

UNM Valencia Campus  
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY  
SOC 1110-501  
Online Syllabus Fall 2020

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Instructor: Barb Thompson

Course Section: 501

Credit hours: 3

Email: bthompson58@unm.edu

Office Hours: via ZOOM ([www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com)) and by appointment

Meeting code: 816 7680 7519

Password: 685198

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81676807519?pwd=VzhPN2wrcWFtaXZ1ekJCVDZzWUUVQT09>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Catalog Description:

This course will introduce students to the basic concepts and theories of sociology, as well as to the methods utilized in sociological research. The course will address how sociological concepts and theories can be utilized to analyze and interpret our social world, and how profoundly our society and the groups to which students belong influence them.

Students will be given the opportunity to challenge their “taken for granted” or “common sense” understandings about society, social institutions, and social issues. Special attention will also be paid to the intimate connections between their personal lives and the larger structural features of social life.

In addition, the implications of social inequalities, such as race/ethnicity, gender, and social class will be central to the course’s examination of social life in the United States.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

Sociology 1101 is an introductory course intended to promote a better understanding of the impact of the political, social, and economic environments on our individual lives. By the end of class, students will be able to:

1. Define sociological perspectives and the contributions that sociological knowledge can bring to the social sciences.
2. Define the sociological imagination and explain the relationships between social structures, social forces and individuals.
3. Demonstrate the ability to apply the perspectives of symbolic interactionist theory, conflict theory, and structural-functionalist theory to qualitative and/or quantitative data.
4. Identify and explain intersectionality and the connections between race, class, gender, disability, sexual identity and other forms of structural inequality.

### **TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS:**

- The default text is Introduction to Sociology, (ISBN 10 1938168410), available free of charge via [www.Openstax.org](http://www.Openstax.org). You can also purchase a hard copy at the UNM bookstore or through Amazon, where you can also purchase an electronic copy. Please select whichever option works best for you. Having access to the textbook is necessary for successful completion of the course.
- You will also need access to UNM email,
- UNMLearn (<http://learn.unm.edu>) for supplemental materials,
- a notebook the style of your choice for taking notes
- about 3-6 hours outside of class per week for reflection, reading, and readiness.

### **TAKING AN ONLINE COURSE:**

Some of you may not have taken an online course before and may not know what to expect. Here are some things that might help to know.

- **An online course is not self-paced.** There is a schedule for you to follow and deadlines to turn in assignments. Sometimes, the most important thing you learn in an online class is “don’t wait until the last minute”. If you follow the schedule and use your time well, you will be successful.
- **An online course is not self-directed.** There is an instructor (me) who has worked really, really, really hard and long to make this class as meaningful a learning experience for you as if you were in a face to face class. I’ve made sure you will meet the learning objectives (getting your money’s worth) in ways that encourage you to think, be creative, interact with other students, and receive the feedback you need to know you have made progress. I’ll keep in contact with you throughout the course to prompt and guide you

academically. Sometimes, I'll check in with you just to see if you are doing ok as a human being...especially if I haven't seen you check your course in a while. But feel free to follow the schedule at the time which works best for you. Your course will be available 24/7...after work, after dinner, after the kids go to bed, after your morning walk, before you shower. You can as your time allows: work for 30 min, have a snack, then start again, do laundry, and finish your class tasks. Remember to finish!

- **An online course is not easier than a face to face course.** The type and quantity of work in an online class is EXACTLY the same as you would find in a face to face class. You will have to read, write, think, and communicate. You should absolutely find it challenging. It is easier in some respects: no fighting for a parking spot, no rushing to find your classroom, not having to be in a room with people you don't know.
- **It is also harder sometimes:** no gentle, daily reminders of due dates, no cute person next to you to focus on, more distractions (most likely), and, when issues arise, the solution may not be immediate. There's likely to be more independent thinking and less absorbing the ideas of others. Making your brain hurt is my secret pleasure!
- **An online course is not scary.** Ok, maybe it is for a little bit. But you will find each online course has a rhythm or a pattern, and suddenly, it isn't scary anymore. Maybe the technology is scary, but you'll get the hang of that too.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ATTENDANCE:**

Students enrolled for credit, credit/no credit, or audit are expected to participate in all class assignments. Attendance in this online course will be tracked through the timely completion of assignments and participation. Simply logging into UNM Learn (a.k.a. Blackboard) does not constitute attendance. Students who do not submit an assignment, login or participate during the first week of class may be dropped from the course. Students should check their messages daily. A student with excessive missed assignments may be dropped from the course. **Students should not assume they will be dropped from the class automatically** Missing 3 or more of assignments assigned constitutes excessive missed assignments

Students are expected to follow the following UNM guidelines:

- **Academic Integrity Policy:** Having academic integrity is paramount to your success in any class. This course has a zero tolerance for academic dishonesty. This includes "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..." and **plagiarism**-an academic theft committed when you copy an idea or any text than of more than six words from any source, including the internet, your friends, etc., without citing the source. **To avoid plagiarism**, you must enclose whatever you copy in quotations and cite the source. Any student suspected of academic

dishonesty will be subject to the investigative and disciplinary process of UNM. This, and further information, is available at:  
<http://handbook.unm.edu/policies/section-d/d100.html>.

- Student Code of Conduct: available at <http://pathfinder.unm.edu/campus-policies/student-code-of-conduct.html>

**Grading will generally conform to the following:**

A+=100-99%	B+=89-87%	C+=79-77%	D+=69-67%
A=98-94%	B=86-84%	C=76-74%	D=66-64%
A-=93-90%	B-=83-80%	C-=73-70%	D-=63-60%

Any grade below 60 will be assigned an F. According to UNM policy, ([http://degrees.unm.edu/undergrad\\_programs/1312/degree\\_plans?disp\\_first=4+Year+Plan](http://degrees.unm.edu/undergrad_programs/1312/degree_plans?disp_first=4+Year+Plan)), the passing grade for all sociology courses is a “C”. Students must complete all course requirements to earn credit for the course. Those who fail to complete the requirements will be assigned an “F”. Only letter grades will be posted on your transcript.

Work is considered on time and eligible for consideration for full points if it is submitted by 11:59pm on the date designated. Late work is allowed on a case-by-case basis, if (and only if) you message me prior to the due date with your reasoning.

Each student is also provided with a **“Life got in the Way” ticket**. The ticket can be used to get extra time to turn in one assignment, no questions asked. You must specify you are using it. You get one, so use it wisely. It does not allow you to skip the assignment, just allows you some additional time. **If you choose not to use the ticket, you can redeem it at the end of the semester for 25 bonus points!**

Assignments will be graded within 5 days, unless otherwise specified. This allows you to keep track of points accrued and missing assignments. Tracking your grade is a mutual activity between the two of us.

Students will earn points toward the grade of their choice in the following manner:

1. **Formative Assessment (400 points total):** There will be one quiz per unit to help you assess how well you are understanding the material and allow you an opportunity to review. You can take the quiz as many times as needed until you make at least 80%. Quizzes will include traditional objective questions (T/F, multiple guess, etc.) **Each quiz will be worth 10 points.**

Other types of formative assessments include written responses to readings, videos, or topics. Again, these help you see how well you understand the material, but allow you to put your own thoughts to the topics.

## **2. Summative Assessments (100 points total) :**

When we are finished with thematically-connected units, we will have an assessment to tie those units together. There will be 1 at midterm and 1 as a final exam.

Assignments to be turned in must be **presented professionally: typed, double spaced in 12 font of Arial or Times Roman**. While this is not an English class, your work should reflect your grasp of written communication skills and be prepared in a professional manner. Too many grammatical errors will detract from your work. If you know you have difficulty with writing skills, please make use of the Writing Lab, available on line. If I notice you have difficulty, I will suggest you contact them. Please do not be offended: I am only trying to help you be successful.

Please do not wait until the last days of the term to ask how to improve your grade. I will be happy to help you do your best in the class, but not at the last minute.

### **CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE (In class and online):**

**Preparation:** Time is most precious commodity we have. You have chosen to spend this class time improving yourself. This is most easily accomplished by coming prepared to class. Read the assignments, prepare your materials and be ready to share your ideas. I will communicate with you in person or via UNM email **ONLY**, so please check your UNM email regularly.

**Respect:** This class is a lab for learning about society. We will cover topics which are very personal to some of you, sensitive to many of us, and may be uncomfortable because they make you think in challenging ways. Respectful disagreement is expected, but there is NO tolerance for INTOLERANCE. Feel free to share your opinions, but respect the rights of others to share theirs, too.

My classroom, in person and on-line is identified as a Safe Place for all. If you have any issues with comments or attitudes displayed by others, please send me a message.

### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE CLASSES:**

#### **Netiquette:**

##### **Rule 1. Remember we are all human.**

- Never forget that the person reading your mail or posting is, indeed, a person, with feelings that can be hurt. It is not nice to hurt other people's feelings. Never mail or post anything you wouldn't say to your reader's face. Or your grandma. Or her pastor.
- Social Problems should be thought provoking. Many of you/your colleagues have first-hand experience with the social problems we are studying. Emotions may be triggered

by what we say on the Discussion Board. Remember: you never have to apologize for the harsh or unkind words unsaid/unwritten.

- Sarcasm and humor do not translate universally. And “I was only joking” is not an apology.

**Rule 2. Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow (we hope) in real life.**

- Be ethical. Be kind. Be honest.
- Keep your discussions on topic and polite.
- Share your personal woes with your best friend, not your classmates.

**Rule 3: Remember where you are.**

This is a college-level course, conducted in English.

- Use your best writing skills. Use complete sentences. Spell Check is never foolproof. The blue underlined words should not be ignored. Abbreviated words or emojis may be appropriate for texts between friends, but they are not appropriate for this level of communication.
- You are sending your work through a server connected to the University. Do not include or submit any files, pictures, or writing that you would not present to the Dean of Students, the Chief of Police, and/or your mother.
- Capital letters should be used appropriately.

**Rule 4. Respect other people's time and bandwidth.**

- Post messages to the appropriate discussion group.
- Post your messages timely. A late post slows down the discussion.
- Try not to ask questions on discussion groups that have been answered previously.
- Read the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document.

**Rule 5. Have an electronic back up plan.**

- Who will allow you to have access to a computer, internet, printer, or whatever you need to submit an assignment during the week?
- Who will allow you to have access to a computer, internet, printer, or whatever you need to submit an assignment during the weekend?
- Have extra ink, paper, mouse batteries, etc. Don't ask how I know.

## **COMMUNICATION**

**1. Announcements:** These will be made at the beginning of each new unit (every week). They will provide an overview of the topic, refer to the task list, reinforce contact information, and point out due dates. Additional announcements will be made if changes are needed within the unit period.

**2. Course Messages:** These will be used throughout the unit to facilitate communication with individual students. **You will be expected to check your course messages DAILY.** I will too. You can expect I will answer questions within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends/holidays. If more than 2 students raise the same issue/question, it probably means others have questions too, so I make an

announcement. There is a “best practices” way to address messages and emails. Start each with an appropriate greeting (“Hello, Professor Thompson” or “Greetings, Ms. Thompson”) followed by your name and class.

**3a. Discussion Boards:** The purpose of the Discussion Board is to promote class communication. There will be a discussion thread per unit (one per week), initiated by me. The idea is to express ideas about the topic, with the hope that course information and outside perspectives join in meaningful dialogue. Discussion board posts will be due after assigned text material should have been read. **Responses can be submitted only if an initial thread is done first.** To create an acceptable response, you should (a) respond to posts which interest you (b) follow the netiquette rules (c) reply in 3-5 sentences, with something responsive and communicative. Ideally, there should be an open-ended question in your response. Please...please...contribute to the discussion. Saying “good post” or “I like what you said” is not a meaningful contribution. Students will be advised that mostly, I lurk on discussion boards, with few comments, except to reinforce/promote deeper-level thoughts or to address/redirect issues. Don’t assume, however, that I don’t read your posts...I have no life!

**3b. The first post will be “For Further Investigation”:** Some students may want to pursue a topic in greater depth than a class might offer. Some are already participating in sociologically-related activities, volunteering, know of resources other students might need or have interests they want to share. This section will be an on-going resource place. The Further Investigation section (with no points attached) will give students a chance to look at local resources, activities, videos, readings, etc. that didn’t make it into the unit. Anyone can post.

**4. Emails:** These will be used to supplement course messages to students who need a little extra prompting or guidance. I will use emails after no response to a course message to remind them that I am monitoring their progress/lack of progress and offer a one-on-one session to address any concerns they might be having. Emails should never be viewed as “uh-oh...I’m in trouble.”

**5. Virtual Office Hours:** This application will be used for virtual office hours once weekly and by appointment. Students will be offered 25 points for attending virtual office hours at least one time during the semester.

**Zoom In Happy Hour!** Several times this semester, a Happy Hour will be offered as a way to further an online social opportunity. This is a no-obligation opportunity lasting 40 minutes. You can bring you kids, you pets, your significant other, or whatever. Show us your new home haircut or the dinner you have prepared. We can listen to music, play with the Zoom background, tell jokes, or talk about whatever. Little or no learning content required.

An assignment schedule follows...

<b>Weeks/Dates/Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Aligns with SLO #</b>
Week 1 (8-17 to 8-23-20) What is Sociology?	Chapter 1	SLO 1
Week 2 (8-24 to 8-30-20) Major Sociological Theories	Chapter 1	SLO 1, 2
Week 3 (8-31 to 9-6-20) Social.Research/Methods	Chapter 2	SLO 3
Week 4 (9-7 to 9-13-20) Culture and society	Chapters 3 & 4	SLO 3
Week 5 (9-14 to 9-20-20) Social Stratification	Chapter 9	SLO 2
Week 6 (9-21 to 9-27-20) Sexuality and Gender	Chapter 12	SLO 4
Week 7 (9-28 to 10-4-20) Deviance	Chapter 7	SLOs 2, 3,4
Week 8 (10-5 to 10-11-20) Midterm exam		SLOs 2, 3,4
Week 9 (10-12 to 10-18-20) Groups and Organizations	Chapter 6	SLOs 2, 3, 4
Week 10 (10-19 to 10-25-20) Marriage and family	Chapter 14	SLOs 2, 3,4
Week 11 (10-26 to 11-1-20 ) Health, Wellness, Aging	Chapters 13 & 19	SLOs 2, 3,4
Week 12 (11-2 to 11-8-20) Politics, Economics	Chapters 17 & 18	SLOs 2, 3,4
Week 13 (11-9 to 11-15-20) Race and Ethnicity	Chapter 11	SLOs 2, 3,4
Week 14 (11-16 to 11-22-20) Social Movements/Social Change	Chapter 21	SLOs 2, 3,4
Week 15 (11-23 to 11-29-20) Work and Workplace Sociology	Chapter 18	SLOs 2, 3,4
Week 16 (11-30 to 12-6-20) Global Stratification	Chapter 10	SLOs 2, 3,4
Week 17 (12-7 to 12-12-20) Final Exam		SLOs 2, 3,4

The syllabus is a guideline for this class. Changes may be made as needed, but you will be provided with sufficient notification for any graded activity.



**Special Needs:** In accordance with University Policy 2310 and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any student who, because of a disability, may require certain special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. If you are a student with documented physical or learning disability, please notify me during the first week of class. If you have special needs and require accommodations in the classroom or other academic setting, it is your responsibility to contact the Office of Equal Access Services at 505-925-8560 (<http://valencia.unm.edu/about/accessibility.html>).

**Veterans and active military personnel** with special circumstances (e.g. upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disabilities) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these in advance, if possible, to the instructor. For additional assistance, please contact Frances Duran (Campus Branch Registrar) at 505-925-8585 or [fduran@unm.edu](mailto:fduran@unm.edu).

**Accommodations for Spiritual Tradition and/or Faith-Based Observances:** Please notify me of your obligations to spiritual tradition or faith affiliation. Reasonable accommodation for such observances, upon advanced request, will be considered.

**Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination:** In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, teaching assistants, and graduate assistants are considered “responsible employees” by the Dep. of Education, (see p. 15 <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity ([oeo.unm.edu](http://oeo.unm.edu)). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)

<http://www.cnm.edu/student-resources/academicrecords/academic-records-list/FERPA>

