University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2016
SYLLABUS

SOCI 1510: Introduction to Sociology 3Hrs

Department of	Sociology	Division of	Arts & Life Sciences

Instructor Name:	Syeda S. Jesmin, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Office Location:	Dallas#2 Room# 324
Office Phone:	972-338-1589
Email Address:	Syeda.jesmin@unt.edu

Office Hours:	Wednesday 10 am - 1 pm

Course Catalog Description:	Introduction to Sociology. 3 hours. 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. Satisfies arts and sciences core social science requirements. Required of all sociology majors. Satisfies the Social and Behavioral Sciences requirement of the University Core Curriculum.

Prerequisites:	
Co-requisites:	

Required Text:	Title: SOC; Author: Nijole V. Benokraitis; Publisher: Wadsworth Publishing, 2011
ISBN: 978-1-111-30141-5	
Recommended Text and References:	None

Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fheg.follett.com

Course Goals or Overview:	
	The goal of this course is to provide you learning opportunities to engage sociology in a way that emphasizes its promise for meaningful social interaction and social change. The course will focus on the value of the sociological imagination in creating citizens that we all want as our neighbors, co-workers, and community leaders. In this course you will investigate the worth of your social experiences and knowledge, no matter how extensive or limited. You will use material from your own experiences to illustrate conceptual and theoretical precepts, while I help you to develop multiple skill sets. There are three primary goals in this course: 1) Introduce and enhance your ability to think critically from the sociological perspective; 2) Reduce the mystery and fear associated with writing and presenting/discussing sociological topics at the postsecondary level; 3) Help you clarify your educational and professional goals.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes:	At the end of this course, the student will
1	Describe the sociological perspective and the different theoretical strategies within the field of sociology and their implications for the understanding of various societies.
2	Identify the different research methods within the field of sociology and describe their applicability and relevancy within various social contexts.
3	Discuss the four major social revolutions and the resulting human socio-cultural development from hunting and gathering societies to post industrial societies.
4	Compare the social structure of the U.S. Society with that of other societies and understand those institutional arrangements from within their own context.
5	Analyze social conditions that influence one's life chances by recognizing factors both internal and external to the individual.
6	Explain how social organization structure behavior and relations among groups in the U.S. and in other societies.
7	Describe cultural variations in what we learn throughout socialization process and how socialization impacts our definition of ourselves and the society around us.
8	Identify patterns of global stratification and discuss theoretical explanations for these patterns.
9	Discuss the role of social institutions and the world system as it relates to problems of violence, poverty and disease.
10	Describe and analyze the factors that have sustained and shaped social inequalities within the U.S. and the global community.

Online/Hybrid Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class or via class email or Blackboard announcement. Additional readings and activities may be added, these will be noted in the Readings and Activities/Assignments sections.

Schedule	Topic	Activities	Due Date
WEEKS 1-2 8/22- 9/4	Chapter 1: Thinking like sociologists	**Introduce yourself** **Discussion 1**	9/4
WEEKS 3-4 9/5- 9/18	Chapter 2: Examining our social world Chapter 3: Culture	**Exam 1**	9/18
Weeks 5-6 9/19-10/2	Chapter 4: Socialization Chapter 5: Social structure and interaction	**Discussion 2**	10/2
Weeks 7-8 10/3-10/16	Chapter 6: Groups, organization, institutions	**Exam 2**	10/16

Weeks 9-10 10/17-10/30	Chapter 7: Deviance, crime, and criminal Chapter 8: Social stratification	**Discussion 3**	10/30
Weeks 11-12 10/31-11/13	Chapter 9: Gender and sexuality	**Exam 3**	11/13
WEEKS 13-14 11/14-11/27	Chapter 10: Race and ethnicity Chapter 12: Families and aging Chapter 14: Health & Medicine	**Discussion 4** **Exam 4**	11/27
Weeks 15-16, 17 12/28-12/13		**Film Analysis**	12/13

Course Evaluation Methods

1. *Online Discussions*

For 4 times throughout the semester students will be asked a specific question or questions related to course materials. *These questions will be posted in the Blackboard.* You will have a minimum of THREE DAYS to post your response, read statements from two other students and submit comments to them. Discussion Area submissions are worth total 4X15=60 points. Here are some guidelines regarding your participation in these class discussions.

1. For each question or questions that I've designated for a particular chapter, submit your well-considered response. Then, take a look at what others have said on the topic. Respond to at least TWO of your fellow students with at least one comment/question regarding something they have said.
2. As far as evaluating your discussion responses, I will be interested in whether a response shows an understanding of what sociology is and the sociological perspective. Integrate sociological concepts into your responses. Applying these concepts accurately shows your familiarity with the reading as well as your ability to apply it. Avoid simply repeating what others have already said in their responses. Take some time to offer different examples or ways of analyzing the issue. Also, it's important to remember that this isn't a talk show where it's adequate to simply state your personal opinion. Earning an "A" (15 points out of 15) on the discussions requires going beyond the minimal requirements of the assignment.
3. Remember, this isn't The Jerry Springer Show. Occasionally, it's apparent that a response is meant to be cute or funny, but not serious and thoughtful. I'm not looking for comedic talent. The discussions require more than having a conversation with your colleagues in the class.
4. I strongly recommend that you take the time to compose your discussion response (e.g., in your software program like Microsoft Word or Works), save it and then post it in the Discussion Area. Always keep a copy of your discussion responses in case of a technical problem on the course website.

As mentioned in the section above, students should be courteous to others in the class. That means no

YELLING!!, personal insults, threats, profanity as well as other inappropriate postings in the Discussion Area. Sometimes students will disagree with each other. That's okay—disagreements should be expressed politely and intellectually (focusing on the course material).

2. Film Analysis: At the end of the semester, students are required to submit a film analysis. Students will be asked to analyze a film using the topics learned throughout the semester. You will be provided with questions and a set of concepts to apply in the analysis. The purpose of this paper is for you to show me what you have learned over the course of the semester-the more information you have to analyze, the easier that will be. In this paper, you will be also expected to write in brief what you learned from this class and from this movie analysis.

3. Exams: There will be four exams (60 X4). Exams consist of short answer, essay, and/or multiple choice questions. Exams are not cumulative, although key ideas and concepts will carry over. *Please note that make-up Exams are all essay and are given during the week of final exams. They are ONLY given in the event of a DOCUMENTED excused absence. (Reasons for excused absence include hospitalization, death in the family, etc.) If you miss, be prepared to provide proof for having done so. It is in your best interest to not miss an exam. (Prior arrangements can be made on an individual basis if you will be absent on exam day and you know that ahead of time.)

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
4 Online Discussions	4@ 15 points each	60
1 Film Analysis	100 points	100
4 Exams	4 @ 60 points	240
Total:		400

Grade Determination:

A = 360- 400 pts; i.e. 90% or better

B = 320 – 359 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %

C = 280 – 319 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %

D = 240 – 279 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %

F = 239 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to

verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO 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, DSO 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/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at http://www.untdallas.edu/disability. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDdisability@untdallas.edu or at Building 2, room 204.

Blackboard Learn Accessibility Statement:
University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. Blackboard Learn course management system's accessibility statement is also provided: http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Learn/Resources/Accessibility.aspx

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

Course Evaluation Policy: Student's evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. 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 students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy: (According to the instructor's discretion while working in concert with the division/program's guidelines).

Exam Policy: (Online exams and the ability to retake is solely at the instructor's discretion). NOTE: Online exams may be proctored on campus per instructor's discretion.

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.untdallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf for complete provisions of this code.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

Classroom Policies

Online Attendance and Participation:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance in the Blackboard classroom 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 the discussion board. Online presence and participation in all class discussions is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. .

Attendance for this online or hybrid course is considered when you are logged in and active in Blackboard, i.e., posting assignments, taking quizzes, or completing Discussion Boards. To maintain financial aid award eligibility, activity must occur before the census date of the session or term of the course. Refer to http://www.untdallas.edu/registrar for specific dates. If you are absent/not active in the course shell, it is YOUR responsibility to let the instructor know immediately, upon your return, the reason for your absence if it is to be excused. All instructors must follow university policy 7.005 covering excused absences; however, it is the instructor's discretion, as outlined in the course syllabus, of how unexcused absences may or may not count against successful completion of the course

Inclement Weather and Online Classes: Online classes may or may not be effected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

Online "Netiquette:
In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. Emails, Discussion Board messages and/or any other forms of written communication in the online environment should use proper "netiquette" (i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no "flaming" messages (angry, personal attacks).

Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of online netiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights Responsibilities and Conduct at http://www.untdallas.edu/osa/policies. Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of your written communication prior to submission.
Diversity/Tolerance Policy:
Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. 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 Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

Technology Requirements: In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements.

Blackboard Learn 9.1 is the platform software for this course. Blackboard Learn supports major web browsers such as Windows Internet Explorer, Apple Safari, Mozilla Firefox, and Google Chrome. However, since the latter two are updated continually, some recent versions may not be compatible. If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Internet Explorer. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

- http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit/ecampus/requirements
- https://blackboard.secure.force.com/publickbarticleview?id=kAB700000008Oom
    - https://learn.unt.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/BrowserCheck/check_full.html