## COURSE SYLLABUS:

**SOCI 1311 - 005  Introduction to Sociology**

**Fall 2014**

## Instructor: Charles Bittner

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**Section Information: SOCI 1311 - 005**

**Time and Place of Class Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 – 12:20**

**Room: UH - 11**

**Description of Course Content:** In-depth examination of the social world. A scientific approach to the analysis and explanation of culture, personality, and social organization. The social processes and mechanisms of interaction involved in the natural process of cultural development, dissemination, assimilation, and the institutions of the group.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Compare and contrast the basic theoretical perspectives of sociology.

2. Identify the various methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data in sociology.

3. Describe key concepts in sociology.

4. Describe the empirical findings of various subfields of sociology.

5. Explain the complex links between individual experiences and broader institutional forces

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

Articles and readings will be posted on Blackboard throughout the term

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:**

**Major Exams:** There will be three major exams during the semester. Each exam will cover the lectures, the films we watch in class, and the reading assignments.

**Critical Book Review**: Each student should write a critical review of a scholarly book related to a contemporary social issue. A list of books from which to choose will be provided by the second week of class. Details about writing the review will be posted on Blackboard early during the semester

**Reflexive essay with photo:** Each student should write one essay which will answer specific questions about an article posted on Blackboard. Details of the assignment will be provided during the first few weeks of class.

**Final Exam:** Details to be provided

**Attendance Policy:** Attending class is highly recommended (Exam questions will be based on lectures, discussions, and films), and your attendance and participation will be reflected in your final grade.

**Grading: Grades will be determined in the following manner:**

**Exams: 60% (20 pts each)**

**Critical Book Review: 20%**

**Final Exam: 20%**

***Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including me) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.***

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:** Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 6 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

**Missed Quizzes and Late Assignments**

**Make-up Exams:** I will allow make ups for scheduled exams only with a legitimate justification (documentation may be required) for your absence and only if you contact me **prior to the exam time**. Make-up exams may be taken within one week of the test date and are your responsibility to schedule.

**Papers will only be accepted in class up to the due date. You may email your written assignment before the time class begins on the due date if you are unable to attend. Please bring a hard copy of your paper to the next class meeting.**

**Use of Electronic Devices: Computers, cell phones, recording devices and other electronic devices should not be seen nor used at any time during class.**

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled in this course 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 addition, I take a particularly unsympathetic view toward plagiarists. Thus, plagiarism will always result in a grade of zero on the assignment and possible referral to the Office of Student Conduct. Copying even one sentence from an internet or any other source and presenting it as your own clearly constitutes plagiarism and will always result in a zero on the assignment.** **In addition,** **the appropriation of concepts or ideas, even if** **disguised in newly crafted sentences, is also plagiarism.**

**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, 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](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**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/>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington 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)*. 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 that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**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, which is located [insert a description of the nearest exit/emergency exit]. 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 handicapped individuals.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Tentative Calendar of Classes and Assignments**

***This schedule is subject to change, and you are responsible for any modifications made***

**Week 1:** Thursday, 8/21

Overview of the class

**Week 2A:** Tuesday, 8/26

The sociological imagination

**Week 2B:** Thursday, 8/28/13

Foundational sociological theory

**Week 3A:** Tuesday, 9/2

Doing Sociology

Evaluating Social Issues

**Week 3B:** Thursday, 9/4

Defining and Constructing Social Issues

**Week 4A:** Tuesday, 9/9

The Role of Culture in Framing Social Issues

**Week 4B:** Thursday, 9/11

Income, Wealth, and Inequality

**Week 5A:** Tuesday, 9/16

**Exam I**

**Week 5B:** Thursday, 9/18

Erving Goffman: The Codes of Gender

**Week 6A:** Tuesday, 9/23

Theoretical Perspectives on Crime and Violence

**Week 6B:** Thursday, 9/25

Crime and the Media

The Mean World Syndrome

**Week 7A: Tuesday,** 9/30

The Criminal Justice System

The Intersection of Crime and Race

**Week 7B:** Thursday, 10/2

The Case of Tulia, Texas

**Week 8A: Tuesday,** 10/7

Critical Race Theory

Discussion and Analysis

**Week 8B:** Thursday, 10/9

Violence in the Family

**Week 9A: Tuesday,** 10/14

**Exam II**

**Week 9B:** Thursday, 10/16

Immigration: An Historical Perspective

**Week 10A:** Tuesday, 10/21

Immigration: Contemporary Issues

**Week 10B:** Thursday, 10/23

Issues in Education

**Week 11A:** Tuesday, 10/28

The Political Economy

Who Rules America?

**Week 11B:** Thursday, 10/30

What Does It Mean to be Religious?

**Week 12A:** Tuesday, 11/4

Sexism, Militarism, and Sport

**Week 12B:** Thursday, 11/6

Theories of Demographic Transition

What Does the Future Hold?

**Critical Book Review Due: A - G**

**Week 13A:** Tuesday, 11/11

**Exam III**

**Week 13B:** Thursday, 11/13

The Crisis of Consumerism

**Critical Book Review Due: H - M**

**Week 14A:** Tuesday, 11/18

Technology, Food, and the Environment

An Ecofeminist Perspective

**Week 14B:** Thursday, 11/20

US Energy Policy

**Critical Book Review Due: N - R**

**Week 15A:** Tuesday 11/25

War and Terrorism

**Week 15B:** Thursday, 11/27

Thanksgiving Holiday. No Class

**Week 16:** Tuesday, 12/2

**Critical Book Review Due: S - Z**

**Final: Week of December 8th**