INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

SOCl 1510 | Spring 2022

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Office: Sycamore Hall 288M

Office Hours: Thursdays 3-4pm via Zoom and in-person by appointment

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Email: viannimoreno@my.unt.edu

Course Description and Objectives

This course provides an introduction to the study of society. It begins by introducing major paradigms of social thought and the methods that are used to conduct social scientific research. Although not comprehensive, it then introduces some of the major topics that sociologists study, including culture, inequality, race, class, gender, and education, among others. In the first part of the class, students will develop a sociological imagination to connect your individual experiences to the larger factors that shape social life. We will then discuss social divisions and inequalities with the goal of developing the tools to critically analyze the world around you and conclude by examining social institutions, which are the building blocks of society.

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Identify and define main sociological concepts.
- Understand how to apply the sociological imagination to the cultural medium of music.
- Apply the concepts, theories, and research related to inequality to the cultural medium of music.
- Evaluate numerical data and apply sociological perspectives to the Central Texas Sustainability project (CTSIP).

Course requirements:

All students must secure a copy of the textbook for this course:

*Note: If you need a copy of the textbook, please email me and I will send you a PDF copy of the text

**Land Acknowledgement:**

In recognition of the history and ongoing processes of colonialism by which the land where our class and the University of North Texas exists, I would like to acknowledge that this space is the occupied/unceded/seized territory of the Wichita, Caddo, Commanche, and Cherokee tribes. These tribes have stewarded this land through several generations and we pay our respects to elders, both past and present. Note: Land Acknowledgement Statement adapted from the UNT Division of Institutional Equity and Diversity.

**Technical Assistance:**

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. At UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues. Here is information about how to contact them.

**Zoom:** All students receive an institutional account with Zoom. For instructions on downloading the software, see [https://classroomsupport.unt.edu/sign-into-zoom](https://classroomsupport.unt.edu/sign-into-zoom).

**Student Helpdesk:**

UIT Helpdesk - Sage Hall 130

940-565-2324

**Laptop Checkout:** 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help
([https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328))

**Links to Miscellaneous Student Support Services**

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- **Student Health and Wellness Center:**

- **Counseling and Testing Services:**
  ([https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services))
● UNT Care Team: [https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care (Links to an external site.)]
● UNT Psychiatric Services: [https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry (Links to an external site.)]
● Individual Counseling: [https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling (Links to an external site.)]

Other Student Support Services Offered by UNT

1. Registrar: [https://registrar.unt.edu/registration (Links to an external site.)]
2. Financial Aid: [https://financialaid.unt.edu/ (Links to an external site.)]
3. Student Legal Services: [https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services (Links to an external site.)]
4. Career Center: [https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center (Links to an external site.)]
5. Multicultural Center: [https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center (Links to an external site.)]
6. Counseling and Testing Services: [https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services (Links to an external site.)]
7. Pride Alliance: [https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance (Links to an external site.)]
8. UNT Food Pantry: [https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry (Links to an external site.)]
9. Academic Success Center: [https://success.unt.edu/asc (Links to an external site.)]
10. UNT Libraries: [https://library.unt.edu/ (Links to an external site.)]
11. Writing Lab: [http://writingcenter.unt.edu/ (Links to an external site.)]
12. MathLab: [https://math.unt.edu/mathlab (Links to an external site.)]

How the Course is Organized

This course is composed of an Introductory Post, 4 Comparative Essays, an Intersectionality Minute Paper, Symbolic Interactionism Paper, Guest Lecture Reflection Paper, and Inequality Assignment.

Coffee Office Hours (Extra Credit!)

This semester, I will hold coffee office hours every week on Thursdays from 3-4pm. Please grab a latte or favorite beverage and attend my Zoom office hours to discuss the chapters, modules, and course content assigned for that week. The point of coffee office hours is to offer students opportunities to engage with the course through live discussions. Come prepared to share your thoughts and ask questions! Each time you attend and participate in discussions, you will earn 5 extra credit points towards your course grade :)

Assignments
### Course Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction Post</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Essays (4 x 100 points)</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intersectionality Minute Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symbolic Interactionism Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guest Lecture Reflection Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inequality Assignment</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>900</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Course Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>900 – 810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>809 – 720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>719 – 630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>629 – 540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>539 – 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Comparative Essays
There are four comparative essays in this course which cover special topics in the field of sociology. The comparative essays will help you engage with sociology and use critical thinking skills to compare, contrast, and connect ideas together to form one cohesive (and sociological) argument. When you are writing your essay, focus on the sociological message. How do these ideas apply to society at large, about the greater dynamics of society? Synthesize your ideas by comparing and contrasting alternative perspectives. Essays must be at least 500 words in length. You must respond to at least one of your peers in 150 words.

**Intersectionality Minute Paper**

This first assignment will facilitate your understanding of intersectionality as you apply the concept to your personal biographies. The theory of intersectionality is used to explain how individuals occupy multiple, interconnected layers of social identity related to race, gender, class, (dis)ability, nationality, sexual orientation and age, manifesting varying systems of privilege and disadvantage. First, watch the video and read the article required for this assignment. Next, create an intersectional diagram to represent your overlapping layers of identity. Be as thorough and comprehensive as possible. You may make a visual diagram, or simply list your intersectional identities in bullet point format. Last, set a timer for a minimum of fifteen minutes and respond to the following question: (1) How does your intersectional identity influence your perceptions of the social world? List three examples to explain how your perception and experience in the world is unique.

**Guest Lecture Reflection**

Sociologist Kathryn Wilson will be discussing the topic of domestic violence in households. She will specifically cover topics like the physiological effects of experiencing/witnessing domestic violence, sociological understanding of generational trauma/DV, and give some background on her experience as a child advocate and intern working on protective orders for the domestic violence unit at the DA and CASA. Kathryn will present via Zoom on (or around) March 9th.

For this assignment, please attend the live lecture and write a 750 word reflection on what you learned during the presentation. What were the main take-aways? How does this lecture connect with the content we’ve learned in class so far? Include two in-text citations from the text to support your response. **Note:** If you are unable to attend the live lecture, a recording of the lecture will be provided.

**Symbolic Interactionism Paper**

In this exercise, reflect on the significance of symbolic interactionism theory through real-life application. Apply this theory to your life by identifying symbols you relate to in some manner, and reflect on those symbols through analyzing their multiple interpretations in the social world. First, identify 20 symbols in the social world which relate to your personality which describe who you are, including but not limited to: favorite hobbies, books, colors, foods, style, interests, etc. Make a collage of these symbols to display your social self through a collection of pictures. Be
as creative as you’d like! Next, take a moment and reflect on the symbols you’ve selected. Consider the meaning(s) of your collage and think about why you chose these symbols to represent your social self. Why did you select these symbols? Discuss why these symbols are significant to you and what they mean on a sociological level in at least 750 words.

**Inequality Assignment**

The Inequality Assignment is required for all students enrolled in SOCI 1510 at UNT. The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate your ability to synthesize numerical data and sociological perspectives. Throughout the semester, you will learn about a variety of theoretical perspectives. In this exercise, you will use the data in Canvas from the Central Texas Sustainability project (CTSIP), a comprehensive evaluation of sustainability indicators in Central Texas, to identify patterns in numerical data and then apply each of the perspectives in explaining why these patterns exist. Detailed instructions can be found in Canvas. To earn credit, you must follow these instructions exactly as they are written.

**Accommodations**

Students with Disabilities: It is my goal to foster an inclusive learning environment in this class. If you require accommodations, please notify me during the first week of classes, or as soon as possible, by sending an email or presenting a letter from Office of Disability Access. If you need more information about accommodations, please review the UNT Policy 16.001 or contact Office of Disability Access at 940-565-4323 (voice) or online.

Student Athletes: Provide me with a game schedule for the semester, signed by the coach, in the first week of class in order to be eligible for any excused absence.

Religious Holy Days: If you plan to miss class to observe a religious holiday, UNT policy states that you must notify the instructor with as much advanced notice as possible. If, with proper notice, you miss a class, assignment, or exam, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable timeframe. For more information, see the UNT website on religious observances.

**Understanding Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UNT community have a responsibility to uphold this mission of the university and contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. For more information, see the policy. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national
origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, please refer to the appropriate resources.

Academic Honesty

I expect all students to abide by the UNT Code of Student Conduct: “As a student-centered public research university, the University of North Texas has established standards of conduct to foster a safe environment conducive to learning and development. Students and university student groups are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for the rights and property of others and upholds the integrity of the university community.” You are responsible for understanding the Code of Student Conduct.

All work you produce on assignments, discussions, and quizzes must be your own. If you use words or ideas that are not your own (or that you have used in previous class), you must cite your sources otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism and subject to academic disciplinary action, including failure of the course. All assignments will be evaluated with Turnitin, which sends both the student and instructor an originality report.

You are responsible for understanding what constitutes a violation, according to UNT Policy 6.003. If you are not familiar with a citation method, seek assistance from the instructor or the free University Writing Lab.

Please maintain a high standard of individual honor and integrity. Collaboration of any kind on quizzes will result in a failing grade for the exam. Cheating of any kind of assignments will also result in a failing grade. Scholastic dishonesty also includes, but is not limited to, providing false or misleading information to receive a postponement or an extension on an exam or assignment, and submitting a written assignment from a previous course without prior permission of both instructors. All this will be reported to the appropriate administrators in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.