










**University of North Texas at Dallas  
Summer 2015  
SYLLABUS**

<b>SOCI 1510: Introduction to Sociology 3Hrs</b>			
<b>Department of</b>	<b>Sociology</b>	<b>Division of</b>	<b>Arts &amp; Life Sciences</b>
<b>Instructor Name:</b>	Syeda S. Jesmin, Ph.D., M.P.H.		
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Virtual		
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b>	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.		
<b>Prerequisites:</b>			
<b>Co-requisites:</b>			
<b>Required Text:</b>	Title: SOC; Author: Nijole V. Benokraitis; Publisher: Wadsworth Publishing, 2011 ISBN: 978-1-111-30141-5		
<b>Recommended Text and References:</b>	None		
<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@fhcg.follett.com">1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com</a>		
<b>Course Goals or Overview:</b>			
	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.		

<b>Learning Objectives/Outcomes:</b> 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.

### Course Outline

Weeks	Topic	Assignments, Exams
Weeks 1 June 8-14	Chapter 1: Thinking like sociologists Chapter 2: Examining our social world Chapter 3: Culture	<b>Introduce yourself</b>  <b>Online Discussion 1</b> <b>Exam 1</b> 
Week 2 June 15-21	Chapter 4: Socialization Chapter 5: Social structure and interaction Chapter 6: Groups, organization, institutions	 <b>Online Discussion 2</b>  <b>Exam 2</b> 
Week 3 June 22-28	Chapter 7: Deviance, crime, and criminal Chapter 8: Social stratification Chapter 9: Gender and sexuality	 <b>Online Discussion 3</b>  <b>Exam 3</b> 
Week 4 June 29-July 5	Chapter 10: Race and ethnicity Chapter 12: Families and aging Chapter 14: Health & Medicine	 <b>Online Discussion 4</b>  <b>Exam 4</b> 
Week 5	July 6-10 ( <b>Drafts will be accepted for feedback until July 5<sup>th</sup></b> )	 <b>Film Analysis</b> <b>July 9<sup>th</sup></b>

## Course Evaluation Methods

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

### 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 10) 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.
5. 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).

### 3. *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.

**4. Exams**

There will be four exams (50 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:**

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Value (points or percentages)</b>	<b>Total</b>
4 Online Discussions	4@ 15 points each	60
1 Film Analysis	80 points	40
4 Exams	4 @ 50 points	200
<b>Total:</b>		<b>300</b>

**Grade Determination:**

A = 270=300 pts; i.e. 90% or better

B = 240 – 269 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %

C = 210 – 239 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %

D = 180 – 209 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %

F = 179 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

**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. For more information, you may visit the Office of Disability Accommodation/Student Development Office, Suite 115 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 an essay 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 conduct and Academic Dishonesty 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 Conduct at [http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student\\_conduct/index.html](http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html) for complete provisions of this code.

**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.

Class participation is highly encouraged in this course. For each topic that we will discuss in class, feel free to share with the class your well-considered response. As far as participation in class discussion, 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. 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. During the class discussions/debates, students should be courteous to others in the class. That means no YELLING!!, personal insults, threats, profanity as well as other inappropriate remarks. Sometimes students will disagree with each other. That's okay—disagreements should be expressed politely and intellectually (focusing on the course material).

### **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 Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities as the instructor deems appropriate.

### **Optional Policies:**

- *Use of Blackboard: **Review Blackboard several times per week, if not daily.*** Visiting the Blackboard frequently will familiarize you with the resources available on the site as well as alert you to any changes or additions to the Blackboard (e.g., possible changes to the syllabus, due date reminders posted in the calendar, instructions for discussions).
- *Grade of Incomplete:* You should discuss with me in advance if an "I" has to be assigned.
- *Please allow me with 48 hours to respond to your emails.*