Instructor: James Harris

Contact Number: 214-860-8869

Email: Ayre.Harris@untdallas.edu Please use this email address for corresponding with me. DO NOT submit assignments to this email address. Please submit ONLY YOUR ASSIGNMENTS to this address: unt3000@yahoo.com

Class Meeting Times:
Distance Learning/ Internet Class

Office Hours:
By appointment.

Textbook and Materials:
Marriage, Family and Intimate Relationships
Williams, Sawyer, and Wahlstrom
ISBN # 978-0-205-71780-4

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<th>Access to Learning Resources:</th>
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Course Description:

This is a sociological study of social behavior, processes and structures. Emphasizing sensitivity and commonality among human beings. Topics are examined through several sociological perspectives, encouraging critical thinking and personal responsibility as we discuss topics both current and controversial. In essence, to question how we think, not what we think about our social world. This is a 3 hour course.

Course Objective:

Students should illustrate a general understanding of sociological theorist, their contributions (theories) and how their theoretical perspectives attempt to explain society and social behavior. Students should be able to generate conclusions and opinions towards social issues, while being socially and culturally sensitive, and respectable to others ideas, beliefs, customs, and attitudes.

Course Prerequisites:

Developmental Reading 0093, or English as a Second Language (ESOL), or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard for reading and writing.

Intellectual Competencies:

More so than ever before, the workforce requires intelligent and competent individuals to understand and accept the need for both social and cultural diversity. Those individuals who can convey those concepts and ideas, in an educated and professional manner, improves the working environment for both themselves and their peers. The following objectives are designed to improve such skills.

Critical Thinking- Critiquing information and generating a rational and logical conclusion, which may include the student defending their position through discussion and debate.

Use of Instructional Technology- Some assignments may require students to use instructional technology to facilitate classroom discussions and presentations.

Reading- Comprehend information provided through textbooks, class handouts, and research articles.

Writing- Express and defend personal opinions and ideas through, essays, and other written assignments.

Speaking- Illustrate understanding of subject matter through logical, rational and scientific reasoning.

Exemplary Educational Objectives/ Student Learning Outcomes
To examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures and cultures.

To use and critique alternatives explanatory systems and theories.

Identify and discuss the field of sociology, its methods, theories and key sociologist who have made significant contributions.

To identify and understand differences and commonalities within diverse cultures.

**Assignments and Grading:**

Students' grades will be determined by the following:

**10 scheduled quizzes:** Each will consist of 8 questions. I would like for the students to expound on the question using their own opinion and ideas. Give me, the reader, new information I may not find in the book! The quizzes will cover one chapter each. I will post the quiz as an "assignment" and students can access them by clicking to the "Assignment" area.

Each question on each quiz is worth up to 4 points for a total of 32 points. Students will receive 3 more points for completing all 8 questions, for a total for up to 35 points for each quiz. Please include the questions with your responses when you submit your quizzes.

Please check the Course Calendar to see when quizzes will be posted and when they are due. **Each assignment will due by 10pm that day.** Again, please submit your assignments as an email attachment to: untd3000@yahoo.com

Please keep in mind that I use the quizzes as the primary source for grading. Please do not write directly from the textbook. You can use the textbook to answer the questions, but I expect students to expound on each question using their own opinion. **Please supplement the essays with information from the textbook and your own opinions. I already know what the author has said, I want to know what you have to say!**

**Attention:** Students using electronic textbooks should be warned not "cut and paste" information from the text. This is a violation of both the Student Code of Conduct and copyright laws. Students caught doing at any time in the semester will be removed from the course.

I will post the essay questions under the "Assignments" tab. Please refer to your calendar to see when quizzes are due.

Students will complete all 10 quizzes. **Each quiz is worth up to 35 points,** for a maximum total of 350 quiz points.

**Remember this is not a self-paced course, please submit your assignments by the due dates, on-time.** Quizzes are due by 10pm on their due dates.

**Please submit your assignments in RTF (Rich Text Format).** This makes the assignments compatible to my computer, therefore making them easier to open and grade.

**Scoring Guide**

Use the following guide to better understand how I scored each quiz.
1. If you score a 35, excellent job..you addressed every part of each question on that particular quiz.

2. If you score between 34 and 30, great job....you may need to expound a little more on some of the questions.

3. If you score between 29 and 25, good job..you may need to expound on a few of the questions.

4. If you score between 24 and 20, average..you may have submitted information straight from the book, adding very little insight.

5. If you score between 19 and 15, poor ....you may have submitted minimal information to address the question, with no insight.

6. If you score between 14 and 10, bad .....little effort was given to the assignment.

7. If you score between 9 and 0...no effort was given to the quiz. No effort at answering all the questions, and no insight.

10 written assignments:

Throughout each chapter, you will find the following topics:

Popular Culture and the Media

Numbers that Matter

Practical Action

Students can choose any one topic found in any of the chapters covered this semester to write what I call a "reaction paper"

A reaction paper is a written paper in which students use critical thinking to illustrate their understanding of a particular subject matter.

Select a topic and express your opinion. I, as the instructor, am not looking for anything in particular in the reaction papers, I simply use them to access how you apply critical thinking skills to different topics. Papers can be either objective or subjective. Feel free to use other sources to complete the assignment. (DO NOT CUT AND PASTE!)

Remember you can choose only one topic per chapter. The reaction papers are worth up to 5 points each, for a total of up to 50 points. for full credit, reaction papers must be at least, a full-page, 1 page long, (submitting the paper with triple spacing, and large font print will not count as a full page). Please remember to put your name on all your assignments.

Reaction papers are required regardless of the point totals you have for your quizzes!
Discussion Board

I will post 5 topics on the Discussion Board for students to give their opinions, these will be worth up to 3 pts. **For a total of 15 points. The discussion board topics are required. Students will respond to 2 other students on each discussion for 2 more credit points (responses need only be a few sentences). Students can earn a total of up to 25 extra credit points**

Extra credit assignments may be offered throughout the semester. **These assignments cannot be used to replace required assignments. Extra credit points cannot be earned if students fail to submit required assignments.**

Research Paper

Students will complete a required research paper. The instructions and topic will be provided on blackboard. The research assignment will be worth up to 25 points.

The research assignment is required regardless of the student’s overall point total.

Make-Up Assignments:

Students will be allowed to make up quizzes with an approved, verifiable excuse.

**Important:** Students cannot use extra credit assignments to replace required assignments. Students will forfeit any and all extra credit if required assignments are not completed.

Students are not to submit multiple assignments at one time in an effort to catch up (especially at the end of the semester). Only one reaction paper will be accepted with each quiz submission.

Grading Scale:

Students grades will be determined by total points. Students should keep track of their point total as they go along.

400 points = A  399 to 350 points = B  349 to 300 points = C  299 to 250 points = D  249 points and below = F

Withdrawing From a Class:

If you are unable to complete the course, it is your responsibility to withdraw for the class formally. The withdrawal request must be received in the Registrar’s Office by the official drop date.

Financial Aid:

If you are receiving financial aid, loans, or any grants, you must begin attendance in all your classes. Do not drop or stop attending classes without consulting the Financial Aid Department. Changes in your enrollment level and failing grades may require you to repay some of your financial aid.

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):
Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at http://www.untdallas.edu/disability. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTdisability@untdallas.edu or at Building 2, room 204.

Blackboard Learn Accessibility Statement:
University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. Blackboard Learn course management system’s accessibility statement is also provided: http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Learn/Resources/Accessibility.aspx

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

Course Evaluation Policy:
Student’s evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students’ evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University’s code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University’s policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at http://www.untdallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf for complete provisions of this code.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations,
submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

**Web-based Plagiarism Detection**: Please be aware in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

**Classroom Policies**

**Online Attendance and Participation:**

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance in the Blackboard classroom and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience, and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in the discussion board. Online presence and participation in all class discussions is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency.

Attendance for this online or hybrid course is considered when you are logged in and active in Blackboard, i.e., posting assignments, taking quizzes, or completing Discussion Boards. To maintain financial aid award eligibility, activity must occur before the census date of the session or term of the course. Refer to [http://www.untdallas.edu/registrar](http://www.untdallas.edu/registrar) for specific dates. If you are absent/not active in the course shell, it is YOUR responsibility to let the instructor know immediately, upon your return, the reason for your absence if it is to be excused. All instructors must follow university policy 7.005 covering excused absences; however, it is the instructor’s discretion, as outlined in the course syllabus, of how unexcused absences may or may not count against successful completion of the course.

**Inclement Weather and Online Classes**: Online classes may or may not be effected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

**Online “Netiquette”:**

In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. Emails, Discussion Board messages and/or any other forms of written communication in the online environment should use proper “netiquette” (i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no “flaming” messages (angry, personal attacks)).

Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of online netiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University’s policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights Responsibilities and Conduct at [http://www.untdallas.edu/osa/policies](http://www.untdallas.edu/osa/policies). Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of your written communication prior to submission.

**Diversity/Tolerance Policy:**

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed
statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

**Technology Requirements:** In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements.

Blackboard Learn 9.1 is the platform software for this course. Blackboard Learn supports major web browsers such as Windows Internet Explorer, Apple Safari, Mozilla Firefox, and Google Chrome. However, since the latter two are updated continually, some recent versions may not be compatible. If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Internet Explorer. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

- [http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit/ecampus/requirements](http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit/ecampus/requirements)
- [https://blackboard.secure.force.com/publickbarticleview?id=kAB700000008Oom](https://blackboard.secure.force.com/publickbarticleview?id=kAB700000008Oom)
- [https://learn.unt.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/BrowserCheck/check_full.html](https://learn.unt.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/BrowserCheck/check_full.html)

**Religious Holidays**

Absence to observe a religious holiday will be excused. A student whose absence is excused in observance of a religious should make every effort to submit their assignment(s) before the holiday.

**Disclaimer Reserving the Right to Change the Syllabus:**

The instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus and course requirements as necessary if it serves the best interest of the class and improves the learning experience of the students.

**Texas Success Initiative (TSI)**

The Texas Success initiative (TSI) is a statewide program designed to ensure that students enrolled in Texas public colleges and universities have the basic academic skills needed to be successful in college level course work. The TSI requires assessment, remediation (if necessary) and advising of students who attend public colleges and universities in the state of Texas. Passing the TSI is a prerequisite for enrollment in many college level classes. Students who do not meet assessment standards may complete prerequisite requirements by taking developmental courses in the deficit area and passing them with a grade of "C" or better.

**6 Drop Rule**

For students enrolled in college level courses for the first time in fall of 2007, The Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exemption. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exemptions. Remember once you have accumulated 6 non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other course with a "W". Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning.

**Important: Please read carefully**

Please read the portion of the syllabus that discusses the grading process.

Keep in mind that 400 points are needed for an A. More so the quizzes are worth up to 35 points each.
Students have on average 4 days to complete the 8 questions on each quiz. The expectation is for students to score a 35 on the quiz, given that amount of time to complete them.

Not all student will earn 35's on all the quizzes, this is why I offer extra credit opportunities.

In other words, to earn an A, students must make the effort on the required assignments, or through the use of extra credit.

I cannot think of any grade scheme that would not be open to second-guessing, and retro-active decision making from students if they do not earn they grade they expected to. All I an try to do is be fair and equitable to all students.

Students must decide if this scheme is acceptable to them, I cannot make that determination for you. I will assure you that I will be fair and consistent with my grading and make every effort to allow you to make the highest possible grade you can.

Students Please remember this is not a self-pace course, remember to submit your assignments by their due dates, on-time.

One last note. Students should be aware that 400 points are needed for an "A". For those who are attempting to earn the highest possible grade they can, should take all the assignments seriously and submit them on-time. Please make every effort to complete all the extra credit assignments, if needed, to help you earn a higher grade. In the end, the student should do everything possible they could to earn their grade.

Please submit your assignments as an email attachment, in RTF (Rich Text Format). This makes the assignments compatible to my computer, therefore making them easier to open and grade!

Please remember when it comes to writing...it is far better to provide too much information, than not enough!!!!