

# INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

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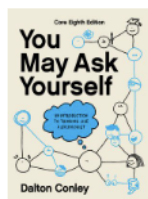
Office Hours: Monday/Wednesdays 9:30am-10:30am

## Course Summary

In this class, you will learn about the basic principles and theories of sociology. You will explore how society functions, including the various social structures and institutions that shape our lives. You will also examine how individuals and groups interact within society, and how social factors influence our behaviors, beliefs, and identities. This class will help you develop a sociological imagination, which is the ability to see the connections between personal experiences and the broader social and historical context. Throughout the course, you will explore a wide range of social issues and topics that are relevant to understanding society. These include class inequality, racial and ethnic relations, deviance and social control, sexuality and gender, religion and spirituality, education and socialization, health and healthcare systems, media and technology, and environmental concerns. By studying these topics, you will gain a deeper understanding of the social forces that shape our lives and the world we live in.

Overall, this class offers a valuable opportunity to explore the fundamental principles of sociology and gain a deeper understanding of society and the individual. It will provide you with knowledge and tools that can be applied to various aspects of your life, empowering you to navigate the social world more effectively.

## Required Text



### **You May Ask Yourself**

Core Eighth Edition  
by Dalton Conley

*You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking like a Sociologist* by Dalton Conley **CORE** 8th Edition (Norton)

## Course Description

This is an asynchronous course that will require you to check blackboard a few times a week. You **MUST** read! This class will consist of writing assignments, check-ins, and online discussions. Announcements will be posted to update you with deadlines and opportunities weekly. Every Monday you will receive an email with updates and reminders for the week. All

assignments are due Saturday before midnight. Late submissions will not be accepted unless there is an emergency and documentation is provided. If you need to contact me please email me to [olochoa2@utep.edu](mailto:olochoa2@utep.edu) and I will get back to you before the end of the day.

### **Course Requirements**

**All rubrics for the following course requirements are below. After the course calendar.**

#### **1. Check-Ins (50 points= 300 points)**

All check-ins include multiple choice questions. They will be timed and must be completed once started. Check-ins will be on the chapter or chapters reviewed during that week.

#### **2. Discussions (25 each= 200)**

Every week you will be required to participate on a discussion board. In order to receive full credit you will be required to answer questions in your own words in an acceptable level of quality and reply to two responses from your classmates. You will have to create a new thread and answer the questions before being able to view other classmate responses. There will be a total of 8 discussions. The following is a rubric of how your discussions will be graded:

#### **3. Chapter Assignments (100 points = 200)**

In this course, there will be two chapter assignments which serve as opportunities for you to apply the knowledge you have acquired. These assignments will require you to demonstrate your understanding and comprehension of the topics covered throughout the unit. It is important to note that these assignments must adhere to the guidelines APA format.

When it comes to the formatting requirements, ensure that the font size is set to 12, specifically using Times New Roman font. Furthermore, your document should be double-spaced, providing appropriate spacing between lines.

APA citations are a crucial component of academic writing. In order to receive full credit for your unit assignments, it is essential to include in-text citations to support and acknowledge any information, ideas, or quotes that you have obtained from external sources. Neglecting to provide proper in-text citations may result in a deduction of 30 points automatically, so it is important to be diligent and accurate in your referencing.

- **Social Norm Observation :** You are required to complete one fieldwork assignment. This fieldwork assignment requires you to observe some aspect of the social world and write a paper linking your observations to the course material. It is recommended you go somewhere you have never been before. Further guidelines will be provided the week of the assignment.
- **Gender in the Toy Aisle:** You will visit the aisle of a toy store and write a 2 page paper, double spaced, times new roman, 12 size font telling me your observations on how they market toys for specific genders. Use the chapter on gender from your work to make

connections to the text for FULL credit. Include ONE picture of the toy aisle you visited.

**4. Final Exam (100 points) :** This exam will consist of multiple-choice questions and a short-constructed response. Possible short-constructed responses are the following:

- Discuss the role of socialization in maintaining societal norms and values. Provide examples of how different agents of socialization (e.g., family, media, peers) shape individual behavior.
- Analyze the causes and consequences of social inequality in the U.S. How do race, gender, and class intersect to create disparities in opportunities and outcomes?

### **Academic Integrity**

To excel in this class and achieve a high grade, it is important to dedicate time and effort to your studies. Keeping up with the assigned readings and materials is crucial for success. It will enhance your understanding of the subject matter and allow you to actively participate in class discussions and assignments. Plagiarism, or using someone else's work without proper acknowledgment, will not be tolerated. It is important to respect your own work and the work of others by properly referencing any sources used.

Additionally, following all guidelines for writing assignments and other tasks is crucial. Not meeting the required length for papers or failing to adhere to the specified formatting and citation style may result in a lower grade. Therefore, pay close attention to the instructions provided for each assignment and ensure that you fulfill all requirements. Respecting your peers is essential in creating a positive and conducive learning environment.

Grades in this class are based on a point system, meaning that the more points you accumulate, the higher your grade will be. By adhering to these guidelines and committing to your studies, you can expect to succeed in this class and achieve a high grade.

### **Late work**

NO LATE WORK ACCEPTABLE in this course. Meeting deadlines for assignments is a strict requirement for this course. While there may be exceptional circumstances that could warrant an extension, they will be infrequent and granted only in rare cases in which you must provide documentation.

### **Technical Problems**

I recommend NOT using Internet explorer or Safari when using blackboard for better internet connection use Google chrome or Firefox. Call the HELP DESK if you have any technical problems.

### **Drop Rule**

If you make the decision to drop the course, it is your responsibility to do so. I will not drop the course for you. Failure to do so may result in a grade of “F” on the student’s academic record. Students are limited to a six course drop during their academic career. There are a few exceptions that may allow a student to drop a course without having it counted toward the six-drop limit. For more information on that check the UTEP’s academic website.

**Note: 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.**

### **Grades**

All grades will be posted on blackboard. The following will be used to determine grades:

<b>Course Grade</b>	<b>Total Points</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
A	800-712	100-89 %
B	711-632	88-79%
C	631-552	78-69%
D	551-472	68-59%
F	471-below	58- 0%

### **ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES**

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort before the due date!

### **Guidance on Artificial Intelligence**

#### **AI prohibited**

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as [ChatGPT](#) or

**DALL-E**, is *not allowed* for assignments in this class. Each student is expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR). **THIS INCLUDES GRAMMARLY. DO NOT USE GRAMMARLY** or my programs will detect it as AI, because it is. I understand it serves a different purpose, but due to the high use of AI programs to generate discussions no grammarly is allowed.

### **AI allowed with proper acknowledgement**

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as **ChatGPT** or **DALL-E**, is *only allowed with proper attribution given for its use*.

Students must properly cite and give full credit to the program used upon submission of every relevant assignment. For example, text generated using ChatGPT must be cited:

Chat-GPT(version). Date of query (year/month/day). “Text of your query.”  
Generated using OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

### **Using AI for brainstorming**

Some AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as **ChatGPT** or **DALL-E**, can be beneficial during the early brainstorming stages of an activity, and you are welcome to explore them for that purpose. However, keep in mind that AI-generated ideas are not your own and may hinder your ability to think critically and creatively about a problem. It is also important to remember that these technologies often “hallucinate” or produce materials and information that are inaccurate or incomplete—even providing false citations for use. That said, you are not allowed to submit any AI-generated work in this course as your own. If you use any information or materials created by AI technology, you are required to cite it like you would any other source. Consider how this will affect your credibility as a writer and scholar before doing so. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

## EXTRA CREDIT

This is the only extra credit opportunity that will be offered for the class. You must complete 15 hours of community service through UTEP. If you are interested in obtaining this extra credit log in to “the cue” using your utep email. You will receive an additional 100 points on your final grade. This course is based on a point system, 100 points could change your final letter grade.

This is not something you can leave at the last minute, so if you are considering the extra credit, reach out as soon as possible. The cue is the website used to explore where you can do community service and keep track of your hours. Download and email me your hours when completed. The website is:

<https://utep.givepulse.com/>



**The Cue: Community University Engagement**

**What is The Cue?**  
The CUE is a revolutionary website created to facilitate connections between universities and their community's non-profit organizations.

**What does it do?**

- Displays various volunteering and internship options.
- Offers service opportunities that may range from a day-long event to an on-going commitment.
- Allows students to sign up for said opportunities and track their volunteering or Service-Learning hours.

UTEP's **Project Move**, an annual day of community service, is processed through The Cue.

**How to get access?**  
Visit [cue.utep.edu](http://cue.utep.edu) to create an account.

**As a student:**

- Step 1) Click the SIGN UP button on the upper right corner
- Step 2) Provide your information in order to create the account.
- Step 3) Once you have registered, look for the on the left side tab that reads "SERVICE LEARNING COURSE LINKS".
- Step 4) Select your SL class Note: Some professors may have more than one courses, so ensure that you are selecting the right class.

**As an agency:**

In order to create your organization's profile, first you have to create a personal account.

- Step 1) Click the SIGN UP button on the upper right corner
- Step 2) Provide your personal information in order to create an account. Note: Enter 000000 for UTEP ID
- Step 3) Log out once you are registered.
- Step 4) Click the SIGN UP button on the upper right corner, then follow the "Want to sign up your agency?" link, underneath Create an Account.
- Step 5) Once your request has been reviewed, you will receive an email with instructions on how to manage your profile.

**Questions? Don't hesitate to contact us!**  
Center for Civic Engagement  
Benedict Hall room 101  
ph:(915) 747-7969  
cce@utep.edu



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO  
**CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

## COURSE CALENDAR

WEEKS	ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATES
WEEK 1	<b>Introduction to Sociology Syllabus</b> <b>Chapter 1: The Sociological Imagination</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussion #1: Introductions</li> <li>● Syllabus Check-In #1</li> <li>● Discussion #2</li> </ul>	<b>January 25, 2025</b>
WEEK 2	<b>Chapter 2: Methods</b> <b>Chapter 3: Culture and Media</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussion #3</li> <li>● Check-In #2</li> <li>● Fieldwork Paper</li> </ul>	<b>February 1, 2025</b>
WEEK 3	<b>Chapter 4: Socialization and Construction of Reality</b> <b>Chapter 5: Groups and Networks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussion 4</li> <li>● Check-In #3</li> </ul>	<b>February 8, 2025</b>
WEEK 4	<b>Chapter 6: Social Control and Deviance</b> <b>Chapter 7: Stratification</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussion #5</li> <li>● Check-in #4</li> </ul>	<b>February 15, 2025</b>
WEEK 5	<b>Chapter 8: Gender</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussion #6</li> <li>● Check-In #5</li> <li>● Gender in the Toy Aisle</li> </ul>	<b>February 22, 2025</b>
WEEK 6	<b>Chapter 9: Race</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussion #7</li> <li>● Check-In #6</li> </ul>	<b>March 1, 2025</b>
WEEK 7	<b>Chapter 10: Family</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FINAL EXAM</li> </ul>	<b>March 8, 2025</b>

### Discussions Rubric

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	25 POINTS
Engagement with Two other people	Responds meaningfully to two classmates' posts with thoughtful insights, questions, or extensions. Contributes to advancing the discussion.	<b>5</b>
	Responds to two classmates' posts with relevant comments or questions but lacks depth or does not fully advance the discussion.	<b>4</b>
	Responds to only one classmate's post or both responses are superficial and do not contribute meaningfully.	<b>1</b>
	Does not respond to classmates' posts.	<b>0</b>
Citing in APA Format	Accurately cites all required references in APA format. Includes in-text citations and a reference list where applicable.	<b>8</b>
	Minor APA formatting errors but citations are present and understandable.	<b>6</b>
	Several APA formatting errors or missing minor elements.	<b>4</b>
	Minimal attempt at APA citation; significant errors or omissions.	<b>1</b>
	No citations or references provided when required.	<b>0</b>
Quality of Writing	Writing is clear, concise, and free of grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. Ideas are well-organized.	<b>6</b>
	Writing is mostly clear but includes minor errors that do not interfere with comprehension. Organization could be improved.	<b>4</b>
	Writing contains frequent errors that make it difficult to follow. Poor organization detracts from clarity.	<b>2</b>
	Writing is unclear or incoherent due to numerous errors.	<b>0</b>
Full Response to Prompt	Fully addresses all parts of the prompt with detailed and relevant responses. Ideas are well-supported with examples.	<b>6</b>
	Addresses most parts of the prompt but lacks depth or detail in some areas.	<b>4</b>
	Addresses only a portion of the prompt or provides vague, unsupported responses.	<b>2</b>
	Does not address the prompt or provides an irrelevant response.	<b>0</b>



## Chapter Assignments Rubric

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	100 POINTS
Writing Quality & Organization	Responses are exceptionally well-written, clear, concise, and logically organized. Free of grammatical and spelling errors	<b>30</b>
	Responses are clear and organized, with minor grammatical or spelling errors that do not affect readability.	<b>25</b>
	Responses are somewhat clear but may lack organization or contain frequent grammatical/spelling errors.	<b>20</b>
	Responses are unclear, disorganized, or contain numerous grammatical/spelling errors.	<b>10</b>
Formatting	Response fully adheres to APA format (double spaced, size 12 font, cover page, reference page, 1-inch margins).	<b>10</b>
	APA formatting is mostly correct with a few minor errors.	<b>8</b>
	APA formatting errors are frequent but do not severely impact readability.	<b>6</b>
	Minimal adherence to APA formatting or no attempt to format per APA guidelines	<b>2</b>
Citing	Includes in-text citations and a complete reference list in APA format. Makes explicit connections to the textbook and demonstrates thoughtful integration of course materials. Additional sources are properly cited.	<b>40</b>
	Includes citations and a reference list with minor errors. Textbook connections are present but may lack depth.	<b>35</b>
	Limited or inconsistent use of citations and references. Textbook connections are minimal or unclear.	<b>20</b>
	No in-text citations or references provided; textbook not used or connected.	<b>0</b>
Adherence to Instructions	Fully adheres to all instructions, including length requirements and required place/event visits (if applicable). Completes the assignment thoroughly and thoughtfully.	<b>20</b>
	Adheres to most instructions but may miss minor elements.	<b>15</b>
	Partially follows instructions; significant components are incomplete or missing.	<b>10</b>
	Does not follow instructions; minimal effort or incomplete.	<b>0</b>

