

University of North Texas at Dallas
Spring 2015
SYLLABUS

Course Abbreviation/Number/Title/Semester Hrs	
SOCI 4340D: Social Psychology & Behavior in the Social Environment 3Hrs	
Department of	Sociology
Division of	Arts & Sciences
Instructor Name:	Baranda Fermin
Email Address:	baranda.fermin@untdallas.edu
Office Hours:	Thursdays 9 AM to 10 AM via BlackBoard Connect and by Appointment
Classroom Location:	I-NET
Course Catalog Description:	Social Psychology and Behavior in the Social Environment. 3 hours. Social and cultural bases of diverse human behavior; social matrix of personality, organization and disorganization.
Prerequisites:	SOCI 1510 or other equivalent
Required Text:	Holstein, James A. and Gubrium, Jaber F. Inner Lives and Social Worlds: Readings in Social Psychology. Oxford University Press, 2003.
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:	
	<p>The goal of this course is to provide you learning opportunities that help you explore the nexus of self and society. Sociology as a discipline has a focus on groups in society, and thus has a unique perspective on the self, its development and the interaction of self in society. The course has a focus on some of the primary general topics in Sociology from the perspective of prominent social psychologists. The course activities also focus on understanding and evaluating theories of social behavior within the discipline of Social Psychology.</p> <p>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 employing and developing multiple skill sets. There are three primary goals in this course: 1) Introduce and enhance your ability to think critically about behavior 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.</p>
Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will	
1	Apply the sociological perspective to understanding identity, decision-making, emotions and behavioral motives.
2	Discuss research findings regarding the accuracy of our self knowledge.
3	Describe the factors that shape our self-concept.
4	Explain the nature of our self-concept and discuss how our beliefs about ourselves influence our thoughts and actions.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes (cont.): At the end of this course, the student will	
5	Describe a definition of social psychology and discuss the types of issues this field considers.
6	Explain the difference between social thought and social behavior and the complex interplay between the two.
7	Define the term, "theory," and describe the procedure involved in building theories.
8	Identify similarities and differences between social psychology and the other disciplines that study human nature.
9	Discuss the meaning of the "the self" and its relationship to culture
10	Discuss the development of the social self and its relationship to our self-concept.

Course Outline

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

Module	TOPICS	DATE	
		BEGIN	DUE
1	Start Here! and Course Introduction	1/26	2/1
2	What is Social Psychology?	2/2	2/8
3	Interaction in Everyday Life	2/9	2/15
4	Language and Communication	2/16	2/22
5	The Work of Social Interactions	2/23	3/1
6	Selves & Identities	3/2	3/8
7	Mind & Competence	3/9	3/15
SPRING BREAK: MARCH 16-22			
8	Emotions & Motives	3/23	3/29
9	The Body & The Physical Self	3/30	4/5
10	Worlds of Race & Ethnicity	4/6	4/12
11	The Gendered World	4/13	4/19
12	Social Worlds of Age & The Life Course	4/20	4/26
13	Family as a Social World	4/27	5/3
14	Understanding Our Social Self	5/4	5/10
15	*** FINAL EXAM *** (please see schedule available online)	DUE 5/15 11:59 PM	

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course. Rubrics will be given for all course requirements except **class participation and quizzes**.

Exams – written assessment designed to measure knowledge of presented course material

Activities – assignments designed to supplement and reinforce course material

Blog/Vlogs – assignment designed to measure ability to observe, apply and orally explain course material

Class Participation – engagement in class discussions, activities & materials in a substantive & timely manner

Assignments – written and oral activities designed to create critical engagement with course material

Quizzes – written assessments given with little notice to measure student preparedness for exams

Grading Matrix

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
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Module Learning Activities	Varied (see module guides)	400
Participation & Engagement	Various Activities/BBLearn Reports	100
Final Exam	2 parts (50 points each)	100
Total:		600

Grade Determination:

A = 540 – 600 pts; i.e. 90% or better

B = 480 – 539 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %

C = 420 – 479 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %

D = 360 – 419 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %

F = 359 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

Instructor Policies and Procedures

Email:

In **ALL** emails please put the course number and section number as the **subject heading (SOCl 1510D.090)** or else your message may not be read. **I expect you to write your emails properly.** In other words, please address me properly, use complete sentences, proper spelling and grammar, and make sure your name is at the end of the email or I will NOT respond. Please use your name and my name in all emails. For example, I will not respond to emails that address me as “Hey,” or “Yo,” and/or that are signed off without a name or as “Peace,” or “get back.” If you email me and have not heard a response within a 36 hour time frame, I would suggest you re-read your message to see if you are missing any of these requirements.

If I have not responded to your specific email message within 36 hours, before you send me multiple messages please first check the Blackboard Learn site for an announcement or email message addressed to the entire class. Sometimes several students had similar concerns and it was more effective to send everyone a note to ensure clarity for ALL. Remember that you are not my only student and your class is not the only one I teach so it may take me an entire day before I can get to your email. Leaving numerous messages will not speed up the process. Messages sent via email can often “sound” very differently than they would if you were talking to someone in person. **Therefore, it is important to write emails properly and in a professional manner to avoid confusing, frustrating or inappropriate situations.**

Using email accounts outside of Blackboard Learn or your UNT account increases risks that you may not receive all communications as a result of spam blockers and policy regulations. **I also cannot communicate information about your grades and other information covered under FERPA policies outside of your Blackboard Learn account.**

Assignment Policy:

As a consequence of the format for of each class session and the exams for this course section, there are no make-up exams or assignments. **YOU** are responsible for all announcements made in class, all information relayed during lecture, all discussions in class, all notes, and all videos viewed in class – even if you are absent from class. **I DO NOT** provide notes for students; it is in your best interest to share notes or ask other students to help you if you are absent.

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed.

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.

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_Integrity.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. 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 for coordinating arrangements with a class colleague to obtain a copy of the class session information, including notes & activities, if they are absent.

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.