

## Department of Sociology

## Contemporary Social Problems (SOCI 1520)

**Summer 2021, 5W1**

**Instructor: Tanya Faglie**

**IMPORTANT UNT DATES**

Classes Begin: June 1st

Census Date: June 4th

Mid-Semester: June 15th

Last Day of Class: July 2nd

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Contact with Professor: Post any questions you have in the Q&A discussion, or email me at [tanya.faglie@unt.edu](mailto:tanya.faglie@unt.edu). I will check the Q&A discussion weekly. I will also monitor your progress in the course and correspond with you through grading comments.

**Office Hours:** This course is entirely online. I will **not** hold office hours on campus. This does not mean I am not available for help. If you need help or need to discuss the course, please send a message in the Inbox in Canvas. We can also set up a ZOOM appointment if you would like.

**Inbox Canvas:** If you need to speak to me privately, the absolute BEST way to do so is through the Inbox in Canvas. Please allow 24-hours for a response. If you do not receive a response within 24-hours, please email me again.

**Unavailable:** I may not respond to emails or messages in the evenings and on weekends. If you email me then, please expect a reply the next business day.

**Catalog Description**

SOCI 1520 (1306). Contemporary Social Problems. 3 hours. Conditions disruptive to society today, both those seen as problematic as a whole and those that violate the norms of special groups in society; includes population, poverty, minorities, crime, drugs, sexual deviance, mental illness, changing family patterns and violence. Satisfies arts and sciences core social science requirements. Advised for students planning sociology graduate work. Satisfies the Social and Behavioral Sciences requirement of the University Core Curriculum.

**Course Purpose and Goals:**

1. Introduce the student to how sociologists view the world: problematic and in need of significant change and redress.

2. Help students identify and describe some of the sociological theories used to understand social problems

3. Identify and describe some methodological issues in the study of social problems.

4. Identify and discuss themes in mainstream sociology.

5. Encourage discussion with classmates about the orientation of sociology and the role of social problems in sociological inquiry.

**Textbook:**

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

By John Macionis



EDITION: 8TH

PUBLISHER: Pearson

ISBN: 9780135247044

**REQUIRED**

You must acquire this book ASAP! Everyone must have all of their course materials by week one, day one of the semester.

* An electronic copy of this book has been put on hold for students through the UNT Library System. Students are permitted to check this book out for 24 hours at a time (only 3 students per day). Please contact the Library for more information.

**Assignments and Grading:**

This course has two basic aspects—a testing aspect and a participation/discussion aspect. All discussions and testing will be done (and all grades will be posted) on the CANVAS site for this course.

**Exams:** There are five exams for this course, which must be completed by the due date specified in the syllabus and on the CANVAS course site. Exams can be taken at any time throughout the week (up until **Sunday by 11:59 pm** on the week they are due, except for the FINAL EXAM, which is due by FRIDAY, JULY 2nd, BEFORE 11:59 pm). Each Exam is worth 150 points for a total of 750 points possible.

**More Exam Details**

* Each Exam is worth 50 Points
* Each student will be presented with a random set of questions drawn from a test bank. All of the answers can be found in the Macionis text.
* Students are allowed 90 minutes to complete each Exam. After 90 minutes, your Exam will automatically submit, and your grade will be recorded in the grade book.
* You are only permitted **one** attempt on each Exam.
* Exams are open book, and students can use any notes they took as they read.
* Students **should not** work with others to complete the Exams.
* Exams are open from day one of the course. This means you can work ahead in this course.
* Because students are allowed to work ahead in this area, there will be no make-up Exams permitted. **If you think you might miss a deadline for an Exam, you are permitted to take it early.** If you miss an Exam, the grade book will record a zero.
* The FINAL EXAM IS DUE BY FRIDAY, JULY 2nd, BEFORE 11:59 PM

**Discussion/Participation**: We will have weekly discussions of the assigned material. Your contributions on the message board must be interactive and engaging: consider the topic from different points of view, ask questions of your fellow students and comment reflectively on the posts of others. These weekly discussions are worth 250 points in total (50 points per week).

**More Discussion/Participation Details**

* You can access these discussions in each week’s module. You will have 3-4 discussion prompts from which to choose each week (**you only need to select one**). Because I want you to engage with each other each week, you may **NOT** work ahead in this area.
* Your discussion posts will be graded based on how well they meet the following criteria:
  + Full engagement
  + Respond to at least one discussion prompt with at least 200 words each week
  + Respond to two other classmates each week who wrote about different discussion prompts (from you and each other)
* Make sure your posts are relevant to the topic(s) of the assigned chapters each week
* Make sure to incorporate/make specific references to material from the text. When drawing directly from text material, put passages in quotations and cite text page numbers.
* You may also incorporate outside sources like an image, song, video, poem, news article, etc.
* Emphasize your thoughtfulness and curiosity
* Watch spelling, grammar, and organization (no slang, text speech, emojis, etc.).
* Feel free to give your thoughts and opinions, ask your classmates questions, and be ready to explain your point of view.

**ASSIGNMENTS & TECHNICAL ISSUES**

All assignments should be submitted by the indicated dates and times embedded in the syllabus. There will be no extensions, except in cases of documented emergencies.

* Students are to contact me through the Inbox in Canvas to discuss their situation **BEFORE** missing the assignment in the event of a legitimate emergency.

Students are responsible for knowing the Canvas environment. This means that students are responsible for their training in Canvas. Technical problems with Canvas software are to be directed to the **Help Desk**.

[**UNT Help Desk**](https://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/) - 940-565-2324 / Sage Hall 330 / helpdesk@unt.edu  
Monday - Thursday 8:00 am-midnight  
Friday 8:00 am - 8:00 pm  
Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Sunday noon-midnight

Technical problems with computers or Canvas **ARE NOT** satisfactory excuses for missing assignment deadlines. I suggest that you **DO NOT** wait until the last minute to submit assignments. If you experience trouble with your computer or your home Internet access, you are expected to use the computer clusters on campus to complete your work on time. If the campus is closed for some reason (e.g., due to COVID-19), you are expected to find some other means to complete your work.

**GRADING SCALE:**

A = 90 to 100% of possible points (1,000 possible points)

B = 80 to 89%

C = 70 to 79%

D = 60 to 69%

F = Below 60%

**UNT ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**UNT Code of Student Conduct**

Click here to see the expectations regarding your conduct as a student of UNT. <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>

**UNT Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity emanates from a culture that embraces the core values of trust and honesty necessary for full learning to occur. As a student-centered public research university, the University of North Texas promotes the integrity of the learning process by establishing and enforcing academic standards. Academic dishonesty breaches the mutual trust necessary in an academic environment and undermines all scholarship. For more information, see: <https://vpaa.unt.edu/fs/resources/academic/integrity>

**UNT Participation/Attendance**

The University of North Texas recognizes that student success is promoted by regular attendance and participation in class. It is the responsibility of the faculty member to notify students in writing of any special attendance requirements for the class. This policy applies to all modes of course delivery. For more information see: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039>

**Instructor Faglie’s Requirements**

You are expected to log into the Canvas site often and participate weekly in the course. You have work to complete every week in Canvas. If it appears that you are not participating in the course, I will use the Care Team reporting system to alert the university of your lack of participation. Someone will reach out to you.

**Office of Disability Access**

UNT is committed to providing equal access to higher education for academically qualified students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Access assists students with disabilities in achieving their academic potential by coordinating a variety of services. The office acts as a liaison between the student, instructors, and other university resources and community agencies.

To be eligible for services, you must register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) and provide current documentation of the disability. ODA recommends that students contact the office at least eight weeks before enrolling at UNT to ensure sufficient time to plan for individualized academic modifications and services. While every effort is made to accommodate students with disabilities, it is the student’s responsibility to make needs known, provide proper documentation, and request services in a timely manner. See: <https://disability.unt.edu>

**UNT Writing Center**

The Writing Center at the University of North Texas provides support for undergraduate and graduate writers across the disciplines. Their mission is to help students improve as writers at all levels, and they support a culture of teaching and learning at UNT through peer tutoring, interactive workshops, classroom support, and consultation with faculty and staff. For more information, see: <https://writingcenter.unt.edu/our-mission>

**UNT Title IX Information**

The University of North Texas is committed to providing a safe environment for all community members. Dating violence, domestic violence, sexual harassment, sexual coercion, sexual exploitation, sexual violence, and stalking are prohibited. Please see their page on reporting sexual violence for more information. UNT is here to help. Find more information about sexual violence, including campus and community resources at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/sexual-misconduct?utm_medium=deanofstudents&utm_source=web&utm_campaign=dsa-home-page>.

\*This syllabus, with its course schedule, is based on the most recent information about the course content and schedule planned for this course. Its content is subject to revision as needed to adapt to new knowledge or unanticipated events. Updates will remain focused on achieving the course objectives and students will receive notification of such changes. Students will be notified of changes and are responsible for attending to such changes or modifications posted on the CANVAS site for this course.

**KEEP SCROLLING FOR COURSE CALENDAR**

**SOCI 1520: Contemporary Social Problems: Summer 2021, 5W1 Schedule**

Tentative Calendar of Readings, Examinations, Activities, and Assignments

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week | Date | Topic | Reading/Assignments |
| 1 | 6/1-6/6 | Introduction, Race and Economic Inequality | **Read/Review:** All module pages (especially the syllabus) and Chapters 1-3.  **Complete:**   * Discussion * Exam 1   **(Due by Sunday before 11:59 pm**). |
| 2 | 6/7-6/13 | Gender, Sexuality, and Aging Inequality | **Read/Review:** All module pages & Chapters 4-6.  **Complete:**   * Discussion * Exam 2   **(Due by Sunday before 11:59 pm**) |
| 3 | 6/14-6/20 | Crime, Drugs, Health, and Social Media | **Read/Review:** All module pages & Chapters 7-10.  **Complete:**   * Discussion * Exam 3   **(Due by Sunday before 11:59 pm**) |
| 4 | 6/21-6/27 | Economy, Work, Family, and Education | **Read/Review:** All module pages & Chapters 11-14.  **Complete:**   * Discussion * Exam 4   **(Due by Sunday before 11:59 pm**) |
| 5 | 6/28-7/2 | Urbanization, Population, Environment, and War and Terrorism | **Read/Review:** All module pages & Chapters 15-18.  **Complete:**   * Discussion * Exam 5   **(Due by FRIDAY before 11:59 pm**) |