**FALL 2016: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS at ARLINGTON**

SOCI 1311, Section 001: Introduction to Sociology

Professor: Jason E. Shelton, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: From 11am to 12pm on MW or by appointment

Time and Place of Class Meetings: MWF from 10am to 10:50am in the University Center #186

Graduate TA: Dianne Reaux (dianne.reaux@mavs.uta.edu)

**Course Description:** *Sociology is the systematic and scientific study of human behavior, social groups, and society.* The goal of this course is to examine the impact that social structures, social forces, and institutions have upon individuals and groups. By the end of this class, students should not only be able to identify fundamental sociological concepts and theories—as well as the person(s) who developed them—but also apply this mode of thinking to current events and social problems. Some of the topics to be addressed in this course include an overview of the sociology of culture, socialization, race and ethnicity, stratification, gender, crime, religion, politics, and the family.

**Required Text:** William E. Thompson, Joseph V. Hickey, and Mica L. Thompson. 2017. *Society in Focus: An Introduction to Sociology*  (8th Edition). Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield. Type or paste the link below into your browser to have access to online notes, quizzes, and other learning tools:

<http://textbooks.rowman.com/ISBN/9781442255975>

**Description of Exams:** This course will consist of three scantron multiple choice exams. There are no opportunities for extra credit, and additional work will not be accepted in lieu of missed requirements or failing grades. However, near the end of the semester, you MUST complete the “Signature Assignment” for bonus points. This requirement, which satisfies a mandate by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, is comprehensive in that it covers materials discussed throughout the entire semester. To successfully complete the Signature Assignment, you must correctly answer multiple choice questions related to newspaper articles, short films, and graphs. Students can use their class notes and textbook in order to complete the Signature Assignment, which is administered and graded online via Blackboard. It will be timed and students must work alone. It is NOT a group-based assessment.

**Grading:** Each of the three course exams is worth 100 points, while the Signature Assignment is worth 10. Your final grade will be calculated by simply dividing your point total by 300. Students can calculate their final grades in two simple steps: (1) tally your point total

(i.e., Test1+Test2+Test3+Signature Assignment=Total Points), and (2) divide your total points by 300.

Students are expected to keep track of their performance via Blackboard throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (such as myself and the TA) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

The final grading scale is as follows:

A= 90 to 100%

B= 80 to 89%

C= 70 to 79%

D= 60 to 69%

F= 0 to 59%

**Student Learning Outcomes:** This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in Social and Behavioral Sciences. It addresses the following four Core Objectives mandated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

* *Critical Thinking Skills*—include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
* *Communication Skills*—include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
* *Social Responsibility*—include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
* *Empirical and Quantitative Skills*—include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study**: Students are expected to have read the course materials **before** coming to class. Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least 3 additional hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, such as reading required materials, completing the Signature Assignment, and preparing for exams.

**Attendance Policy:** At the University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator of student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I **will not** take attendance. However, be here on the exam days because I **do not** give make-ups (unless you have an incredibly valid reason that can be substantiated with evidence).

**Academic Integrity:** All students enrolled in UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

In this course, scholastic dishonesty automatically results in an **F** for the assignment in question, and possibly even an **F** in the course overall. (I highly recommend that you take this policy very seriously; I have no sympathy for students who attempt to cheat on tests or plagiarize papers.)

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>). The final drop date for the **Fall 2016** semester is **November 2nd for undergraduates.**

**Disability Accommodations:** UTArlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA),* and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.* All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of **a letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

**The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364](http://www.uta.edu/disability%20or%20calling%20817-272-3364).

**Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671.

**Non-Discrimination Policy and Title IX:** UT Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/eos](http://www.uta.edu/eos). For more information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring (go to [www.uta.edu/startstrong](http://www.uta.edu/startstrong) for more information), major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

Some important campus phone numbers include:

* Counseling Services: 817-272-3671
* Relationship Violence & Sexual Assault Prevention: 817-272-9250
* UTA Police Department: 817-272-3003 (Emergencies) and 817-272-3381 (Non-Emergencies)

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Recording Lectures:** Some classrooms are equipped with technology to record our course lectures. Under such circumstances, it is my discretion (a) whether to make such videos available to students, and (b) when to make them available. **In short, I reserve the right to not release them at all.** Otherwise, please see me if you feel that you need to record class lectures. Also, taking notes for distribution outside the classroom (e.g., for companies that sell lecture notes to students) is strictly prohibited and will be met with very stiff penalties. Finally, out of respect for our scholarly goals, I ask that you place your electronic devices (e.g., cell phone) on silent or vibrate.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Campus Carry:** Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit/emergency exit, which varies depending on where you choose to sit within the classroom. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Important Dates for the Fall 2016 Term**

Friday August 26th Class Begins

 Monday September 5th NO CLASS (Labor Day)

Wednesday September 21st EXAM #1

 Friday October 28th EXAM #2

 Wednesday November 2nd Last Day to Drop Classes

 Friday November 25th NO CLASS

(Thanksgiving Break)

Wednesday December 7th Last Day of the Semester/Signature

Assignment Must Be

 Completed Online by 6pm

Monday December 12th EXAM #3

**Tentative Course Schedule**

**Section 1:**

Week 1 (Aug 26th): F= Welcome: Aims & Expectations

Week 2 (Aug 29th): M= Discovering Sociology (Ch 1)

 W= (continued)

 F = (continued)

Week 3 (Sep 5th): M= NO CLASS (Labor Day)

W= Society and Culture (Ch 3)

F= (continued)

Week 4 (Sep 12th): M= Socialization (Ch 4)

 W= (continued)

F= Social Interaction in Everyday Life (Ch 5)

Week 5 (Sep 19th): M= Social Groups and Organizations and Bureaucracies (Ch 6)

W= **EXAM #1**

F= TBA

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**Section 2:**

Week 6 (Sep 26th): M= Deviance & Conformity (Ch 7)

W= (continued)

F= (continued)

Week 7 (Oct 3rd): M= TBA

 W= TBA

F= TBA

Week 8 (Oct 10th): M= Social Stratification & the U.S. Class System (Ch8)

 W= (continued)

 F= Race & Ethnicity (Ch 10)

Week 9 (Oct 17th): M= (continued)

W= Sex & Gender (Ch 11)

F= (continued)

Week 10 (Oct 24th): M= TBA

W=TBA

 F= **EXAM #2**

**Section 3:**

Week 11 (Oct 31st): M= Government, Politics, and War (Ch 16)

W= (continued)

F= (continued)

Week 12 (Nov 7th): M= Families (Ch 13)

W= (continued)

F= Education (Ch 14)

Week 13 (Nov 14th): M= (continued)

 W= Religion (Ch 15)

 F= (continued)

Week 14 (Nov 21st): M= TBA

W= TBA

F= NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)

Week 15 (Nov 28th): M= TBA

W= TBA

F= TBA

Week 16 (Dec 5th): M= The Economy & Work (Ch 17)

W= TBA, **Signature Assignment Must Be**

 **Completed Online by 6pm**

**EXAM #3: Monday, December 12th from 8am-10:30am**

**\*I do NOT keep office hours during Final Exam Week!**