THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO—VALENCIA
SYLLABUS FOR INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (FALL 2026—ONLINE 8-WEEK)
SOCI 1110 SECTION 501 (3-CREDIT) |CRN #81022 | (8/17/26 – 10/11/26)



Professor: Dr. Julia Wai-Yin So via Canvas (the best way to reach me)
Zoom drop-in hours: R: 10:00 – 11:00 AM (Zoom link)
Emergency contact: 505-925-8600 during regular office hours (MDT)

Hi and Hello

I am your instructor for this course--Julia Wai-Yin So. Please call me Dr. So, although I am the kind of doctor who has no patients. I am of Chinese ancestry and my Chinese name is 蘇 惠 賢. The first character 蘇 (So) is my family name. It means mint as well as to revive. The next two characters 惠 賢 (Wai-Yin) are my first name which means intelligent and virtuous. Julia is my baptismal name. It means youthful. Do you know the meaning of your name?

A native of Hong Kong, I came to the U.S. in 1980. I first lived in Connecticut for two years and later in Texas for 26 years before moving to NM in 2008. Prior to migrating to the U.S., I had also lived in Japan and Ecuador for 6 and 2 years, respectively.

When I was a community college student, I took an intro course in psychology and one in sociology. Fascinated with sociology, I moved on to earn my BA (graduated *summa cum laude*) and MA in sociology. My doctoral degree is in Political Economy and Public Policy, which is a multi-disciplinary degree in political science, economics, and sociology. My dissertation compares the academic performance of four racial/ethnic groups of high school students with respect to their labor force participation.

Today, my primary interest remains in the academic performance of students, though it focuses on college students. This passion drives my teaching philosophy: to help students learn and cultivate a habit of critical thinking — an essential skill that helps them thrive in today's society. In general, learning is about expanding our worldview and enriching our perspectives, not to mention improving the community we live in. It is an intellectual process that involves reading, writing, observing, discussing, and thinking critically. To reap the most benefits out of this course, I encourage you to reflect on your understanding of the course material as we examine the social world around us while applying the knowledge gained to your daily lives.

My role as your instructor is to facilitate your learning. As we learn together, I invite you to reflect on your own experience and share it with your classmates. How much you learn in this course depends on the amount of work you put into it; and hopefully, you will have fun while doing it. Enjoy the ride, and not to worry too much about the grade. It is only one indicator of your course performance. It does not define who you are!

Course Description - What is this course about?

Reading and writing are needed in this **college course**. Designed to introduce you, the student, to the basic **concepts and theories of sociology**, as well as the **methods utilized in social research**, this course addresses how sociological concepts and theories can be utilized to analyze and interpret our social world and describes how profoundly **society and groups influence us**. Your taken-for-granted or common-sense understandings of society, social institutions, and social issues will be challenged. Special attention will be given to the intimate **connections between personal lives and the larger structural features of social life.** The implications of social inequalities, such as race/ethnicity, gender, social class, and intersectionality, will also be discussed.

What are the Required Learning Materials?

1. **Introduction to Sociology (3rd ed).** OpenStax College. 2021. This is an open-source textbook (i.e. it is free). The digital version is ISBN-13: 978-1-951693-36-7. Please scan the QR code or click at the book cover below and the browser will take you to the publisher's website, where you can download the textbook. If you prefer to purchase a paper version, you may order a copy at the same website.

Figure 1- Scan the QR Code to download the textbook

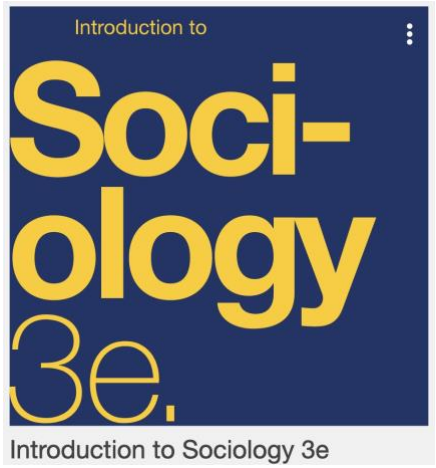


Figure 2 -Textbook cover.

2. A **valid** UNM email address is required.
3. If you prefer keeping records of any hard copy for this course, please keep a one-inch 3-ring binder & one pack of 4-tab dividers to organize the syllabus, your notes, handouts, and assignments by 3 units.
4. If you prefer keeping electronic files of all the course materials, please create an e-folder (in your device) for this course and three sub-folders—one for each unit.
5. As an online course, all learning activities and assignment submissions will occur in Canvas. Please be sure you have **internet access** with **adequate Wifi-band**, so you can complete this course successfully.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Application

In this course, you may use any generative AI applications, such as Grammarly, ChatGPT, MS Copilot, or Google Gemini, to assist with spelling/grammar. If you did, you must disclose which generative AI application you use in each assignment. More importantly, learning requires thinking. Since AI cannot think for you, you cannot substitute your work with AI's work. If you did, you must verify its source and disclose which generative AI application you use in each assignment and provide the prompts that you use. Please read the AI Resources provided by UNM.

What will I be learning?

At the end of the semester, when you do your part as a student, you will be able to:

Course Learning Outcomes on Content	Course Learning Outcomes on Essential Skills[1]
1. Define sociological perspectives and the contributions that sociological knowledge can bring to the social sciences (CLO1) 2. Apply the concept of sociological imagination and explain the relationships between social structures, social forces and individuals (CLO2) 3. Demonstrate the ability to apply the perspectives of symbolic interactionist theory, conflict theory, and structural-functionalist theory to the use of qualitative and/or quantitative data (CLO3) 4. Understand and explain intersectionality and the connections between race, class, gender, disability, sexual identity and other forms of structural inequality (CLO4) *Please be sure to download the three course maps for this course from the Resource Folder. They will help you to connect the learning materials with the learning outcomes of each module and unit.	**I. Communication** – **Demonstrate clarity when you express yourself:** · Clear verbal communication with peers & instructor. · Clear written communication in discussion boards & reflection learning journals. - **Demonstrate your competence to:** · Read & analyze reading assignment. · Evaluate & present arguments. **II. Critical Thinking – demonstrate your competence in the following areas:** • Problem setting – identify a problem. • Evidence acquisition – collect data to describe the problem and to propose solutions to solving the problem. • Evidence evaluation – evaluate the data collected to substantiate your argument for a problem and your proposal to solve the problem. • Making an argument & drawing conclusion. **III. Personal & Social Responsibility – demonstrate your competence in the following areas:** • Intercultural understanding and competence • Explain & work with issues pertaining to human activities. • Ethical reasoning on human problems. • Teamwork & collaboration skills. • Civic knowledge, discourse & engagement.

Table 1: A table showing the learning outcomes of the course.

A Statement of Respect

I would like to express my commitment to be respectful to everyone in this class and to embrace equity, diversity, and inclusivity, including gender and gender identity, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, and national origins. I would also like to ask everyone to do the same. Some topics that we will be

[1] The three areas of essential skills are required by the Higher Education Department in New Mexico.

discussing can be sensitive or embarrassing, and even emotional, especially when we are reminded of our own experiences. I would like to gently remind everyone that what is said in this course remains in the context of this class and is solely for the purpose of academic discourse and fostering a more inclusive learning environment. Thank you!

Mutual respect is expected between students as well as between you and me, your professor.
In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty are considered "responsible employees" by UNM. This designation requires me to report to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (oeo.unm.edu) at the UNM-Albuquerque Campus any gender discrimination disclosed to me. This includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct or sexual violence made to another student or a faculty member. Read more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct.

Academic Honesty includes being honest "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. It 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, be sure to enclose whatever you copy in quotation marks and **cite the source**. According to UNM policy, any student suspected of academic dishonesty will be subject to the investigative and disciplinary process of UNM.

I take academic honesty very seriously. When you behave otherwise, you will be dropped from the course and a report will be submitted to the Instruction Dean. The same report will be kept in the student's academic file.



Why should I do my work?

Participating in group work and/or turning in assignments on time will help your understanding of course materials and thus ensure your success in this course. **If you are on financial aid, passing this course will help keep your future eligibility for financial aid**. If you want to pass this course, be sure to submit your completed assignments on time and participate in all the learning activities.

Policy on Attendance & Late Assignment

Attendance is counted by assignment submission. Please refer to the course schedule. With three missed assignments, you will be dropped from this course. Per UNM policy, it is your responsibility to participate in the learning activities and submit your assignments. All assignments are due on most Fridays, always at 5 PM. **Canvas does not accept late work.** I encourage you to cultivate a habit of accountability. Please contact me for any unexpected situation that prevents you from completing or submitting your assignment. There is always a solution.

Where can I get IT help?

If you encounter IT related issues, please do not contact me. I am your instructor and do not have the ability to solve your IT situation. Please contact Valencia's IT at 505-925-8911. You may visit the Student Online Learning Resources for additional information. For specific questions relating to *Canvas,* please call UNM-Albuquerque Campus at 505-277-5757 or visit UNM Canvas.

What do we expect of each other?

This is a college course—it requires both reading, writing, and critical thinking. If you dislike reading and/or writing, this is your opportunity to cultivate such habits. This course is also your opportunity to acquire the habit of being a critical thinker. **Each week, be prepared to spend a minimum of 10 hours to complete your TLAS.**

COMMUNICATION WITH ME

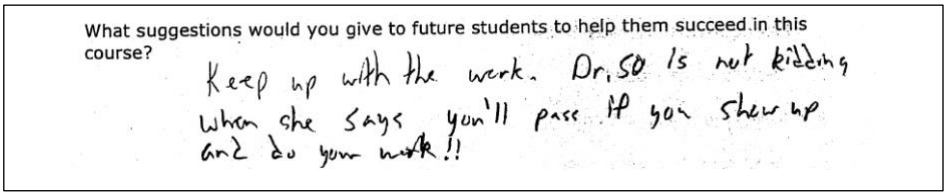
- The best way to reach me is via the email tool in Canvas. I will respond within one business day.
- Make an appointment with me in advance to reduce your waiting time at the student/ Zoom drop-in hours.

YOU CAN EXPECT ME TO …

- not accept work that is not typed.
- return all assignments in two weeks.



How is my work graded? A Roadmap to your Course Success



TO EXCEL IN THIS CLASS, I HIGHLY RECOMMEND YOU TO…

- follow my instructions and submit all assignments on time
- spend a minimum of 10 hours per week on the learning activities in this course.

The total earned grade will be weighted to a maximum of 100 points for the course letter grade.

1 AI Assignment	100 (19%)
3 Learning Reflection Journals	600 (56%)
Self-introduction Discussion	10 (2%)
3 Learning Activity Worksheets (LAWs)	120 (23%)
Total	830 (100%)
Intake Form + meeting with me (extra credit goes to the Learning Reflection Journal #1)	10 points

Figure 2: A table showing the components of the course grade.

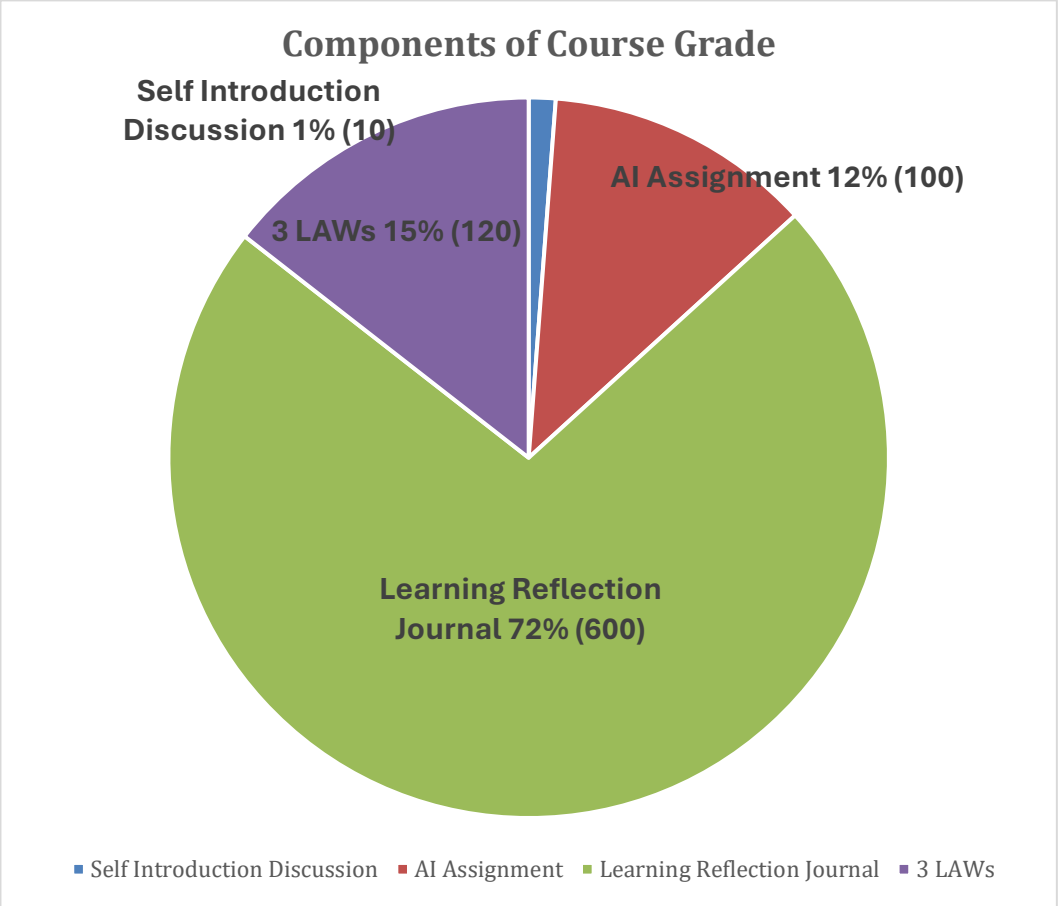


Figure 3: A pie chart showing the components of the course grade.

*According to the policy of Sociology Department, **the passing grade of required 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". The total points earned will be weighted to a 100-point scale. The final letter grade will be posted on LoboWeb. It is based on the following:

99 - 100	A+
90 – 98.9	A
87 – 89.9	B+
80 – 86.9	B
77 – 79.9	C+
72 – 76.9	C* Please note that any grade less than a 72 is a failing grade.
67 – 71.9	D+
60 – 66.9	D
Less than 60	F



Figure 3A: What is My Grade?

1 AI ASSIGNMENT (100 POINTS)

This AI Assignment is to guide you on the ethical use of any AI language model. A grading matrix is provided in the assignment.

3 Learning Activity Worksheets (LAWs) - 120 points
You have one week to complete each worksheet. Each worksheet has 4 parts with between 50 and 60 questions. The worksheets are only graded for completion. Completing the worksheets will help you write the learning reflection journals.

3 LEARNING REFLECTION JOURNALS (600 POINTS)
Instead of exams, 3 learning reflection journals are required. You have one week to write the Journal after you complete the LAW of the module. A grading matrix is provided in the assignment.

1 Self-introduction Discussion (10 points)
This is an 8-week course; the self-introduction discussion must be completed by 5 pm on 8/21/2026.



Figure 4: Discussion Group

To learn about UNM's policy on netiquette, please click Guidelines for group discussions

Course Schedule of Learning Activities

*blue text are deadlines. All assignments are due at 5 PM on Friday. Red text shows UNM dates.

Wk	Date	Topics/Assignments/To-do list
1	8/17 (M)	First day of virtual class Download the open-sourced textbook Download the AI assignment. Click here to complete the Online Student Intake Form Schedule a 1-on-1 meet and greet with me.
	8/21 (F)	Online Student In-take Form – due at 5 PM (for 5 points extra credit) Participate in the self-introduction discussion in Canvas – due at 5 pm AI Assignment – due at 5 pm Download LAW 1 to begin working on the worksheet
		Module 1: The Study of Society, Culture & Status
2	8/28 (F)	Last day to meet with me by 5 PM (for 5 points extra credit) Submit LAW 1– due by 5 PM Download Journal 1
3	9/4 (F)	Last day to drop without "W" grade Submit Journal 1 Download LAW 2 to begin working on the worksheet
		Module 2: Socialization & Social Institutions
4	9/7 (M)	Labor Day – Campus closed

	9/11 (F)	Submit LAW 2 – due by 5 PM Download Journal 2
5	9/18 (F)	Submit Journal 2– due by 5 PM Download LAW 3 to begin working on the worksheet
		Module 3: Social Inequality
6	9/25 (F)	Last day to drop via LoboWeb Submit LAW 3 – due by 5 PM Download Journal 3
7	10/2 (F)	Journal 3 – due by 5 PM
8	10/7 (W)	Last week of instruction

Valencia Campus Resources:

Course/Campus Resources:

- Campus Police: (505) 925-8570
- Equal Access Services: (505) 925-840
- Career Services: (505) 925-8840
- Veteran Support Services: 505-925-8568
- Technology Support: (505) 925-8911
- Testing Center: (505) 925-8560
- The Learning Commons: tutor@unm.edu
- Valencia Library: (text – 505-916-1647)
- Veteran Support Services: Joseph Burgess at 505-925-8568
- The Wellness Center: (505) 925-8830
- The Writing Center: (505) 925-8548
- Download UNM Safe: https://unmsafe.unm.edu/
- Stressed? Call Agora Crisis Center at 505-277-3013 or 855-505-4505

Where can I get help?
(Info accessed from UNM-Valencia website on 8/1/2026)

ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DIFFERENT NEEDS: In accordance with University Policy 2310 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact the UNM-Valencia Equal Access Services (sjclawson@unm.edu or 505-925-8840). Also available is the Accessibility Resource Center at UNM Central Campus (arcsrvs@unm.edu or 505-277-3506).

VETERAN SUPPORT SERVICES: If you are a veteran, I strongly encourage you to **identify yourself to me**, especially if you seek accommodations. You may also contact Joseph Burgess (jburgess@unm.edu or 505-925-8568) at Valencia Campus or the Veteran and Military Resource Center at UNM Central Campus (vrc@unm.edu).



Figure 5: Universal Design for Learning

To create a more inclusive learning environment, I try my best to employ Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles, which emphasize the use of multiple means of representation, expression, and engagement during lesson development to effectively reach the widest possible number of students from the outset, rather than through individual "retrofits" of instruction and assessment.

Accommodation for Spiritual Tradition and/or Faith-based Observance
Please notify me of your obligations to spiritual tradition or faith affiliation. Reasonable accommodation for such observances, upon request in advance, will be considered.

Citizenship and/or Immigration Status: I welcome all students regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. I respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. As for all students in the class, family emergency-related absences are generally excused with reasonable notice to me, as noted in the attendance guidelines above. UNM has made a core commitment to the success of *all* our students, including members of our undocumented community. Please contact the Refugee and Immigrant Well-being Project at UNM.

I am an Ally of NM Dream Team

NM Dream TEAM

An image of Dream Team

Safe Zone Areas
Located throughout the campus, these Safe Zone areas offer a safe space for LGBTQI students to share a conversation. You are always welcome in my office.



Figure 6: The flyer for Safe Zone

GENDER NEUTRAL RESTROOMS
They are three: two are inside the Writing Center and the third one is next to the elevator between the Nursing Education Center and Student Community Center.



Door sign of a gender-neutral restroom.

Figure 7: Gender Neutral Restrooms

Food and Housing Insecurity
If you have difficulty affording groceries, accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or securing a safe and/or stable place to live, please **contact Pasos Resource Center at PASOS@UNM.EDU or 505-925-8546** for support. Furthermore, if you feel comfortable letting me know of your situation, not only will I respect your privacy, but I will also share any resources that I know of.

Your Success in this Course Depends on YOU!
Your Success in Life Also Depends on YOU!