters 1-4 Watch: Suggested Videos (optional) Complete: Quizzes 1-4 (Due by 9/17, 11:59 pm).
3	9/18-10/08 (3 Weeks)	Chapters 5-8	Read/Review: All Module materials & Chapters 5-8 Watch: Suggested Videos (optional) Complete: Quizzes 5-8 (Due by 10/08, 11:59 pm).
4	10/09-10/15 (1 Week)	Exam 1 and SIP	Review: All module pages & Chapters 1-8 Complete: Exam 1 and SIP (Due by 10/15, 11:59 pm).
5	10/16-11/05 (3 Weeks)	Chapters 9-12	Read/Review: All Module materials & Chapters 7-12 Watch: Suggested Videos (optional) Complete: Quizzes 9-12 (Due by 11/05, 11:59 pm).
6	11/06-11/26 (3 Weeks)	Chapters 13-16	Read/Review: All Module materials & Chapters 13-16 Watch: Suggested Videos (optional) Complete: Quizzes 13-16 (Due by 11/26, 11:59 pm). SPOT Evaluation for extra credit (Opens 11/20/23)
7	11/27-12/03 (1 Week)	Exam 2 and Inequality assignment	Review: All module pages & Chapters 9-16 Complete: Exam 2 and Inequality assignment (Due by 12/03, 11:59 pm). SPOT Evaluation for extra credit (Due by 12/03, 11:59 pm).

NOTE

This syllabus may be modified to achieve course goals.