

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

Course Number: SOCI 1301 CRN 24315/ WS 2300 CRN 22902

Time: TR 1:30-2:50pm

Location: LART 307

Instructor: Dr. Ophra Leyser-Whalen

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Office Hours: TR 11-11:30 am or by appointment

TA: Ana Fuentes

Email: afuentes9@miners.utep.edu

Office: Center for Inter-American Border Studies or Virtual

Office Hours: MW 1-1:30 pm or by appointment

Required materials

1. FlexEd Introduction to Sociology 3e. We will use FlexEd for the textbook and for our graded assessments. The FlexEd platform also includes very useful videos, study tools, and additional practice activities for every chapter in the textbook.

Please follow these instructions to purchase and access FlexEd:

- Use the FlexEd link included in our Blackboard course page to access FlexEd.
- The first time you login to FlexEd from the link in Blackboard, your FlexEd account will be automatically created for you. From the date of your first login, you will have a 14-day free trial period. You can pay the \$29.00 cost by credit card in the FlexEd platform at any point during the 14-day trial period.

Here's the site and the course code:

<https://flexed.xanedu.com/#/register/61ae46a0fec66457b51319ef>

Enrollment code: 89c0ed

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. 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.

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).

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, 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. 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)

Week	Dates	Readings Due	Assignments
Week 1: Intro	Jan 18-21	Syllabus SOC 3e, Ch. 1 R&S, Ch. 1 The Folklore of Birth Control	Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 1 Short Answer: R&S Chapter 1
Week 2: Culture	Jan 24-28	SOC 3e, Ch. 3 R&S, Ch. 18 Contested Conceptions and Misconceptions R&S, Ch. 19 Motherhood Lost: Cultural Dimension of Miscarriage and Stillbirths in America	Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 3 Short Answers: R&S Chapters 18, 19
Week 3: Deviance	Jan 31- Feb 4	SOC 3e, Ch. 7 R&S, Ch. 6 Practice Constraints and the Institutionalized Buck-Passing of Abortion Care R&S, Ch. 7 Rethinking the Mantra that Abortion should be “Safe, Legal, and Rare” R&S, Ch. 23 <i>Roe v. Wade</i> and the new Jane Crow R&S, Ch. 25 Disabled Women and Reproductive Rights	Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 7 Short Answers: R&S Chapters 6, 7, 23, 25

Week 4: Race & Ethnicity	Feb 7-11	SOC 3e, Ch. 11 R&S, Ch. 3 The Fertility of Women of Mexican Origin R&S, Ch. 8 Race, Reproductive Politics and Reproductive Health Care in the Contemporary U.S R&S, Ch. 15 Reproduction in Bondage	Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 11 Short Answers: R&S Chapters 3, 8, 15
Week 5: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality	Feb 14-18	SOC 3e, Ch. 12 R&S, Ch. 9 Not Ready to Fill His Father's Shoes	Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 12 Short Answer: R&S Chapter 9
Week 6: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality Cont'd	Feb 21-25	R&S, Ch. 11 Selling Genes, Selling Gender R&S, Ch. 30 Female Feticide and Infanticide	Short Answers: R&S Chapters 11, 30
Week 7: Health & Medicine	Feb 28-Mar 4	SOC 3e, Ch. 19 R&S, Ch. 5 A Selection from Doctors of Conscience	Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 19 Short Answer: R&S Chapter 5
Week 8: Health & Medicine Cont'd	March 7-11	R&S, Ch. 16 Maternal Mortality in the United States R&S, Ch. 21 The Liability Threat in Obstetrics	Short Answers: R&S Chapters 16, 21
Week 9: SPRING BREAK	Mar 14-18		
Week 10: Research Week	Mar 21-24	Soc 3e Ch. 2	Quiz: Soc 3e Ch 2

Week 11: Gov't and Politics	Mar 28-Apr 1	SOC 3e, Ch. 17 R&s, Ch. 28 Thinking Beyond ICPD+10 R&S, Ch. 29 The Globalization of the Culture Wars	Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 17 Short Answers: R&S Chapters 28, 29
Week 12: Relationships, Marriage & Family	Apr 4-8	SOC 3e, Ch.14 R&S, Ch. 13 Debates over Lesbian Reproduction within Lesbian/Gay and Feminist Communities R&S, Ch. 14 The Belly Mommy and the Fetus Sitter R&S, Ch. 26 Motherhood as Class Privilege in America	Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 14 Short Answers: R&S Chapters 13, 14, 26
Week 13: Education	Apr 11-14	SOC 3e, Ch. 16	Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 16 Paper Draft Due
Week 14: Work & Economy	Apr 18-22	SOC 3e, Ch. 18 R&S, Ch. 4 The Economic Impact of the Pill R&S, Ch. 12 India's Reproductive Assembly Line R&S, Ch. 22 Invisible Immigrants	Quiz: Soc 3e Chapter 18 Short Answers: R&S Chapters 4, 12, 22
Week 15: Population, Urbanization, and the Environment	Apr 25-29	Soc 3e, Ch. 20 R&S, Ch. 20 The Risks to Reproductive Health and Fertility	Quiz: Soc 3e Ch 20 Short Answer: R&S Chapter 20 *In Class Presentations*

Week 16: Social Movements and Social Change	May 2-5	Soc 3e, Ch 21 R&S, Ch. 27 Reproductive Justice	Quiz: Soc 3e Ch 21 Short Answer: R&S Chapter 27 *In Class Presentations*
Finals			Final Paper Due