

SOC 101.504

CRN: 55594

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Spring 2016

16 week Course: Jan 18, 2016 - May 14, 2016

Instructor: **Deidre J. Williams**

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Instructor Response Time:

Unless it is an emergency, **please email me through the course page on UNMLearn**. I will routinely check the course for postings or emails, Monday (8 am) – Friday (5 pm) and sometimes on the weekend. You can anticipate a 24 hour response from me, Monday – Thursday. I will try and respond to all weekend (Friday afternoon to Sunday) emails and postings by noon on Monday or earlier.

Course Overview:

The design of this course is to introduce students to the field of sociology and assist in their development of a sociological perspective. This perspective pulls on multiple theorists to explore the complex relationships between individual experiences and social structures. Attention will be focused on identity formation and how society is organized through institutions, power, economics and privilege.

Learning Objectives: After successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify the connection between "personal troubles" and "public issues" through use of the sociological imagination.
- Define socialization and explain how the development of Self is influenced by one's identity, social interactions, and social institutions.
- Describe and apply sociological theories to explain deviance, crime and social control.
- Explain how structural inequality affects one's identity and social mobility through the application of symbolic interaction, conflict theory, and critical theory.
- Apply critical thinking skills to analyze current events and their own life experiences.

Required Text:

Ritzer, George. 2015. *Essentials of Sociology*. Sage: Los Angeles.

Course Orientation:

You are expected to complete the tasks in the first week as a part of your orientation to this course. You will be held accountable for the use of the tools introduced in the orientation.

Course Expectations:

Together, we will create a learning environment based on clear communication and mutual respect. EACH WEEK, students will be *expected* to complete the following a stated deadline:

- View course module that may include lecture, video, and/or PowerPoint
- Read the assigned book chapter and/or supplemental readings
- Participate in weekly discussion board
- Complete weekly quiz
- Complete weekly assignment(s)
- Time required (approximately 6-8 hrs. per week)

Expectations for Success

- students are expected to submit all written work online
- students are expected to learn how to navigate in Learn
- students are expected to communicate with one another in discussions
- students are expected to keep abreast of course announcements
- students are expected to use the Learn course email as opposed to a personal email
- students are expected to keep instructor informed of class related problems, or problems that may prevent the student from full participation
- students are expected to address technical problems immediately

Key Rules of Conduct

- If you have a difficulty using a tool to complete work, use the “Create a Support Ticket” link in the Course Menu immediately and notify your instructor as well.
- All postings and emails must meet the standards as set by Netiquette, as you will read in the course orientation module. Any post that is designed to attack or dis-respect a fellow students or the instructor is considered a serious violation. Such a post will be taken down immediately and the student who made the post will not receive credit for the assignment.
- Students who fail to comply with the above expectations, particularly the proper use of Netiquette, may be asked to leave the course. Repeated incidents may result in the student being dropped from the course or further disciplinary action.

Technical Requirements:

- Reliable access to a Computer and a high speed Internet connection.
- Supported browsers include: Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Safari. Detailed Supported Browsers and Operating Systems: <http://online.unm.edu/lms/help/browsers>
- Bear in mind that a computer’s processor speed, amount of RAM and Internet connection speed can **greatly** affect performance.
- Online courses perform best on a high-speed Internet connection. Those using dial-up connections will experience longer page load times and much slower performance when accessing their online course. Many locations on the UNM Valencia Campus offer free high-speed Internet access including UNM Valencia Library.
- For UNM Learn Technical Support: (505) 277-0857 (M-F 8am - 5pm) or learn@unm.edu.

Course Participation and Graded Requirements:

Active Participation & Discussion Board

15% of Grade

Each week, you are responsible for the material covered and announcements made in class. Success in all courses, and particularly an online course, mandates clear and consistent communication and participation. Students are expected to view and read weekly announcements, course modules, lectures, assigned online video and readings, and your fellow students' posts on discussion boards or related assignments. I am able to track each student's course activity through Learn—see below*.

Weekly Assignments

25% of Grade

Each week the instructor may assign the following: a writing response to the lecture and/or reading/media material, journal responses to guided reading questions, or media project. Students will be provided with clear instructions and expectations for each assignment, which will include number of posts required, length, and grading rubric.

Weekly Quizzes

10% of Grade

Each week the instructor will ask students to complete a quiz on key vocabulary and concepts from the assigned reading and lecture.

Midterm Exam

25% of Grade

The midterm exam will include multiple choice, true/false, and short essay questions to assess your understanding of core concepts, and the ability to apply those concepts to social issues.

Final Exam

25% of Grade

The final exam will be a cumulative assessment of course concepts and include multiple choice, true/false, and short essay questions.

Late Assignments Policy:

Late assignments will NOT be accepted unless the student receives prior approval from the instructor. All assignments, quizzes, discussion posts and exams are expected to be done by the due date and time stated by the instructor. If a student is unable to make deadline due to extenuating circumstances, the instructor should be notified 24 hours prior to the deadline if possible.

***Tracking Course Activity:**

UNM Learn automatically records all students' activities including: your first and last access to the course, the pages you have accessed, the number of discussion messages you have read and sent, discussion text, and posted discussion topics. This data can be accessed by the instructor to evaluate class participation and to identify students having difficulty.

UNM Code of Conduct

Students will be disciplined when engaged in any behaviors that “affect adversely the University’s educational function, to disrupt community living on campus, or to interfere with the rights of others to pursue their education, to conduct their University duties and responsibilities or to participate in University activities” (UNM-VC 2012-14 Catalogue p. 179)*.

This course has a zero tolerance policy on academic dishonesty and plagiarism. When found guilty, the student will be dropped from this course and a report will be submitted to the Department Chair and the Instruction Dean. The same report will be kept in the student’s academic file. You may download the “Appendices Section” of the UNM-Valencia 2012-14 Catalogue at <http://vclasses.unm.edu/catalog/2012-2014/index.html> for the following topics:

- **Academic Dishonesty** includes “but not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments: claiming credit for work not done by you or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students,” etc. Any student suspected of academic dishonesty will be subject to the investigative and disciplinary process of UNM (p.29)*.
- **Plagiarism** is intellectual theft. Plagiarism is when you copy an idea or any text that is more than six words from any source, including the Internet or your friends, without citing the source. To avoid plagiarism, you must enclose whatever you copy in quotation marks and cite the source.
- **Mutual Respect** is expected between students as well as between students and the professor. All forms of harassment or abuse will be handled according to the Student Code of Conduct Policy of UNM (pp. 186-188)*.

*Please refer to UNM Student Handbook at: <http://pathfinder.unm.edu/>

Classroom and Learning Accessibility:

In accordance with University Policy 2310 and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact both the instructor and the Accessibility Resource Center as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. It is the responsibility of the student to request accommodation for individual learning needs.

Campus Resources:

- Accessibility Resource Center (505) 277-3506 (call to register for special arrangements)
- The Learning Center: (505) 925-8907 (tutoring, computer use, printing)
- Computer Services (505) 925-8911 (support with Learn)
- Valencia Library (505) 925-8990 (computers, research, reading, videos)
- The Wellness Center: (505) 925-8830 (to support your body and mind)

Course Schedule*

(*subject to change based on learning objectives)

- Week 1 Course Orientation**
Tues Jan 19 Welcome Video: *Questioning the World Around Us*
Readings: Syllabus, Course Schedule, Netiquette
Film Clip: Dr. Martin Luther King's Speech at The March on Washington, 1963
Applying: What are your dreams for yourself and society?
- Week 2 "The Sociological Imagination"**
Tues Jan 26 Social Structure and Agency & Theoretical Paradigms
Reading: Ch. 1 (focus pp.14-25)
Applying: Me ← → Society
- Week 3 Theoretical Paradigms**
Tues Feb 2 Structuralism, Conflict Theory & Interactionist Theories
Reading: Ch. 2 (focus pp. 30-47)
Applying: Understanding economics through each theoretical lens
- Week 4 Culture: How We Construct our "Social World"**
Tues Feb 9 Norms, Values & Ideology
Reading: Ch. 3
Applying: Gender Scripts, Ethnocentrism and Assimilation
- Week 5 The Self & Society**
Tues Feb 16 The Self and Socialization
Reading: Ch. 4
Film Clips: *The Doll Test* & *The Imitation of Life*
Applying: The Looking Glass Self
- Week 6 Identity & Inequality: Race, Ethnicity and Citizenship**
Tues Feb 23 Racism, Discrimination, and Sociohistorical Contexts
Reading: Ch. 8
Film Clip: *The House I Live In*
Applying: Drug Law Enforcement & Immigration Laws
- Week 7 Identity & Inequality: Gender and Power**
Tues Mar 1 Gender Binaries, Misogyny, and Patriarchy
Reading: Ch. 9
Film Clips: *Miss Representation* & *Tough Guise*

Thurs Mar 3 Post Midterm Review Sheet

Week 8 MIDTERM EXAM

Tues Mar 8 Answer Review Questions in Lecture/Video

Thur Mar 10 Exam posted by 8am (2 hr. time limit--must complete once you begin)

Fri Mar 11 Midterm Exam must be submitted by Midnight Fri, March 11th

Week 9 SPRING BREAK

Mar 14-18 NO CLASS OR ASSIGNMENTS

Week 10 Social Stratification

Tues Mar 22 Poverty, Cultural Capital & Social Mobility

Reading: Ch. 7 & "Statistics of Poverty in New Mexico"

Applying: The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996

Week 11 Theories of Deviance

Tues Mar 29 Deviance, Stigma, and Social Control

Ch. 6 (focus pp. 156-174) & excerpt from Goffman's *Stigma*

Film Clip: *The Elephant Man*

Applying: Bullying

Week 12 Crime & Measurements of Crime

Tues Apr 5 The Criminal Justice System

Ch. 6 (focus pp. 175-187)

Film clip: *The New Jim Crow*

Applying: Mass Incarceration in the US

Week 13 Sex Trafficking

Tues Apr 12 Gender, Violence & Pimp-Controlled Prostitution

Reading: Handouts on Gender & Sexual Abuse

Film: *A Path Appears*

Applying: sexual abuse and development of Self

Week 14 Politics and the Economy

Tues Apr 19 Reading: Ch. 12

Applying: The 2016 Presidential Race

Week 15 Social Change and Collective Resistance

Tues Apr 26 Reading: Ch. 15

Applying: #SayHerName and #BlackLivesMatter

Week 16 REVIEW

Tues May 3 Lecture Answering Questions Submitted by Students

Week 17 FINALS WEEK

Tues May 10 **FINAL EXAM**

Exam posted by 8am Tues, May 10 and due by midnight the same day
(2hr time limit—must complete once you begin)