Sociological Theory (soci 3200)

Spring 2022; Art Building, Rm. 226; T/TH 12:30-1:50

# Instructor Information

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| Instructor | Email | Office Location & Hours |
| Kevin McCaffree, PhD  TA: Shahab Razaghipoor | Kevin.mccaffree@unt.edu  Shahabrazaghipoor@my.unt.edu | T/TH 2-3:15 288b Sycamore Hall |

# General Information

## Description

This course provides an overview of sociological theory from the 1800s to the present day. Theories are simply our best attempts to model and think about variable relationships in society. Variables come in many form—the population density of your city, the parenting style of your upbringing, or the sorts of exchange relationships that characterize your social networks. Theory is critical to inquiry because theoretical frameworks help to both generate hypotheses and interpret results. The goal for this course is to acquaint you with the important theoretical questions and findings of our time, and to begin using sociological theory—past and present—to generate new insights.

## Required Texts

**Turner, J.H., Beeghley, L., Powers, C. The Emergence of Sociological Theory, 7th Edition. New York: Sage.**

**Turner, J. H. (2012). Contemporary Sociological Theory, 1st Edition. New York: Sage.**

# Course Assignments

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Type of Assignment | Details and Due Date |
| Attendance/ Reading Reflection | In-person attendance is not required in this course, but it is recommended because exam questions will be drawn, in part, from lecture material.  Your attendance grade will be calculated from your submission (on Canvas) of a reflection on the readings/lecture. This reflection is to be 300-500 words, and will be due midnight Friday of each week (uploaded to Canvas).  This assignment is NOT due the first two weeks of class (i.e., weeks 1 and 2), the last two weeks of class (i.e., week 16 and Finals Week) or Spring Break week (week 9).  Each reflection is worth 10 points. Possible grades are 10, 5 and 0.  “10” papers are cohesive, well-organized, logical, no or few spelling and grammar errors, and meet the requirement for the minimum number of words.  “5” papers are generally well-written but may be too short, non-specific, repetitive, logically inconsistent, or have distracting spelling and grammar errors.  “0” papers are too short, not well-written, demonstrate consistent misunderstanding of the material and often have serious logical flaws and spelling and grammar errors.  10 points, 12 possible weeks= 120 possible points for this assignment. |
| Exams | There are four multiple choice exams in this course. These will be of varying lengths, but easily completed within the 80-minute class period.  On exam days, we will not meet in person. Instead, when class time would normally begin, you will log onto the course website on Canvas and take the exam. You will have the entire class period to complete the exam.  Each exam is worth 100 points, for a total of 400 points. |
| Interview Script | The purpose of this assignment is to express your curiosity and possibly spark a future project.  This assignment will require you to write out 10 in-depth questions that draw from the course material (text or lecture). Questions should not be longer than a paragraph, but they should draw substantively engage with class material, and should avoid excessive use of jargon.  Once your ten questions are completed, answer 5 of them, using ~ 250 words for each answer.  Finally, develop a list of 5 social science professors (or other public figures) from anywhere in the world, their email addresses, and why they might be an interesting person to pose your questions to (as in a podcast or interview format).  You are NOT required to conduct a podcast-style interview, only to begin thinking through how this might be done.  Your podcast script is worth 200 points |

# Exam Schedule

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date | Subject |
| 2/17 | Exam One |
| 3/10 | Exam Two |
| 4/7 | Exam Three |
| 5/5 | Exam Four |

# Grade Breakdown

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| --- | --- |
| Assignment | Possible Points |
| Reading Reflections | 120 points; ~18% of final grade |
| Exams | 400 points; ~55% of final grade |
| Podcast Script | 200 points; ~27% of final grade |
| TOTAL | 720 points |

**General Policies:**

\*\*Late work will not be accepted unless there are emergency circumstances; doctor’s note is required.

\*\*Instances of plagiarism will result in an automatic F and referral to the Dean of Students.

\*\*I will not be posting powerpoint slides.

\*\*There is no extra credit in this course, however, quality in-class participation will make students eligible for end-of-semester grade bumps.

\*\*The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course.

# Course Schedule\*

| Week | Topic | Reading | Exercises |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1 (1/18;1/20) | Syllabus/Introductions/ Assessment | N/A |  |
| Week 2 (1/25;1/27) | A Primer on Consciousness and Perception | TBP, Chp. 1  T, Chp. 1 |  |
| Week 3 (2/1;2/3) | The Origins of Sociology (Khaldun and Comte) | TBP, Chp. 2,3 | Reflection paper due to Shahab by midnight Friday |
| Week 4 (2/8;2/10) | The Origins of Sociology (Spencer) | TBP, Chp. 4,5 | Reflection paper due to Shahab by midnight Friday |
| Week 5 (2/15; 2/17) | The Origins of Sociology  (Marx) | TBP, Chp. 6,7 | Reflection paper due to Shahab by midnight Friday  ***Exam 1 (on Canvas) 2/17*** |
| Week 6 (2/22;2/24) | The Origins of Sociology (Weber) | TBP, Chp. 8,9 | Reflection paper due to Shahab by midnight Friday |
| Week 7 (3/1; 3/3) | The Origins of Sociology (Simmel) | TBP, Chp. 10,11 | Reflection paper due to Shahab by midnight Friday |
| Week 8 (3/8; 3/10) | The Origins of Sociology (Durkheim) | TBP, Chp. 12, 13 | Reflection paper due to Shahab by midnight Friday  ***Exam 2 (on Canvas) 3/10*** |
| Week 9 (3/15;3/17) | SPRING BREAK | N/A | N/A |
| Week 10 (3/22;3/24) | Contemporary Sociology (Systems Theory) | T, Chp. 3,4 | Reflection paper due to Shahab by midnight Friday |
| Week 11 (3/29; 3/31) | Contemporary Sociology (Cultural Evolution) | T, Chp. 6,7 | Reflection paper due to Shahab by midnight Friday |
| Week 12 (4/5; 4/7) | Contemporary Sociology (Cultural Evolution) | T, Chp. 8,9 | Reflection paper due to Shahab by midnight Friday  ***Exam 3 (on Canvas) 4/7*** |
| Week 13 (4/12; 4/14) | Contemporary Sociology (Conflict Theory) | T, Chp. 11,12 | Reflection paper due to Shahab by midnight Friday |
| Week 14 (4/19; 4/21) | Contemporary Sociology (Self, Identity, Networks) | T, Chp. 16,18 | Reflection paper due to Shahab by midnight Friday |
| Week 15 (4/26; 4/28) | Contemporary Sociology (Self, Identity, Networks) | T, Chp. 19, 29 | Reflection paper due to Shahab by midnight Friday |
| Week 16  (5/3; 5/5) | Contemporary Sociology  (Exchange Theory) + Post-Assessment | T, Chp. 22, 24 | ***Exam 4 (on Canvas) 5/5*** |
| Finals Week |  |  | Interview script uploaded to Canvas by 12:30 pm 5/12 |

\*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 are responsible for attending to such changes or modifications posted on the CANVAS site ([https://unt.instructure.com](https://unt.instructure.com/)) for this course.