**FALL2015: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - ARLINGTON**

SOCI 1311, Section 002: Introduction to Sociology

Time and Place of Class Meetings: MWF 11-11.50 UH 115

Instructor: Harvest Moon

Office: 439 University Hall

Email: Linoleum@uta.edu

Telephone: (817)-272-2661

Office Hours: Fridays 12-1 and 3-4

\* Outside of office hours, the best way to contact me is to send an email message. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours, during the normal business week (M-F).

**Description of Course Content:** “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.” (From catalog)

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students who successfully complete this course will:

1. Be able to succinctly state what sociology is, as a discipline, and what sociologists do

2. Be able to use the terms/vocabularies of sociology to describe and analyze social formations and phenomena

3. Have a deeper understanding of important social issues and processes (identity formation, socialization, culture, power, economic stratification, gender roles, race and ethnicity, globalization, social change…)

4. Have working knowledge of the processes through which sociologists gather information and make statements about the social world

5. Understand how the insights of sociology can be applied in a variety of settings, vocations, and professions (e.g., healthcare, education, law enforcement, marketing, community activism/reform, social work, journalism…)

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:** David M. Newman’s Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life (9th edition). Additional readings (articles and excerpts) available through Blackboard/the library.

**Grade Calculation**: Final grades will be calculated by taking the average of exam scores. There will be a total of 5 exams (this number includes the final). Each exam is worth a possible 100 points. To successfully complete this course, students must take all exams. Those who complete all 5 exams may drop the lowest exam grade.

A: 90 to 100%

B: 80 to 89%

C: 70 to 79%

D: 60 to 69%

F: 0 to 59%

**Descriptions of examinations**

**\* 4 in-class exams**: In-class examinations will consist of multiple choice and true/false items. These will cover information from the readings as well as lectures. You will need a Scantron form (882E) and No. 2 pencil for each in-class exam.

**\* Final exam/Signature Assignment**: The final exam is also referred to as the Signature Assignment. It is intended to assess your ability to test your ability to apply sociological knowledge. It will be taken outside of class, via Blackboard. Instructions for completing the final exam/signature assignment will be given during class.

**Exam Schedule**

Exam 1: 9/18

Exam 2: 10/16

Exam 3: 11/6

Exam 4: 12/4

Final exam Week 17: 12/12-18

**Attendance:** Roll will not be taken and attendance will not be considered when calculating grades. That said, a good deal of information will only be available in the lecture setting and students will be responsible for this information.

**Grading**: Students are responsible for keeping track of their progress through the semester, specifically, scores on assignments and exams. Collecting all returned work promptly. If you are struggling with the material and/or you are dissatisfied with your performance, it is your responsibility to take action. You may wish to seek tutoring or schedule a time to meet with me during my office hours regarding study strategies.

**Make-up Exams**: Make-up exams, without penalty, will be permitted only in cases of documented medical illness or emergency. No make-up will be offered for those who miss the final.

Extra credit will NOT be offered on an individual basis.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study**: In Students should expect to spend a minimum of 9 hours per week on course related work (reading, studying, preparing assignments) outside the classroom setting. Note that this is in addition to/does not include time spent in the lecture setting.

**Grade Grievances**: If you wish to appeal a grade issued in this course, you will be required to observe the deadlines and procedures for grade-related grievances as stated in the current University Catalog. <http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#undergraduatetext>

**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/>).

**Disability Accommodations: UT** 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), 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).** 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](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364.

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

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.

**Title IX:***The University of Texas at 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*[*uta.edu/eos*](http://www.uta.edu/hr/eos/index.php)*.For information regarding Title IX, visit*[www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all 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.*

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. All suspected cases will be reported.

**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>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be 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 enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. 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.

**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. 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.

**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, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>

**The English Writing Center (411LIBR):** Hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mondays-Thursdays, 9 am to 3 pm Fridays and Noon to 5 pm Saturdays and Sundays. Walk In ***Quick Hits*** sessions during all open hours Mon-Thurs. Register and make appointments online at [http://uta.mywconline.com](http://uta.mywconline.com/).

**Librarian to Contact: John Dillard** **Dillard@uta.edu** **(817) 272-7518**

**Course specific etiquette**

- Civility: Treat others with the same level respect you wish to receive. Stated differently: do not treat another person in a way that you would not want to be treated.

- Electronics: To minimize distractions, laptops, tablets, phones, and other electronic devices should remain off during class.

- Recording: To promote freedom of expression and curiosity, and to protect privacy, recording (audio and video) of lectures/class meetings is prohibited.

- Distribution of lecture notes: Sharing and exchanging notes with others enrolled in this class is encouraged. Mass distribution of notes (posting online) and/or selling of notes is unacceptable. Those who violate this policy will be penalized.

- Staying current: In order to get the most from lectures and be able to contribute to class discussions, you should stay up-to-date on your readings and assignments.

Office hours: Though not a requirement, I encourage all students enrolled in this course to stop by my office during my scheduled office hours, preferably early in the semester.

- Expectations: Those who cannot/will not abide by the policies outlined in this syllabus may be asked to leave the lecture setting.

- Recommended but not required: curiosity, willingness to consider new ideas (also known as “thinking”), ability to understand and retain information and ideas that conflict with one’s world view (note the absence of the word “adopt”), strong work ethic, sense of humor.

**Course Schedule**

\*Readings should be completed prior to lecture/class discussion. (Example: you should have read the first chapter of the Newman text prior to our meeting on 8/31.)

Week 1 (8/28): Introduction + syllabus review

Week 2 (8/31-9/4): Thinking sociologically

Newman Chapter 1

Week 3 (9/9-11): Society’s basic components

Newman Chapter 2

Week 4 (9/14-18): Producing knowledge (part 1)

Newman Chapter 3

**Exam 1: 9/18**

Week 5 (9/21-25): Producing knowledge (part 2)

Newman Chapter 3

Week 6 (9/28-10/2): Understanding culture

Newman Chapter 4

Week 7 (10/5-9): Socialization

Newman Chapter 5

Week 8 (10/12-16): Self + the dramaturgical perspective

Newman Chapter 6

**Exam 2: 10/16**

Week 9 (10/19-23): Families

Newman 7

Week 10 (10/26-30): Deviance

Newman 8

Week 11 (11/2-6): Organizations and institutions

Newman 9

**Exam 3: 11/6**

Week 12 (11/9-13): Economic stratification

Newman 10

Week 13 (11/16-20): Race and ethnicity

Newman 11

Week 14 (11/23-27):

11/26-27: Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 15 (11/30-12/4): Sex and gender

Newman 12

**Exam 4: 12/4**

Week 16 (12/7-9): Demography, age structures, and cohorts

Newman 13

Week 17: 12/12-18: **Final exams**

\* Consult the university’s final exam schedule for the date and time of the final exam for this class. Your final exam (exam 5) for this class will be delivered via Blackboard and will be taken outside of class. The process for this will be discussed in class, before the exam due date.

*As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –H.L. Moon*

**Emergency Phone Numbers**: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381