

SOC 302: Introduction to the Study of Society

Unique Course ID: 45150-45175

Fall 2017

Class Meets

Lectures: WHEN: Monday and Wednesday, noon-1pm
 WHERE: ART building room 1.102

Discussion Section: refer to your schedule

Instructor: Dr. Robert L. Reece

Office: CLA 3.736

Email: Robert.L.Reece@gmail.com

Phone: 512-232-6318

Office hours:

Mondays 1:30-2:30PM

and by appointment

Teaching Assistants:

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Course Description

This course will introduce students to the sociological study of society. It is designed to help students understand the larger factors shaping social life and equip them with the tools to interrogate and comprehend the world around them. The course will introduce basic sociological concepts such as the relationship between the individual and society, the social construction of reality, and the causes and consequences of social inequality along with the methods sociologists use to examine these relationships. We will examine major topics in sociological research, including, but not limited to, inequality, mobility, race and ethnicity, and gender and sexuality.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Attendance Policy

I expect you all to attend class each day. However, as you are adults, I will not use my time or the TAs' time tracking your attendance. A significant portion of quiz and test material will come from the lectures, so your grade will likely suffer if you miss class often.

Readings

I generally try to spare students the high cost of books, so I will provide all of your readings through Canvas. ***SYLLABUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH FAIR NOTICE***

Assignments and Grading

Weekly Quizzes – 60%

Each week, except those indicated on the syllabus, your TA will issue a quiz during your discussion section. These quizzes will be a combination of short answer and multiple choice and measure your engagement with the reading and lecture content. Each quiz will be five questions, and we will issue a total of twelve quizzes over the course of the semester. That means that each question will be worth one percent of your final grade.

Midterm – 20%

The midterm will be a comprehensive take home exam consisting of 20 questions, a combination of short answer (1-3 sentences) and multiple choice. The questions will test your knowledge of the core concepts we've covered up until this point and your ability to apply them to real-world situations. While I do not issue formal study guides, I will reserve the Monday of the week of the midterm for students to ask any questions they have related to the test or concepts we have covered in class (this is for clarification and elaboration only; do not expect me to repeat an entire lecture because you missed a day of class). Shortly after class, I will issue the exam to students, and it will be due to their respective TAs by Friday at midnight.

Final – 20%

The final will also be a comprehensive take home exam of 20 questions, a combination of short answer (1-3 sentences) and multiple choice. It will be issued the last Wednesday (12-6) of class and due to TAs by the following Wednesday (12-13) at midnight. Our review for the final will be the previous Wednesday.

Late Work and Makeup Policy

I understand that sometimes things happen. If you would like to makeup work, I expect you to present formal documentation of these things within a week of the assignment's due date, and we will schedule a time for your makeup.

Grading Scale

A	94%
A-	90%
B+	87%
B	84%
B-	80%
C+	77%
C	74%
C-	70%
D	65%
F<	65%

Course Schedule

Week 1 – August 30 – Introduction and Syllabus

Week 2 – September 6 – What is Sociology?

NO CLASS MONDAY – Labor Day

Mills – *The Sociological Imagination* – The Promise

Flacks – *Enriching the Sociological Imagination* – Conceptualization of a Sociology for Radicals

Week 3 – September 11 – Methods of Social Research

Henslin – How Sociologists Do Research

Singleton and Straits – *Approaches to Social Research* – Ch.2

Week 4 – September 18 – Ethics of Social Research

Singleton and Straits – *Approaches to Social Research* – Ch.3

Week 5 – September 25 – What is Race?

Smedley – *Race in North America* – ch. 1

Roberts – *Fatal Invention* – ch. 2

Markus and Moya – *Doing Race* – pp 1-25

Week 6 – October 2 – Racial Inequality

Bonilla-Silva 1997 – Rethinking Racism

Wildman and Davis – Making Systems of Privilege Visible

McIntosh – Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack

Week 7 – October 9 – What is Gender?

West and Zimmerman 1987 – Doing Gender

Social Justice Advocate's Handbook – A Guide to Gender

Martin 1991 – The Egg and the Sperm

Week 8 – October 18 – Gender Roles and Inequality

NO CLASS MONDAY

Schrock and Schwalbe 2009 – Men, Masculinity, and Manhood Acts

Johnson – Patriarchy, the System

Economic Policy Report on the gender pay gap

Week 9 – October 23 – Midterm Review and Take Home Midterm

NO CLASS WEDNESDAY and NO READING QUIZZ

Week 10 – October 30 – Sexuality and Gender Expression

Moore 2006 – Lipstick of Timberlands
Dozier 2005 – Beard, Breasts, and Bodies
Pfeffer 2014 – I Don't Like Passing as a Straight Woman

Week 11 – November 6 – Theories of Class

Domhoff – *Who Rules America* – Ch.1
Mills – *The Power Elite* – Ch.2
Marx and Engels – Communist Manifesto

Week 12 – November 13 – Class Inequality

Economic Policy Institute report on Income Inequality
Congressional Budget Office wealth report

Week 13 – November 20 – Alt-Stratification

NO CLASS WEDNESDAY & NO READING QUIZ (will be included in next week's)- Thanksgiving

Margaret 2007 – The Persistent Problem of Colorism
Ferris 2012 – The Deepest Reality of Life
Reece 2017 – Fighting Fat Stigma With Science
Sherkat and Ellison 1999 – Recent Development and Current Controversies in the Sociology of Religion

Week 14 – November 27 – Social Movements

Snow and Soule – *A Primer on Social Movements* – ch.1; ch. 10
Ray and Seamster 2016 – Rethinking Racial Progress
Bell 1991 – Racial Realism

Week 15 – December 4 – Now What, Final Review, and Take Home Final

Bonilla-Silva – *Racism Without Racists* 5th edition – ch. 11
Jones, Haenfler, and Johnson – *The Better World Handbook* – pp 1-55

Week 16 – December 11 – Take Home Final Due December 13

NO CLASS

Appendices and Policies

Student Rights & Responsibilities

- You have a right to a learning environment that supports mental and physical wellness.
- You have a right to respect.
- You have a right to be assessed and graded fairly.
- You have a right to freedom of opinion and expression.
- You have a right to privacy and confidentiality.
- You have a right to meaningful and equal participation, to self-organize groups to improve your learning environment.
- You have a right to learn in an environment that is welcoming to all people. No student shall be isolated, excluded or diminished in any way.

With these rights come responsibilities:

- You are responsible for taking care of yourself, managing your time, and communicating with the teaching team and with others if things start to feel out of control or overwhelming.
- You are responsible for acting in a way that is worthy of respect and always respectful of others. • Your experience with this course is directly related to the quality of the energy that you bring to it, and your energy shapes the quality of your peers' experiences.
- You are responsible for creating an inclusive environment and for speaking up when someone is excluded.
- You are responsible for holding yourself accountable to these standards, holding each other to these standards, and holding the teaching team accountable as well.

Personal Pronoun Preference

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Each student in the course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor Code: "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity."

Plagiarism is taken very seriously at UT. Therefore, if you use words or ideas that are not your own (or that you have used in previous class), you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism and subject to academic disciplinary action, including failure of the course. You are responsible for understanding UT's Academic Honesty and the University Honor Code which can be found at the following web address:

http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

Q Drop Policy

If you want to drop a class after the 12th class day, you'll need to execute a Q drop before the Q-drop deadline, which typically occurs near the middle of the semester. Under Texas law, you are only allowed six Q drops while you are in college at any public Texas institution. For more information, see:

<http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/csacc/academic/adddrop/qdrop>

University Resources for Students

Your success in this class is important to me. We will all need accommodations because we all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. There are also a range of resources on campus:

Services for Students with Disabilities

This class respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds, identities, and abilities. If there are circumstances that make our learning environment and activities difficult, if you have medical information that you need to share with me, or if you need specific arrangements in case the building needs to be evacuated, please let me know. I am committed to creating an effective learning environment for all students, but I can only do so if you discuss your needs with me as early as possible. I promise to maintain the confidentiality of these discussions. If appropriate, also contact

Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329- 3986 (video phone).

<http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/about/>

Counseling and Mental Health Center

Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, avoiding drugs and alcohol, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress.

All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone. There are many helpful resources available on campus and an important part of the college experience is learning how to ask for help. Asking for support sooner rather than later is often helpful.

If you or anyone you know experiences any academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings like anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek support. <http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/individualcounseling.html>

The Sanger Learning Center

Did you know that more than one-third of UT undergraduate students use the Sanger Learning Center each year to improve their academic performance? All students are welcome to take advantage of Sanger Center's classes and workshops, private learning specialist appointments, peer academic coaching, and tutoring for more than 70 courses in 15 different subject areas. For more information, please visit <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/slc> or call 512-471-3614 (JES A332).

Undergraduate Writing Center: <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>

Libraries: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/>

ITS: <http://www.utexas.edu/its/>

Student Emergency Services: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/>

Important Safety Information:

If you have concerns about the safety or behavior of fellow students, TAs or Professors, call BCAL (the Behavior Concerns Advice Line): 512-232-5050. Your call can be anonymous. If something doesn't feel right – it probably isn't. Trust your instincts and share your concerns.

The following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
- Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency