

University of Texas at El Paso
Fall 2014

Introduction to Sociology
SOCI 1301: 15643/17278
MWF 12:30-1:20; Quinn Hall 212

Professor

Dr. Aurelia Lorena Murga, Assistant Professor of Sociology
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Office Hours: M/W 3:00-4:30pm & by appointment

Teaching Assistant (TA)

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Office Hours: W 4:00-5:00 and F 10:30-12:30

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 American society.
- Produce sociological explanations for social problems.

Required Texts

Abrego, Leisy J. 2014. *Sacrificing Families: Navigating Laws, Labor, and Love Across Borders*. Stanford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-8047-9051-2

Garcia, Lorena. 2012. *Respect Yourself, Protect Yourself: Latina Girls and Sexual Identity*. NYU Press. ISBN: 081-473-3174

Rios, Victor M. 2011. *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys*. NYU Press. ISBN: 978-0-8147-7638-4

Important Note: Additional *required* readings for the course will be available via Blackboard.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance will not be taken during class. However, please note, you are **highly** encouraged to attend every class if you expect to do well in this course. NOTE: It is your responsibility to see me in reference to concerns regarding this course. I will **NOT** drop students from the course. If you choose to drop the course, it is your responsibility to do so. Failure to do so will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

Your participation is expected for this course and will be recorded weekly through the use of unannounced quizzes/in-class assignments (see Grading section below).

Grading

Midterm Exam 35% (Wed, Oct 15th)

Your midterm exam will be made up of a series of short-response questions. The exam will cover assigned readings, and additional information covered during class lectures, etc. and will be worth up to 100 points.

Final Exam 35% (Fri, Dec 12th)

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 at a later date. You will submit Part A during your scheduled final exam. Part B will be completed during your scheduled final exam period. Your final exam will be worth up to 100 points.

Participation 30%

Your participation grade will be comprised of unannounced quizzes/ in-class assignments administered on any given class day. The average of your quizzes/in-class assignments will comprise your participation grade for the semester. These assignments will facilitate your participation during class discussions, which are also fundamental to your success during the semester.

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.

Assignments

Midterm Exam 35 %
Final Exam 35%
Participation 30%

Final Grade 100%

Grading Scale

A 90-100%
B 80-89%
C 70-79%
D 60-69%
F 59% and below

Classroom Behavior

You are expected to complete the reading assignments for each class, be prepared for class, and turn off electronic devices, such as i-pods, computers. You may place cell phones on silent mode, but I discourage you from texting/messaging during class.

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.

Exceptional Circumstances

Please inform me of any medical conditions you believe I should be aware of (if you feel it is appropriate/ feel comfortable doing so), so that proper measures can be taken in the unlikely event that an in-class emergency may occur.

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, 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. CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

Fall 2014 Semester Schedule

Assigned readings should be completed prior to class meetings. Please note: Instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule/syllabus at any time during the course of the semester—any modifications will be announced during class and/or through BB.

Introduction to Course The Sociological Imagination

Week 1: Aug 25, 27, 29 • Week 2: Sep 3, 5

Readings:

C. Wright Mills, "The Sociological Imagination"

Allan Johnson, "The Forest and the Trees"

Peter Berger, "Invitation to Sociology"

Research Methods, Ethics, and Goals

Week 3: Sep 8, 10, 12

Readings:

Joel Best, "Telling the Truth about Damned Lies and Statistics"

Patricia Adler and Peter Adler, "The Promise and Pitfalls of Going into the Field"

Social Structure Race and Ethnicity

Week 4: Sep 15, 17, 19

Readings: Rios, Preface + Chapters 1-2 + Appendix

Week 5: Sep 22, 24, 26

Readings: Rios, Chapters 3-4

Week 6: Sep 29, Oct 1, 3

Readings: Rios, Chapters 5-7 and Conclusion

**Social Stratification, Inequality, and Poverty
Gender and Sexuality**

Week 7: Oct 6, 8, 10

Readings: Garcia, Introduction + Chapters 1-2

Week 8: Oct 13, 15, 17

Readings: Garcia, Chapters 3-4

Midterm Exam: Wednesday, October 15th

Week 9: Oct 20, 22, 24

Readings: Garcia, Chapter 5 + Conclusion + Appendices A&B

**Families and Family Life
Immigration**

Week 10: Oct 27, 29, 31

Readings: Abrego, Preface + Chapters 1-3

Week 11: Nov 3, 5, 7

Readings: Abrego, Chapters 4-5

Week 12: Nov 10, 12, 14

Readings: Abrego, Chapters 6-8

Social Change

Week 13: Nov 17, 19, 21

Readings: TBA

Week 14: Nov 24, 26

No Classes: Students are to work on *Part A* of their final sociology exam outside of class.

Week 15: Dec 1, 3

Readings:

Michael Burawoy, "Public Sociologies"

Dan Clawson, "The Next Upsurge"

Final Exam: Friday, December 12th 1:00-3:45pm