

# University of Texas at El Paso

## Introduction to Sociology

### **SOCIO 1301: Introduction to Sociology**

Instructor: Olga Ochoa

Phone: make an appointment

Office Hours: Schedule Phone Call

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### **I. Course Summary**

This class offers an introduction to the basic nature of society and the relationship between society and the individual. Sociology is a unique attraction compared to many of the courses you might take in college. Doing sociology means studying ourselves. You might be familiar with a lot of the topics of this course yet you might find others that you aren't familiar with. You will be introduced to key issues addressed by contemporary sociologists: class, race, deviance, sexuality, religion, education, health, media, environment, and more. The sociological imagination provides us with knowledge and understanding of our surroundings and social world surpassing our social experiences. Sociology will leave you with knowledge that you can apply daily. Knowledge that will help you understand where you fall in the bigger picture.

### **II. Required Text**

*You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking like a Sociologist* by Dalton Conley 7<sup>th</sup> Edition (Norton)

### **III. Course Description**

This is an asynchronous online course and it will require students checking their blackboard a few times a week! This class will consist of writing assignments, exams, journals, and online discussions. I will post announcements to keep you updated with deadlines and opportunities weekly. Every Monday you will an email from me letting you know what you have to read and complete by the end of the week. If you need to contact me please email me to [olochoa2@utep.edu](mailto:olochoa2@utep.edu) and I will get back to you within the hour or as soon as possible. I will provide you with my number DO NOT call me but you are welcome to text me, if I have not responded to your email or if you need immediate assistance.

### **IV. Course Objectives**

- Students will gain a concrete idea of what sociology is and how it operates as a social science. • Understand different theoretical perspectives and research methods within the field of Sociology. Students will learn to understand the different approaches to framing, researching, and understanding of a variety of social topics.
- Expand knowledge of current and past social, political, and economic issues and trends. Students will gain an understanding of how their individual behavior connects with the bigger picture.
- Have an understanding of the sociological imagination, which students will learn to apply when working on their observation assignment.

### **V. Course Requirements**

#### **Syllabus Assignment (100)**

This assignment will be given in the first week of class. Its goal is to make you familiar with deadlines, assignment expectations, and overall the expectations of this course. It will consist of short answer questions.

## Chapter Assignments (100 points each=400points)

- **Utilizing Secondary Research:** Many students struggle with secondary research because it may seem like the most “boring” research method. However, secondary research is used a lot in sociology and even journalism. A good example would be Emile Durkheim’s early work on suicide using secondary data. Students will look at secondary data and write their responses. Further instructions on the assignment post.
- **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.
- **Education Infographic/Poster:** Create a poster or infographic that addresses the major sociological issues related to education equity at your school. This can be done as a powerpoint slide or a poster which you will take a picture and upload. Further guidelines and resources will be found on assignment post in Blackboard.
- **World Religions:** Choose a world religion to research, and briefly discuss religious experiences, beliefs, and rituals to which the religion subscribes. Use APA citations to cite your sources and write a 200-300 page paper, 12 size font, times new roman, double-spaced.

## Exams (100 each= 300 points)

All exams will include multiple choice questions. Exams will be timed and must be completed once started. You will have a total of 3.

## Discussions (10 each= 120)

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 10 discussions. This will not only show me if you are comprehending the material but will be a way for you to interact with your classmates online.

## Grades

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

Course Grade	Total Points	Percentages
A	920-818	100-89 %
B	817-726	88-79%
C	725-634	78-69%
D	633-542	68-59%
F	541-below	58- 0%

## VI. Academic Integrity

Students must put in time and effort if you expect a high grade in this class. Keeping up with readings is essential to the success of this course. Students must present their own effort in all assignments and exams. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Respect your work and the work of others by referencing their work when used. Make sure to follow all guidelines for writing assignments and other assignments or you will lose points.

Completing the length of your papers is very important and not completing the required length will result in a lower grade. Meeting deadlines for all assignments is a requirement to this course and very few exceptions will be made. Treat each other with respect at all times. Last, make sure to maintain all discussions online professional and approach every response academically. If you want a high grade in the course you must complete every single assignment. Failing to complete one assignment you will lose points. Grades are based on a point system. The more points you score the higher the grade.

### **VII. Late work**

Late work is unacceptable. The only exception to late work is in case of an emergency and you must provide documentation. I suggest printing the class schedule so that you can keep track of the due dates for all assignments.

### **VIII. 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.

### **IX. 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 to be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.**

**COURSE SCHEDULE: All assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm**

WEEKS	READINGS ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATES
WEEK 1	Introduction to Syllabus <input type="checkbox"/> WATCH Class Orientation <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #1 <input type="checkbox"/> Syllabus Assignment	August 27, 2022
WEEK 2	Chapter 1: The Sociological Imagination <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #2	September 3, 2022
WEEK 3	Chapter 2: Methods <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #3 <b>→ Utilizing Secondary Research</b>	September 10, 2022
WEEK 4	Chapter 3: Culture and Media <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #4	September 17, 2022
WEEK 5	Chapter 4: Socialization and the Construction of Reality * * * * * EXAM #1 * * * * * * * * *	September 24, 2022
WEEK 6	Chapter 5: Groups and Networks <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #5	October 1, 2022
WEEK 7	Chapter 6: Social Control and Deviance <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #6	October 8, 2022
WEEK 8	Chapter 7: Stratification Chapter 8: Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #7 <b>→ Gender in the Toy Aisle</b>	October 15, 2022
WEEK 9	Chapter 9: Race <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #8	October 22, 2022
	Chapter 10: Poverty * * * * * EXAM #2 * * * * * * * * *	October 29, 2022
WEEK 11	Chapter 11: Health and Science <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #9	November 5, 2022
WEEK 12	Chapter 12: Family <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #10	November 12, 2022

WEEK 13	Chapter 13: Education <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #11 <b>→ Education Infographic/Poster:</b>	November 19, 2022
WEEK 14	Chapter 14: Capitalism and Economy	November 26, 2022
WEEK 15	Chapter 16: Religion <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #12 <b>→ World Religions</b>	December 3, 2022
WEEK 16	<b>***** EXAM #3*****</b>	December 8, 2022 THURSDAY