

SOC 101.503
Introduction to Sociology
Spring 2018 CRN: 40382 Jan 15, 2018 - May 12, 2018
Location: Online Course

Instructor: Deidre J. Williams
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Instructor Response Time:

You can email me through the course page on UNMLearn "Email" or directly at djwill75@unm.edu. I routinely check emails Monday (8 am) – Friday (5 pm) and during the weekend. You can anticipate a 24-hour response from me, Monday – Thursday. I will try and respond to all weekend 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 relationship between individual experiences (personal problems) and larger social structures (social issues). We will consistently apply social theories to analyze the current social inequalities and cultural conversations including, but not limited to, #TimesUp, #MeToo, #TakeAKnee, #BlackLivesMatter, and #SayHerName. Attention will be focused on identity formation and dynamics of power to understand how inequality(s) is systemically constructed, lived, and reproduced through social institutions of family, education, media, religion, economics and politics. Our journey will be an ongoing conversation where thoughtful questions are encouraged, and ideas are explained and challenged in a context of mutual respect.

Student Learning Objectives:

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

- Identify the connection between "personal troubles" and "public issues" through the application of the sociological imagination and engagement with classical and contemporary social theories.
- Define social structure (aka social organization) and explain important elements of social structure, including status, role, class, power, ethnicity, race, gender, and social stratification.
- Define culture and explain important elements of culture, including beliefs, values, norms and language.
Explain the socialization process and how it operates through at least three major agents of socialization (for example, the family, education, peer groups, and the media).
- Compare and contrast sociological theories of deviance, crime and social control.
- Differentiate between individual discrimination (micro) and institutional (meso/macro) discrimination.
- Apply critical thinking and analytical skills to understanding identity, prejudice, and power relationships in their own lives and communities.

Required Text:

- Giddens, Anthony et al. 2017. *Essentials of Sociology (Sixth Edition)*. W.W. Norton & Company: New York. ISBN: 978-0393614299.
- Additional Required Readings available on UNMLearn in Weekly “Readings” Folder. (these will be in printable pdf format and may include news articles, journal article and/or book chapters).

Student Expectations

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 by a stated deadline:

- View course module that may include lecture, video, and/or PowerPoint
- Read the assigned book chapters and/or supplemental readings
- Participate in weekly Discussion Board
- Complete weekly Assignments: Journal and Quizzes
- 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 respectfully with one another in discussions
- students are expected to read and respond to (if necessary) 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—**prior** to due dates of assignments or class end date
- 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>
- A computer’s processor speed, RAM and Internet connection 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.

Student Resources

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.

- **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) *.

Title XI Rights and Responsibilities: (NEW Policy and Procedure)

“In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered “responsible employees” by the Department of Education (see pg. 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). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>. Please note that UNM has three offices where you can report incidents and concerns confidentially, meaning that the staff there will NOT contact the Office of Equal Opportunity without your consent. These are LoboRespect Advocacy Center (<http://loborespect.unm.edu>), the Women's Resource Center (<https://women.unm.edu>) and the LGBTQ Resource Center (<http://lgbtqrc.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)

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

Course Participation and Graded Requirements

Course Orientation:

You are expected to complete the Assignments 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.

Active Participation

Mandatory

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 daily announcements, course modules, lectures, assigned online videos and readings, as well as your fellow students' posts on discussion boards. I can track each student's course activity through Learn—see below*.

Weekly Assignments

35% of Grade

Each week the instructor may assign one or more of the following:

Discussion Board: responses to instructor prompts and fellow students' posts.

Journal: a writing response to the weekly lecture, reading, and/or video clips

Quiz: multiple choice and T/F questions to test knowledge of key vocabulary, theoretical concepts, and points discussed in lecture and reading materials.

Exam 1

20% of Grade

This exam will cover material from the first five weeks; including multiple choice, true/false, and short essay questions to assess your understanding of core concepts, course lectures & readings, and the ability to apply those concepts to social issues.

Exam 2

20% of Grade

This exam will cover material from weeks 6-10; including multiple choice, true/false, and short essay questions to assess your understanding of core concepts, course lectures & readings, and the ability to apply those concepts to social issues.

Final Exam

25% of Grade

This will be a cumulative exam and cover material from the entire course; including multiple choice, true/false, and short essay questions to assess your understanding of core concepts, course lectures & readings, and the ability to apply those concepts to social issues.

Student Accountability

Grading Policy:

Students will be provided with clear instructions and expectations for each assignment, and will be graded accordingly.

Assignments Policy:

Late assignments will NOT be accepted unless the student receives prior approval from 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 in the course.

Course Schedule*

(*subject to change based on learning objectives)

- Week 1**
Tues Jan 16 **Course Orientation**
Welcome Lecture: *An Invitation to Sociology*
Readings: Syllabus, Netiquette, NY Times article on Peanuts & Racial Integration
Film Clip: Dr. Martin Luther King's Speech at The March on Washington, 1963
Applying: How is Dr. Kings message relevant today?
- Week 2**
Tues Jan 23 **"The Sociological Imagination"**
Social Structure, Agency & Social Institutions
Lecture Slides: *The Sociological Imagination*
Reading: Preface and pp. 1-10 from Ch. 1, article from *The Atlantic*, "Life Isn't Fair"
Video Links *What is the Sociological Imagination?* (8 min) & *The Sociological Imagination* (6 min)
Applying: The Sociological Perspective Self←→Society
- Week 3**
Tues Jan 30 **Foundational Theoretical Paradigms**
Structuralism, Conflict Theory & Interactionist Theories
Lecture Slides: *Major Sociological Paradigms, Historical Context of Sociology, Applying the Sociological Perspective to Identity & Inequality*
Reading: Giddens Textbook from Ch. 1 (focus on pp. 10-22)
Applying: Clarifying Concepts and Course Structure
- Week 4**
Tues Feb 6 **Sociological Research Methods & Ethical Concerns**
Lecture Slides: *Understanding Social Research Methods*
Reading: Ch. 1 focus pp. 23-40, Supplemental
Video Links: Alice Goffman and Qualitative Field Research-understanding & disrupting the schools-to-prison pipeline.
Applying: Ethical Concerns & Research Methods
- Week 5**
Tues Feb 13 **Culture: How Do We Construct our "Social World"?**
Norms, Values & Ideology—Questioning Nationalist/Nativism Ideologies
Reading: Ch. 2, Supplemental
Media Clips: TBA
Applying: Questioning Ideologies-Gender Scripts & Nationalism
EXAM 1

- Week 5 The Self & Society**
 Tues Feb 20 The Self and Socialization
 Reading: Ch. 3, Supplemental
 Film Clips: *The Doll Test & The Imitation of Life*
 Applying: The Looking Glass Self
- Week 6 Identity & Inequality: Race, Racism & White Privilege**
 Tues Feb 27 Racism, Discrimination, and Sociohistorical Contexts
 Reading: Ch. 10, Supplemental
 Media Clips: TBA
 Applying: Understanding Affirmative Action
- Week 7 Identity & Inequality: Gender and Power**
 Tues Mar 6 Gender Binaries, Misogyny, and Patriarchy
 Reading: Ch. 9, Supplemental
 Film Clips: *Miss Representation & Tough Guise*
 Applying: Title IX & Learning/Unlearning Gender
- Week 8 Social Stratification**
 Tues Mar 6 Poverty, Cultural Capital & Social Mobility
 Reading: Ch. 7 & “Statistics of Poverty in New Mexico”
 Media Clips: TBA
 Applying: The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996
EXAM 2
- Week 9 SPRING BREAK**
 Mar 12-16 **NO CLASS OR ASSIGNMENTS**
- Week 10 Theories of Deviance**
 Tues Mar 20 Deviance, Stigma, and Social Control
 Readings: Ch. 6 & excerpt from Erving Goffman’s *Stigma*
 Film Clip: *The Elephant Man*
 Applying: Stigma, Bullying and Social Media

- Week 11 Crime & Measurements of Crime**
 Tues Mar 27 The Criminal Justice System
 Readings: Ch. 6, Supplemental
 Film clip: *The New Jim Crow*
 Applying: Mass Incarceration in the US
- Week 12 “The War on Drugs”, Immigration & Racial Inequalities**
 Tues Apr 3 The War on Drugs and the Construction of Citizenship
 Readings: *The New Jim Crow* excerpts & Supplemental
 Film clip: *The House I Live In*
 Applying: The Differential Effects of the War on Drugs on Communities of Color
- Week 13 Gender Violence & Sexual Assault on College Campuses**
 Tues Apr 10 Gender, Violence & Learning Gender
 Reading: Ch. 11, Supplemental
 Film: *The Hunting Ground*
 Applying: sexual abuse and development of Self
- Week 14 Politics and the Economy: Dreamers vs. The Wall**
 Tues Apr 17 Social Construction and Consequences of Immigration Rhetoric & Policy
 Reading: Ch. 13 & Supplemental
 Applying: Analyzing the Current Political-Economic Climate
- Week 15 Social Change, Social Media and Collective Resistance**
 Tues Apr 24 Reading: Ch. 4, Supplemental on Social Movements
 Media Links: TBA
 Applying: Social Conversations & Resistance #TakeAKnee, #TimesUp
- Week 16 PAUSE & REVIEW**
 Tues May 1 Lecture Answering Questions Submitted by Students
- Week 17 FINALS WEEK**
 Tues May 8 **FINAL EXAM**