American Society
(SOCI-1301-003 CRN:11225)
Course Syllabus
Fall 2025

College: Liberal Arts
Department: Sociology & Anthropology
Term: Fall 2025
Meeting: Tue/Thu, Quinn Hall, 212
Instructor: Oscar Bueno, M.A.
Email: oibuenocarbaja@miners.utep.edu
Office Hours: Tue-Thu; 11:00-13:00 hrs. Old Main, room 213
LMS: Blackboard (announcements, readings, quizzes, submissions)

Required materials:
1. The Sociology Project 3.0: Introducing Sociological Imagination (3rd Edition)
Authors: Jeff Manza (New York University), et al.
Publisher: Pearson
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ISBN-13: 978-0135175256
Available formats: Print and eTextbook
Official link: https://www.pearson.com/en-us/subject-catalog/p/sociology-project-3-0-the-introducing-the-sociological-imagination/P200000006757/9780137871926

(Print/eText. Exact sections/pages posted weekly on Blackboard.)

Course Description

Introduction to the sociological perspective on U.S. society: core concepts, theories, methods, institutions, inequalities, and social change. We follow *The Sociology Project 3.0* and situate learning in the Juárez–El Paso Borderlands through: a mini-ethnography (individual), a team StoryMapJS midterm, and a team video ethnography practice. Early in the term, we run a brief class survey to demonstrate descriptive/inferential statistics and a simple Social Network Analysis (SNA) using class affinities.

Flexibility clause. This is a *living syllabus*. Topics, readings, and due dates may be adjusted to support learning, campus needs, or pacing. Any change will be posted on Blackboard with clear instructions and updated deadlines.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Apply the sociological imagination to everyday life in the U.S. and the Borderlands.
2. Compare major theories (Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Du Bois, Addams; interactionist and feminist perspectives).
3. Distinguish qualitative vs. quantitative methods; interpret basic descriptive and inferential results.
4. Explain how race/ethnicity, class, gender/sexualities and institutions structure life chances.
5. Produce a short mini-ethnography and a StoryMapJS project connecting local evidence to theory.
6. Communicate a concept through a video ethnography (rigorous scripting, proper citation, ethical sourcing).

Assessments & Weights (Total = 100%)

- **Weekly Quizzes (lowest 2 dropped) – 30%**
  Blackboard, auto-graded; based on SP 3.0 and class materials (podcast week included).
- **Practical 1 — Mini-Ethnography (TEAM) – 10%**
  2–3 page memo + 1 slide.
- **Practical 2 — StoryMapJS (TEAM) – 10%**
  Map/story + 600–800-word narrative + sources.
- **Practical 3 — Video Ethnography (TEAM) – 10%**
  45–90 s video + 100–150-word script + references/credits.
- **Final Exam (cumulative; MCQ + one short applied item) – 20%**
- **Participation (in-person & Blackboard) – 10%**
  Short prompts, peer micro-comments, quick polls, podcast discussion, etc.
- **Attendance – 10%**

Teams. Practicals **2 & 3** are team-based (4–6 students). One submission per team; brief contribution note required.

Late Work

- **Quizzes:** close at posted time (lowest 2 dropped for flexibility).
- **Practicals:** –10% per 24h (up to 72h), then 0 unless documented circumstances. Communicate early.

Grading Policy:

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- 90–100 = A | 80–89 = B | 70–79 = C | 60–69 = D | Below 60 = F
  "Satisfactory" means 70% or higher.

Academic Integrity & AI Use

Cite all sources. AI tools may be used for language polishing/organization only, with a short "Assistance" note. Generating substantive content/analysis without disclosure is academic dishonesty.

Accessibility (CASS)

Contact **CASS** (Union East 106, 747-5148, cass@utep.edu) within the first two weeks for accommodations. We will collaborate to ensure access.

Title IX

UTEP prohibits discrimination and sexual harassment. Campus resources and reporting procedures apply.

Weekly Schedule (Tue/Thu) ***Tentative & adjustable via Blackboard***

No in-person class on Sept 9, 11, 16 and 25 (online modules posted).
Exact SP 3.0 sections/pages and short readings will be announced weekly.

Week 1 – Intro & Sociological Imagination

- Tue Aug 26: Syllabus; SP 3.0 – Sociological Imagination; launch Course Survey.
- Thu Aug 28: Applying the imagination to Borderlands (identity, mobility).
- Quiz 1.

Week 2 – Theory Foundations

- Tue Sept 2: Classical/Contemporary Theory (Marx, Durkheim, Weber).
- Thu Sept 4: Simmel, Du Bois, Addams; interactionist & feminist lenses.
- Quiz 2.

Week 3 – Research Methods (ONLINE both meetings)

- Tue Sept 9: Online: Studying the Social World + class survey descriptive stats.
- Thu Sept 11: Online: Intro SNA (affinities demo) + check-in.
- Quiz 3.

Week 3.1 – Interaction & Socialization *(Tue online / Thu in-person)*

- Tue Sept 16: Online: Social Interaction/Socialization + check-in.
- Thu Sept 18: Workshop: Mini-Ethnography design & ethics; teams (for later practicals).

Week 4 — Social Structure & Institutions

- Tue Sept 23: Social Structure (roles, norms, organizations) + Institutions (family, education, economy, state) + Ethics in fieldwork; Mini-Ethnography design.
- Thu Sept 25: In-class Practical — Mini-Ethnography (team work).
    - Assignments: Upload Mini-Ethnography instructions.
- Quiz 4 (Social Structure & Institutions).
    - Due date: Mini-Ethnography report due Sun Oct 5.

Week 5 — Culture

- Tue Sept 30: Culture (symbols, values, subcultures).
- Thu Oct 2: Borderlands culture & media practices.
- Quiz 5.

Week 6 — Economy & Work + StoryMapJS kickoff

- Tue Oct 7: Economy & Work (labor markets; maquila/USMCA).
- Thu Oct 9: StoryMapJS topic proposals & sources check.
- Quiz 6. Proposal due Sun Oct 12.

Week 7 — Race & Ethnicity

- Tue Oct 14: Race & Ethnicity (racialization, immigration).
- Thu Oct 16: Borderlands applications (citizenship, crossing, language).
- Quiz 7.

Week 8 — Gender & Sexualities

- Tue Oct 21: Gender & Sexualities (roles, inequalities).
- Thu Oct 23: Intersectionality and care work in the Borderlands.
- Quiz 8. StoryMapJS project due Sun Oct 26.

Week 9 — Crime & Punishment

- Tue Oct 28: Crime/Deviance & Punishment (institutions & power).
- Thu Oct 30: Militarization, policing, and local public safety debates.
- Quiz 9.

Week 10 — Cities & Communities (+ Podcast)

- Tue Nov 4: Cities & Communities (urban inequality, mobility).
- Thu Nov 6: Group discussion — assigned podcast/short reading.
- Quiz 10.

Week 11 — Health, Inequality & Video-Ethnography Workshop

- Tue Nov 11: Health/Medicine (access, disparities).
- Thu Nov 13: Video-Ethnography workshop (scripting, citation, ethics).
- Quiz 11. Practical 3 assigned.

Week 12 — Social Movements & Change

- Tue Nov 18: Social Movements & Change (frames, resources, examples).
- Thu Nov 20: Team check-in and discussion.
- Quiz 12. Practical 3 due Sun Nov 23.

Week 13 — Review & Thanksgiving

- Tue Nov 25: Review session; optional lightning talks.
- Thu Nov 27: No class — Thanksgiving holiday.
- Quiz 13 (optional/light).

Week 14 — Course Wrap-Up

- Tue Dec 2: Final team lightning talks (optional).
- Thu Dec 4: Course review, exam prep, course evaluations.
- Quiz 14.

Week 15 — Finals Week

- Tue Dec 9: Final Exam (cumulative, mostly MCQ + one applied short item).
- Thu Dec 11: Final grades posted.

Professional Conduct & Netiquette

Come prepared, engage respectfully, and contribute to team tasks. Netiquette applies to all online activities and peer feedback.

Tips for Success

- Talk to me early if you're struggling—don't wait.
- Turn in something even if it's not perfect. A partial grade is better than zero.
- Take advantage of extra credit when available. Small points add up.