

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO—VALENCIA
SYLLABUS FOR INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (SPRING 2026—ONLINE 8-WEEK)
SOCI 1110 SECTION 502 (3-CREDIT) / CRN #56394 / (1/19/26 – 3/13/26)



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 focuses on college students. This passion drives my teaching philosophy, which is to help students learn and cultivate a habit of critical thinking--an essential skill that helps you 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 welcome you to share your experience with one another. 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!

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 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!

Course Description - What is this course about?

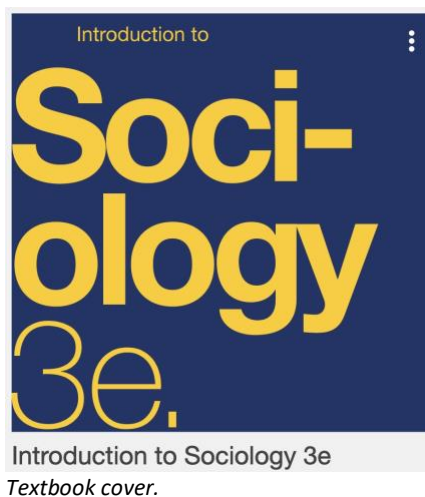
Reading and writing are needed in this **college course**. Designed to introduce you, the student, to the basic **concepts and theories of sociology**, as well as the **methods utilized in social research**, this course addresses how sociological concepts and theories can be utilized to analyze and interpret 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 textbook & 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



Textbook cover.

2. A [valid UNM email address](#) is required.
3. Individual personal account to access [Kanopy](#) (please contact Valencia Library @ 505-925-8990 to set up an individual account).
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.

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
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define sociological perspectives and the contributions that sociological knowledge can bring to the social sciences (CLO1) 2. Understand the 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 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) <p>*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.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Demonstrate clarity when you express yourself: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Clear verbal communication with peers & instructor. · Clear written communication in discussion boards & reflection learning journals. – Demonstrate your competence to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Read & analyze reading assignment. · Evaluate & present arguments. II. Critical Thinking – demonstrate your competence in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intercultural understanding and competence • Explain & work with issues pertaining to human activities. • Ethical reasoning on human problems. • Teamwork & collaboration skills. • Civic knowledge, discourse & engagement.

A table showing the learning outcomes of the course.

What is the attendance policy?

When you miss one assignment, you risk failing this course. When you miss two assignments, you will be dropped from this course.

Per [UNM policy](#), it is your responsibility to participate in University activities.

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

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.



Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Application

In this course, it is permissible to use any generative AI applications, such as Grammarly, ChatGPT, MS Copilot, or Google Gemini, to assist with spelling/grammar. If you do, you must disclose which generative AI application you use in each assignment. More importantly, learning requires thinking. Since AI cannot think for you, you must not and cannot substitute your work with AI’s work. If you did, you would be confessing to me that you cannot think for yourself and must rely on AI to do your work for you and to earn the grade for you. Are you willing to admit to yourself that you cannot think for yourself? Most seriously, you are being dishonest with yourself while behaving unethically. Are you willing to face the [disciplinary process of UNM](#)?

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.** Submitting your completed assignments on time and participating in all the learning activities will definitely help.

Late Assignment

All assignments are due on most Fridays, always at 5 PM. **Canvas does not accept late work.** If your team misses a deadline, your team will receive a zero for the assignment. Please cultivate a habit of accountability.

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, you are required to read between 30 and 50 pages of reading and a minimum of 10 hours on the TLAS.

- 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.



COMMUNICATION WITH ME

- The best way to reach me is via the email tool in Canvas. I will respond within one business day.

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

What suggestions would you give to future students to help them succeed in this course?

Keep up with the work. Dr. SD is not kidding when she says you'll pass if you show up and do your work!!

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 learning activities on this course.

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

1 AI Assignment (individual learning)	100 (11%)
1 Learning Reflection Journal (individual learning)	200 (22%)
Self-introduction Discussion	10 (1%)
Intake Form + meeting with me	10 extra credit points
3 Team Learning Activities Sheet (individual + team learning)	600 (66%)
Total	910 (100%)

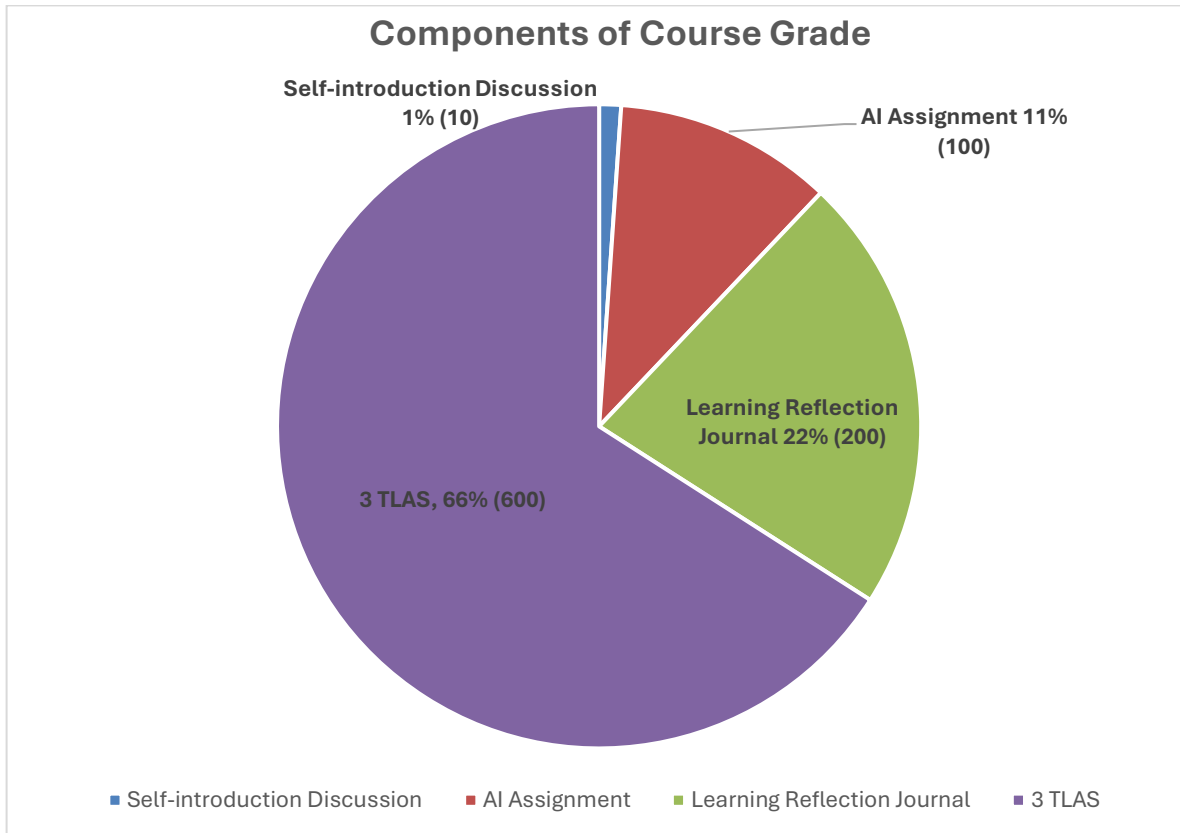


Figure 2: A pie chart showing the components of the course grade.

*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”. To protect students’ privacy, grades will only be given out face to face. 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+
<u>72 – 76.9</u>	<u>C*</u>
67 – 71.9	D+
60 – 66.9	D
Less than 60	F



Please note that any grade less than a 72 is a failing grade.

3 Team Learning Activities Sheet (TLAS)--600 points

If you do not like teamwork, this course is not for you. For each TLAS, you have one week to complete the entire TLAS independently and one week to discuss the answers with your assigned team to agree on the team’s answers to the assignment. Team members will take turns typing the answers and submitting the assignments. You do not receive any credits for the TLAS if you do not participate in the team discussion. If you submit your individual answers, you will receive half the credit of the TLAS submitted by your Team. Each TLAS is worth 200 points.

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.

1 LEARNING REFLECTION JOURNAL (200 POINTS)

Instead of exams, one Learning Reflection Journal is required. A grading matrix is provided in the assignment.

1 Self-introduction Discussion (10 points)

This is an 8-week course; the discussion must be completed by 5 pm on 1/23/2026.



Figure 3: Discuss Group

To learn about UNM's policy on netiquette, please click [Guidelines for group discussions](#)

Course Schedule of Learning Activities

***All assignments are due at 5 PM on Friday.**

Wk	Date	Topics/Assignments/To-do list
	1/19 (M)	First day of virtual class – MLK Day
1	1/20 (T)	Log on to Canvas to find out your Team's name and its members Exchange contacts with your Team members and arrange a meeting date with all the Team members to work on all the TLAS Download the open-sourced textbook Complete the <u>Online Student Intake Form</u> Schedule a 1-on-1 meet and greet with me, your instructor. To earn credits, we must meet within the first week of this 8-week semester.
	1/23 (F)	Online Student In-take Form – due at 5 PM (5 points extra credit) Last day to meet with me by 5 PM (5 points extra credit) AI Assignment – due at 5 pm Participate in the self-introduction forum in Canvas – due at 5 pm Download TLAS 1 and begin working on it individually
2		Module 1 : The Study of Society, Culture & Status
	1/25 (Su)	Continue working on TLAS 1 individually
	1/30 (F)	Census Day for H1 Term – last day to drop without “W” grade
3	2/2 (Su)	Begin discussing TLAS 1 with your team
	2/6 (F)	Submit TLAS 1– due by 5 PM Download TLAS 2 and begin working on it individually

		Module 2: Socialization & Social Institutions
4	2/8 (Su)	Continue working on TLAS 2 individually
5	2/15 (Su)	Begin discussing & completing TLAS 2 with your team
	2/20 (F)	Submit TLAS 2– due by 5 PM Download TLAS 3 and begin working on it individually
		Module 3: Social Inequality
6	2/22 (Su)	Continue working on TLAS 3 individually
	2/27 (F)	Last day to drop via LoboWeb
7	3/1 (Su)	Begin discussing & completing TLAS 3 with your team
	3/6 (F)	Submit TLAS 3 in Canvas– due by 5 PM Download Learning Reflection Journal Assignment
8	3/13 (F)	Last week of instruction Learning Reflection Journal in Canvas - due by 5 PM

Course/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 LoboGuardian & be safe: <https://loboguardian.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 1/14/2026)

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](#) (Sarah Clawson, Coordinator), at (505) 925-8840 or by email at sjclawson@unm.edu. Also available is the [Accessibility Resource Center](#) at UNM-Albuquerque at 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 awareness for or need accommodations. For additional assistance, please contact Joseph Burgess at 505-925-8568 or jburgess@unm.edu



Universal Design for Learning Principles (UDL)

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 in order 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.

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.



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.

I am an Ally of NM Dream Team



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.

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