

# University of North Texas at Dallas

## Spring 2016

### SYLLABUS

<b>SOCI 3200: Sociological Theory 3Hrs</b>			
<b>Department of</b>	<b>Sociology &amp; Psychology</b>	<b>Division of</b>	<b>Liberal Arts &amp; Life Sciences</b>
<b>Instructor Name:</b>	Steven L. Arxer		
<b>Office Location:</b>	Building 2, Room 321		
<b>Office Phone:</b>	972-338-1592		
<b>Email Address:</b>	steven.arxer@untdallas.edu		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Preferred method of communication: Email Response time back to email is 48 hours. Virtual Office Hours: Wednesdays 8-10am. Face-to-Face Office hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays 8-10am and by appointment. <i>Not available on Saturday and Sundays, and weekdays after 10 PM.</i>		
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	DAL 2, 303		
<b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b>	Tuesdays/Thursdays 11:30am-12:50pm		
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b>	Survey of development of sociological theory; emphasizes nature and types of contemporary theory.		
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	SOCI 1510 or equivalent		
<b>Required Texts:</b>	<p><b>Title: Introduction to Sociological Theory (2010)</b>  <b>Author: Michele Dillon</b></p> <p><b>*Note: if you have a different edition of the text please notify the professor to make sure that your text will satisfy the requirements of the course</b></p> <p><b>**All other reading material will be provided by the professor in advance either electronically or in hardcopy in class</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are responsible for completing the readings for the day they are assigned and come to class prepared to discuss them.</li> </ul>		
<b>Access to Learning Resources:</b>	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: <a href="http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm">http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</a> UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: <a href="mailto:1012mgr@fheg.follett.com">1012mgr@fheg.follett.com</a>		
<b>Course Goals or Overview:</b>			

	The purpose of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the range classical and contemporary sociological theories and perspectives. Key to this course will be examining the epistemological and ontological assumptions underpinning sociological theories. This goal will be accomplished by emphasizing how sociological theories view the nature of individual, social order, and their interrelationship.
<b>Departmental Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will be able to</b>	
1	Identify assumptions underlying theoretical arguments
2	Identify limitations of theoretical arguments.
3	Understand alternative viewpoints on social scientific issues.
4	Describe how theory contributes to sociological knowledge.
5	Compare and contrast major theoretical orientations.
6	Explain how theories reflect and affect the historical context in which they are developed.
7	Explain basic concepts such as culture, roles, norms, social structure, social institution, socialization, and stratification.

### Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class.

TOPICS	TIMELINE
<b>Introduction &amp; Syllabus</b>	<b>1/19</b>
<b>Concepts and Historical Background</b> Textbook: Introduction, Welcome to Sociological Theory	<b>1/21-1/26</b>
<b>Foundations</b> Textbook: Chapter 2 Emile Durkheim Reading: The Elementary Forms of Sports Fandom	<b>1/28-2/2</b>
<b>Foundations</b> Textbook: Chapter 1 Karl Marx Reading: The Black Community in the 1980s' Questions of Race, Class and Public Policy	<b>2/4-2/9</b>
<b>Exam Review</b>	<b>2/11</b>
<b>EXAM 1</b>	<b>2/16</b>
<b>Foundations</b> Textbook: Chapter 3 Max Weber Reading: The McDonaldization of Society	<b>2/18 (virtual class day—no face-to-face class)</b>  <b>2/23 (return to face-to-face class)</b>
<b>Structural-Functionalism</b> Textbook: Chapter 4 Structural-Functionalism Reading: Sex Roles in the American Kinship System	<b>2/25-3/1</b>

<b>Social Construction of Reality</b> Textbook: Chapter 9 Phenomenology and Ethnomethodology Reading: Doing Gender	<b>3/3</b>
<b>EXAM</b>	<b>3/8</b>
<b>Symbolic Interactionism</b> Textbook: Chapter 8 Symbolic Interactionism Reading: Barbie Dolls and Sea Monsters	<b>3/10-3/22</b>
<b>Feminist Theories</b> Textbook: Chapter 10 Feminist Theories Reading: Welcome to the Men's Club: Homosociality and the Maintenance of Hegemonic Masculinity	<b>3/24</b>
<b>Theorizing Sexuality and the Body</b>	<b>3/29</b>  <b>3/31 (virtual class day—no face-to-face class)</b>
<b>Theories of Race and Racism</b> Textbook: Chapter 12 Theorizing Race and Racism Reading: How Did Jews Become White Folks	<b>4/5-4/7</b>
<b>Exam 3</b>	<b>4/12</b>
<b>The Social Reproduction of Inequality</b> Textbook: Chapter 13 The Social Reproduction of Inequality (Class & Culture)  Reading: The Well-Coiffed Man: Class, Race, and Heterosexual Masculinity in the Hair Salon	<b>4/14-4/19</b>
<b>Postmodernism</b> Textbook: Chapter 14 Postmodernity Reading: A fairyland of Second Life	<b>4/21-4/26</b>
<b>Globalization</b> Textbook: Chapter 15 Globalization Reading: Globalization and International Tourism	<b>4/28-5/3</b>
<b>Final Exam Review</b>	<b>5/5</b>
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>May TBA</b>
Note: This syllabus may be subject to changes and/or revisions.	

### Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

### **Reading Reviews**

To facilitate discussion and understanding of material, you will be expected to write **5 reviews** over the course of the semester. Reviews should be written as 3 page overviews of the **review article of the day**. Each review should strive to identify the author(s)' key points and provide critical reflection about the work (especially in relation to other reading and ideas from class). Please note that students may not choose to do a review for any articles or videos after the date for those items have passed.

### **Exams**

There will be 4 exams. Each exam is worth a total of 50 points. Exams consist of multiple choice questions and essays.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken every class period. Each student is expected to participate in group discussion by answering questions related to the scheduled reading. Group' answers will be submitted at the end of the period as attendance.

### **Grading Matrix**

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Reading Reviews (5)</b>	<b>20 pts each</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Exams (4)</b>	<b>50 pts each</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>

### **Grade Determination:**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Points</u>
A	90-100%	270-300
B	80-89%	240-269
C	70-79%	210-239
D	60-69%	180-209
F	Below 60%	179 or lower

\*\* You are responsible for tracking your own grade progress. If you have questions about your grade or if you need documentation of your grade

## **University Policies and Procedures**

### **Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):**

*The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.*

### **Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:**

*The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the*

feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

### **Assignment Policy:**

If you are unable to submit the assignments due to serious illness where you are physically incapacitated (e.g., hospitalized), medical documentation is required to resolve the missed assignment. *Be sure to speak with me immediately if you fail to meet the assignment submission deadline.*

### **Exam Policy:**

*Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).* If you are unable to take an exam due to serious illness where you are physically incapacitated (e.g., hospitalized), medical documentation is required to resolve the missed exam. **If you miss any exam, then you will be given a make-up exam.** *Be sure to speak with me immediately if you miss an exam. Remember, you must submit official documentation in order for this policy to apply to you.*

### **Academic Integrity:**

*Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at <http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf> for complete provisions of this code.*

*In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:*

**On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.**

### **Bad Weather Policy:**

*On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website [www.unt.edu/dallas](http://www.unt.edu/dallas). Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.*

### **Attendance and Participation Policy:**

*The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class.*

*It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.*

To get the most out of this class your attendance is required.

- An attendance sign in sheet will be circulated at the beginning of each class. Sign your name in the sheet to document your attendance. Failure to sign the sheet will be considered an absence.

- Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of this class. Students are also expected to be on time for all scheduled class meetings. Students who come to class late will be counted as absent. **5 overall points will be deducted for every unexcused absence.**
- If you have a documented excuse for your absence let me know as soon as possible and bring it to class. A valid documented excuse consists of a doctor's note documenting your illness or death in the family.

### **Classroom Policies**

1. Since discussion is an essential part of this course please come to class prepared and on time.
2. Please turn off your cell phones and pagers.
3. Do not come into class late or leave early.
4. You are responsible for tracking your own grade progress (see course requirements and grading scheme to help you keep track of available points). If you have questions about your grade come to office hours, make an appointment, or contact me via email. Do not make specific inquiries about your grade in class.
5. No late work will be accepted unless you have a valid documented excuse (documented illness or death in the family). **If you miss an assignment and you have a valid documented excuse notify me as soon as possible via phone or email so we can arrange a reasonable time for you to make up the missed assignment.**
6. All work must be turned in during class. I will not accept emailed work unless you have a valid documented excuse.

### **Diversity/Tolerance Policy:**

*Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.*

### **Optional Policies:**

- *Use of WebCT/Blackboard*
- *Use of Cell Phones & other Electronic Gadgets in the Classroom*
- *Food & Drink in the Classroom*
- *Use of Laptops*
- *Grade of Incomplete, "I"*