

**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY: A Focus on Reproduction  
Spring 2022**

**Course Number:** SOCI 1301 CRN 16170/ WS 2300 CRN 16685

**Time:** TR 1:30-2:50pm

**Location:** Physical Sciences Building 314

**Instructor:** Dr. Ophra Leyser-Whalen

**Email:** [oleyserwhalen@utep.edu](mailto:oleyserwhalen@utep.edu)

**Office:** Old Main 319 or Virtual

**Office Hours:** TR 12-1 pm or by appointment

**TA:** Oscar Bueno Carbajal

**Email:** oibuenocarbaja@miners.utep.edu

**Required materials**

1. OpenStax Introduction to Sociology 3e. This is a free textbook and can be accessed at:  
<https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e>

**This book is referred to as “Soc 3e” in the course schedule.**

- 2) *Reproduction and Society: Interdisciplinary Readings*, by Carole Joffe and Jennifer Reich. ISBN: 978-0-415-73103-4. Available at the UTEP bookstore and through online stores. **A copy of this is also be available in the course reserves at the UTEP library.**

**This book is referred to as “R&S” in the course schedule.**

**Recommended:** A USB drive to store your course documents and/or back up your documents is recommended.

**Course Description**

This course introduces students to the sociological perspective and thinking critically about society. This will be accomplished through studying sociological concepts based on social theory and research on groups and social processes, social inequalities, and social institutions. We will apply these concepts to understand the world around us. To best apply social theory, we will use a medical sociology lens on the issue of what influences reproduction in the United States. We will also take a hands-on approach to learning sociological research through quantitative research methods.

## **Sociological Objectives**

- Students develop a sociological perspective to examine ourselves, others, groups, and society
- Students understand, compare, and contrast the three major sociological perspectives
- Students understand the sociological concepts and contemporary issues concerning the social construction of race, ethnicity, gender, social status, economic class, and reproduction.
- Students become familiar with multiple types of social institutions (economic systems, health, etc.) and their evolution over time
- Students develop a critical understanding of how large-scale social institutions shape our lives and the society in which we live

## **Content-specific Objectives**

- Understand the medicalization of women's bodies
- Understand the economic, political, and social forces that shape reproductive health decisions

## **Research-related Objectives**

- Demonstrate critical thinking and in writing
- Identify strengths and limitations of qualitative and quantitative social science data
- Learn to code qualitative data

You can access this course's Blackboard site through your my.utep.edu portal (use your email address and password to sign in). **As a requirement of this class, you must regularly check your e-mail and our Blackboard site.** Blackboard is where we will post class announcements and assignments. The syllabus and any supplementary course materials will be posted here, along with your grades after each assignment. If you have a question about the course that is not clearly stated in the syllabus, please e-mail your TA directly.

## **Assignments**

Each week's assignments and information about assignments will be in a folder, labelled for the week, on Blackboard. You will have the whole week to complete all assignments.

## Grading

### Assessment

### Grade Percent

#### Online Quizzes

**20%**

Online quizzes will be available every Monday morning and will close at 11:59 pm on Friday.

If you need to take the quiz late, the TA can open the quiz for you. 5% will be deducted for every day the quiz is late.

All online quizzes will cover material from *Introduction to Sociology 3e* book only. (*Also see class schedule below*)

#### Writing Activities

**20%**

In-class or on Blackboard; spaced throughout the semester. In-class assignments cannot be made up.

#### Short Answer Reading Responses

**20%**

Homework for this course will be taken in the form of short answer reading responses. To develop your critical thinking skills, and be an active reader, you are required to write a short answer reading response on each reading from the *R&S* reader. This will be a typed, one (1) page (double spaced) reflection (**per reading**) (*see class schedule below*). This will be due on Sunday of the week at 11:59pm.

If you turn your assignment in late, 5% will be deducted for every day it is late.

Your short answer reading response needs to address:

- In 1-3 paragraphs describe what the main points of the reading were **AND** how the reading relates to the sociology topics from that week's Sociology 3e chapter(s).

#### Final Paper (details on blackboard)

##### Final Paper Draft

**10%**

##### Final Paper

**10%**

##### In-class Presentation of Final Paper Topic

**10%**

##### Reviews of classmates' Presentations

**10%**

The course will be graded on a standard scale: 90+ =A, 80-89 =B, 70-79 =C, 60-69 =D, 59 and below is an F. "Satisfactory" is a 70% or above.

**\*We aim to provide feedback on your submitted work within a week. You are responsible for checking your email and Blackboard course site regularly. \***

**Online Etiquette:** Unprofessional behavior or cyber-harassment will not be tolerated. This includes cyberbullying, cyberstalking, and flaming.

**Drop Policy:** We will NOT drop students from the course. If a student chooses to drop the course, it is the student's responsibility to do so. Failure to do so will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

**Making up work:** You may submit work late but you lose 5% off the grade every day that it is late.

### **Academic Integrity**

This course is based on the principle of academic integrity. Students are responsible for their own academic behavior, and for making themselves fully aware of UTEP's policies. Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student and possessing unauthorized materials during a test. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students' Office for disciplinary action. In addition to receiving a failing grade in the class, the student may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Further information can be gained from the UTEP Dean of Students' web page. Go to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/>, then click the Student Conduct tab on the top.

### **Disability**

Any student with a disability that may prevent her/him/them from fully demonstrating her/his/their abilities should contact the instructors as soon as possible to discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate educational opportunity. 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). This should be done within the first 2 weeks of classes.

### **Title IX Statement**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities operated by recipients of Federal financial assistance. Sexual harassment of students, which includes acts of sexual violence, is a form of sex

discrimination prohibited by Title IX. Sexual violence refers to physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim's use of drugs or alcohol. An individual also may be unable to give consent due to an intellectual or other disability.

A number of different acts fall into the category of sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual coercion, stalking, and relationship violence. All such acts of sexual violence are forms of sexual harassment covered under Title IX.

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, UTEP does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the operation of its educational programs and activities. This commitment to non-discrimination applies to both employment in and admission to such programs and activities. [Link to full text at <http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=68750>]

### **Tips for Success**

- If you are having a problem with the class, let the instructor know *as soon as possible*. It is difficult to fix a problem from week 4 when you let us know in week 14.
- Do all assignments. Even if you think it's not your best work, a 5 out of 10 is still better than a 0 out of 10. Those little points add up and give you a better grade than if you do nothing. You will also get more from the class and understand more as a whole if you engage with the materials.
- Utilise the University Writing Center. Points are not deducted for poor writing on short answer assignments (but they are on the final paper), but if we cannot understand what you're saying, we cannot give you a good grade. Even if you think you're a good writer, it's worth checking out as there is always more to learn.
- Take advantage of Extra Credit opportunities where possible. Those little points here and there make a big difference!

**SEMESTER CALENDAR** (Subject to Change)

| <b>Week</b>             | <b>Dates</b>  | <b>Readings Due</b>  | <b>Assignments</b>   |
|-------------------------|---------------|--|--|
| <b>Week 1: Intro</b>    | Aug 28-Sept 1 | Syllabus<br>SOC 3e, Ch. 1<br><br>R&S, Ch. 1 The Folklore of Birth Control  | Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 1<br>Short Answer: R&S Chapter 1              |
| <b>Week 2: Culture</b>  | Sept 5-8      | SOC 3e, Ch. 3<br><br>R&S, Ch. 18 Contested Conceptions and Misconceptions<br><br>R&S, Ch. 19 Motherhood Lost: Cultural Dimension of Miscarriage and Stillbirths in America   | Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 3<br>Short Answers: R&S Chapters 18, 19       |
| <b>Week 3: Deviance</b> | Sept 11-15    | SOC 3e, Ch. 7<br><br>R&S, Ch. 6 Practice Constraints and the Institutionalized Buck-Passing of Abortion Care<br><br>R&S, Ch. 7 Rethinking the Mantra that Abortion should be “Safe, Legal, and Rare”<br><br>R&S, Ch. 23 <i>Roe v. Wade</i> and the new Jane Crow<br><br>R&S, Ch. 25 Disabled Women and Reproductive Rights | Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 7<br>Short Answers: R&S Chapters 6, 7, 23, 25 |

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| <b>Week 4: Race &amp; Ethnicity</b>              | Sept 18-22   | SOC 3e, Ch. 11<br><br>R&S, Ch. 3 The Fertility of Women of Mexican Origin<br><br>R&S, Ch. 8 Race, Reproductive Politics and Reproductive Health Care in the Contemporary U.S<br><br>R&S, Ch. 15 Reproduction in Bondage | Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 11<br><br>Short Answers: R&S Chapters 3, 8, 15 |
| <b>Week 5: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality</b>        | Sept 25-29   | SOC 3e, Ch. 12<br><br>R&S, Ch. 9 Not Ready to Fill His Father's Shoes   | Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 12<br><br>Short Answer: R&S Chapter 9          |
| <b>Week 6: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality Cont'd</b> | Oct 2-6      | R&S, Ch. 11 Selling Genes, Selling Gender<br><br>R&S, Ch. 30 Female Feticide and Infanticide  | Short Answers: R&S Chapters 11, 30                                  |
| <b>Week 7: Health &amp; Medicine</b>             | Oct 9-13     | SOC 3e, Ch. 19<br><br>R&S, Ch. 5 A Selection from Doctors of Conscience   | Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 19<br><br>Short Answer: R&S Chapter 5          |
| <b>Week 8: Health &amp; Medicine Cont'd</b>      | Oct 16-20    | R&S, Ch. 16 Maternal Mortality in the United States<br><br>R&S, Ch. 21 The Liability Threat in Obstetrics   | Short Answers: R&S Chapters 16, 21                                  |
| <b>Week 9: Research Week</b>                     | Oct 23-27    | Soc 3e Ch. 2  | Quiz: Soc 3e Ch 2<br><br><b>Meet in Library Room 204B</b>           |
| <b>Week 10: Gov't and Politics</b>               | Oct 30-Nov 3 | SOC 3e, Ch. 17<br><br>R&S, Ch. 28 Thinking Beyond ICPD+10<br><br>R&S, Ch. 29 The Globalization of the Culture Wars  | Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 17<br><br>Short Answers: R&S Chapters 28, 29   |

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| <b>Week 11:<br/>Work &amp;<br/>Economy</b>                                    | Nov 6-10     | SOC 3e, Ch. 18<br><br>R&S, Ch. 4 The Economic Impact of the Pill<br><br>R&S, Ch. 12 India's Reproductive Assembly Line<br><br>R&S, Ch. 22 Invisible Immigrants   | Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 18<br><br>Short Answers: R&S Chapters 4, 12, 22  |
| <b>Week 12:<br/>Education</b>   | Nov 13-17    | SOC 3e, Ch. 16   | Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 16<br><br><b>Paper Draft Due</b>   |
| <b>Week 13:<br/>Relationships,<br/>Marriage &amp;<br/>Family</b>              | Nov 20-22    | SOC 3e, Ch.14<br><br>R&S, Ch. 13 Debates over Lesbian Reproduction within Lesbian/Gay and Feminist Communities<br><br>R&S, Ch. 14 The Belly Mommy and the Fetus Sitter<br><br>R&S, Ch. 26 Motherhood as Class Privilege in America | Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 14 (note this is due on Sunday due to Thanksgiving break)<br><br>Short Answers: R&S Chapters 13, 14, 26<br><br><b>No Class on Thursday—<br/>Thanksgiving break</b> |
| <b>Week 14:<br/>Social<br/>Movements<br/>and Social<br/>Change</b>            | Nov 27-Dec 1 | Soc 3e, Ch 21<br><br>R&S, Ch. 27 Reproductive Justice  | Quiz: Soc 3e Ch 21<br><br>Short Answer: R&S Chapter 27<br><br>*In Class Presentations*  |
| <b>Week 15:<br/>Population,<br/>Urbanization,<br/>and the<br/>Environment</b> | Dec 4-7      | Soc 3e, Ch. 20<br><br>R&S, Ch. 20 The Risks to Reproductive Health and Fertility   | Quiz: Soc 3e Ch 20 (note that the quiz is due on Thursday because Friday is dead day)<br><br>Short Answer: R&S Chapter 20<br><br>*In Class Presentations*                               |
| <b>Finals</b>   | Dec 14       |  | <b>Final Paper Due</b>  |