

The University of Texas at El Paso  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
Fall 2022

Soci 1301-18806: Introduction to Sociology  
T/R 12:00-1:20pm; Old Main 205

**Professor**

Dr. Aurelia Lorena Murga, Associate Professor of Sociology  
Contact information: Old Main 305; almurga@utep.edu  
Student Hours: please email for an appointment

**Teaching Assistant (TA)**

Samantha Sanchez  
Contact information: srsanchez4@miners.utep.edu  
Student Hours: Wednesday 11:00am-2:00pm & by appointment

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**About this Class**

This course is designed to provide students with a basic overview and understanding of the discipline of sociology, which is the scientific study of human behavior in society. Throughout the semester we will focus on a number of sociological concepts, theories, and research. We will also be discussing a broad range of social issues and the different sociological theories used to examine these. The overall objective of the course is for you to gain a general knowledge base that allows you to critically examine and understand the social issues that impact our lives.

**Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of Sociology 1301, students should be able to:

- Examine the influence of group membership on the individual.
- Explain the research process(es) used in sociology.
- Assess the dimensions of social stratification in U.S. society.
- Produce sociological explanations for social problems.

**Required Texts**

Conley, Dalton. *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist* (Seventh Edition). New York: W.W. Norton.

Paperback with e-book & learning tools: 978-0-393-53774-1

E-book & learning tools: ISBN: 978-0-393-53773-4

Important Note: Any additional assigned readings for the course will be available during class or via Blackboard (Bb).

**Course expectations**

Workload: As a general rule, in any 3-credit hour course, students are expected to spend 3 hours per week in the classroom and 6-9 additional hours per week doing coursework outside the classroom. The time commitment may vary from week to week, depending on the amount of reading and other assigned work. Some weeks may require significantly fewer hours, some may require more.

Active Participation: As a friendly reminder, you should log on to Bb on a regular basis (I suggest at least once a day) to check for any announcements or emails. All coursework (e.g., Inquisitive quizzes and exams) must be submitted via Bb (except any in-class writing responses). If you encounter any problems with Bb, contact the UTEP Helpdesk (747-4357) for assistance.

You are highly encouraged to attend every class if you expect to do well in this course. I will NOT drop students from the course. If you choose to drop the course, it is your responsibility to do so. Keep in mind that failure to withdraw from the course will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

Friendly reminder: Problems with your computer are NOT an acceptable reason for deadline extensions. If you encounter computer problems that cannot be resolved in time, you should use another computer to complete the work prior to the deadlines. It's a good idea to have an alternative computer identified BEFORE you run into problems.

### **Assessments (Grading)**

#### **Midterm Exam 20%**

Your midterm exam will take place via Bb. You'll have from 12:00-1:20pm to complete the exam. The exam may include multiple choice, true/false, and short response/essay questions. The exam will cover assigned readings and may include information covered during class discussions and lectures. The exam is worth up to 100 points.

#### **Final Exam 20%**

There will be two parts to your final exam. Part A will examine your Sociological Imagination. You will be provided the opportunity to complete this assignment prior to your final exam during Week 14. I will provide further instructions for this assignment in class during week 13. You will submit Part A during your scheduled final exam. Part B will be completed during your scheduled final exam period. Your final exam (Part A & B combined) will be worth up to 100 points.

#### **Inquisitive Quizzes (Bb) 20%**

Inquisitive quizzes are due every Friday (except for the last week of classes when your quiz is due on Thursday) by 11:59pm. Students will receive credit for completing a quiz with a grade of 80 or better.

#### **Media Academic Response 15%**

400-500 words, single-spaced, of writing with in-text citations. Students will submit one (1) media academic response (MAR). In your MAR you are to thoughtfully engage with the media and weave in theory/concepts/topics discussed during previous weeks.

#### **Gains Report 15%**

Students will be required to complete and submit a list of 10 "things I learned" in introduction to sociology. You will make a list of 10 bullet points with each including 4-5 sentences of writing. I am not asking you to simply list the topics covered, but to thoughtfully engage with what you have learned during the semester, so if you simply list topics covered in the class, you will be awarded 0 points for this exercise.

#### **Participation 10%**

Your participation grade will be comprised of your participation in classroom discussions and in-class assignments administered on any given class day.

**Make-Up Assignment Policy:** Make-up assignments/in-class quizzes and exams are strongly discouraged and WILL ONLY BE ADMINISTERED WITH THE SUBMISSION OF A UNIVERSITY EXCUSED ABSENCE.

#### **Grading Scale**

A	90-100%
B	89-80%
C	79-79%
D	60-69%
F	59% and below

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## **Email Policy**

Please feel free to reach out to me via email with any questions you may have regarding the class or assignments. During the week, Monday-Friday, you can expect a reply from me within 24 hours. If you email me over the weekend, I will respond on the next weekday.

## **Classroom Conduct**

You must demonstrate the highest level of respect for your peers and for the instructor. All points of view will be welcomed and respected; however, statements or behaviors that are disrespectful towards individuals or groups will not be tolerated. Behaviors that are distracting to your peers and to the instructor are not acceptable (e.g. coming in late, packing up or leaving early, using cell phones, and having side conversations).

## **Copying and Plagiarism**

The materials used in this course are copyrighted. Course materials include and are not limited to: syllabi, quizzes, exams, course assignments, review sheets, outlines, lecture notes, and power points. Since these materials are copyrighted you do not have permission to copy them, unless I expressly grant you permission.

Plagiarism is commonly defined as passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., that belong to another. Therefore, you are committing plagiarism if you copy someone's work without attributing it to the original author, and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the most serious academic sins, because it destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated.

## **ADA Policy**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass). CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

Please note: Instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule/syllabus at any time during the semester—any modifications will be announced during class and/or through Bb.

## Schedule

### Week 1 (8/22)

Chapter 1: The Sociological Imagination: An Introduction  
**Due** Friday (8/26): Inquisitive quiz for Ch 1 on Bb

### Week 2 (8/29)

Chapter 2: Methods  
**Due** Friday (9/2): Inquisitive quiz for Ch 2 on Bb

### Week 3 (9/5)

Chapter 3: Culture & Media  
**Due** Friday (9/9): Inquisitive quiz for Ch 3 on Bb

### Week 4 (9/12)

Chapter 4: Socialization & the Construction of Reality  
**Due** Friday (9/16): Inquisitive quiz for Ch 4 on Bb

### Week 5 (9/19)

Chapter 5: Groups & Networks  
**Due** Friday (9/23): Inquisitive quiz for Ch 5 on Bb

### Week 6 (9/26)

Chapter 6: Social Control & Deviance  
**Due** Friday (9/30): Inquisitive quiz for Ch 6 on Bb

### Week 7 (10/3)

Chapter 7: Stratification  
**Due** Friday (10/7): Inquisitive quiz for Ch 7 on Bb

### Week 8 (10/11)

**Due** Tuesday, Oct 11: **Midterm** (Chapters 1-7) exam via Bb  
**Due** Thursday, Oct 13: Watch film for Media Academic Response (outside of class assignment).  
Written assignment will be due on Saturday, 11/12 by 11:59 pm via Bb.

### Week 9 (10/17)

Chapter 8: Gender  
**Due** Friday (10/21): Inquisitive quiz for Ch 8 on Bb

### Week 10 (10/24)

Chapter 9: Race  
**Due** Friday (10/28): Inquisitive quiz for Ch 9 on Bb

### Week 11 (10/31)

Chapter 10: Poverty  
**Due** Friday (11/4): Inquisitive quiz for Ch 10 on Bb

### Week 12 (11/7)

Chapter 11: Health & Society

**Due** Friday (11/11): Inquisitive quiz for Ch 11 on Bb  
**Due** Saturday (11/12): Media Academic Response by 11:59 pm via Bb.

**Week 13 (11/14)**

Chapter 13: Education

**Due** Friday (11/18): Inquisitive quiz for Ch 13 on Bb

**Week 14 (11/21)**

**Due** Tuesday, Nov 22: Outside of class assignment: Part A of final exam “My sociological imagination”  
Thursday, Nov 24: University closed (Holiday)

**Week 15 (11/28)**

Chapter 14: Capitalism & the Economy

**Due** Friday (12/2): Inquisitive quiz for Ch 14 on Bb

**Week 16 (12/5)**

Chapter 18: Collective Action, Social Movement, & Social Change

**Due** Thursday (12/8): Inquisitive quiz for Ch 18 on Bb

**Finals Week**

Final Exam (Chapters 8-11, 13, 14, 18) – date & time TBA.