

Course Syllabus
SOC 3344-011 Film and Society
The University of Texas at Dallas

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Course Information

Course

Course Number Section	SOC 3344-011
Course Title	Film and Society
Term and Dates	Spring 2012

Professor Contact Information

Professor	Yuki Watanabe, PhD
Cell Phone #	(469) 831-6621
Email Address	yukiw@utdallas.edu
Office Location	GR 3.406
Online Office Hours	TBA

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

None

Course Description

This class is designed to be an opportunity for students to develop their sociological imaginations through the viewing, discussion, and analysis of feature-length films. Without a sociological framework, we may focus solely on the plot or the special effects and ignore the impact of the social issues on what we see and how we interpret it. It is not a class on film theory or production or the film industry, but rather the sociological implications of film— using movies as a sociological data source. Expect to be challenged but also to have fun—the way you look at movies may change after this class.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

This course is designed as an application class, not an introductory concepts class. As such, students are expected to be able to apply what they have learned in previous courses as well as to practice using unconventional sources of data to answer research questions. It will be taught using two interlocking tracks (think of it as two sides of a zipper): sociological film analysis and research paper development. During the 1st half of the semester we will watch, and analyze films using sociological perspectives; the 2nd half will focus on developing your own research skills using a film of your choice.

Thus successful completion of the course you should be able to:

1. Apply key sociological concepts in critical analysis of feature films
2. Conduct sociological research using films as a data source
3. Produce clear, logical, and persuasive papers with appropriate grammar and citations.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Required Textbook

Cinematic Sociology: Social Life in Film.

Sutherland, Jean-Anne and Feltey, Kathryn. 2009.

Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press. (paper) ISBN 1-4129-60460.

Required Materials

Reading Materials

Other assigned reading material can be accessed via library e-Reserve. Link and password to e-Reserve is on the course homepage.

Required films

Students are required to watch five specific films and write a brief report. All the required titles will be put on reserves at the McDermott Library Media Desk and available with no charge. Most of the titles should also be available through commercial outlets such as Netflix. You will need to watch at least five more titles that are relevant to the content of chapter 2 -6 for your Discussion Board assignment. It is **your responsibility** to ensure timely access to the assigned films as well as additional titles for your discussion entries.

Suggested Course Materials

These books are available for you to check out at McDermott Library.

You should refer to these titles for your group project.

Introduction to Sociology

Giddens, Anthony, 2003

New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Co. (paper) ISBN 978-0393977707

You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist.

Conley, Dalton. 2008.

New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Co. (paper) ISBN 978-0-393-92760-3

Gender, Race, and Class in Media: A Critical Reader (3rd edition)

Dines, Gail and Humez, Jean M. (2011)

Sage Publications. ISBN 978-1412974417

Media/Society: Industries, Images, and Audiences (4th edition)

Croteau, David, Hoynes, William, and Milan, Stefania (2011)

Sage Publications. ISBN 978-0761987734

Suggested Materials

Textbooks and some other bookstore materials can be ordered online through [Off-Campus Books](#) or the [UTD Bookstore](#). They are also available in stock at both bookstores.

Course Policies

Course Access

Students are required to login regularly to the online class site. The instructor will use the tracking feature in eLearning to monitor student activity. Students are also required to participate in all class activities such as discussion board, and group projects.

Virtual Classroom Citizenship

The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual classroom environment. Please use proper netiquette when interacting with class members and the professor.

Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The university is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty, which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the UTD eLearning Help Desk: <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp>, 1-866-588-3192. The instructor and the UTD eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

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Technical Requirements

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important [technical requirements and the web browser configuration information](#).

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Course Access and Navigation

This course was developed using a web course tool called eLearning. It is to be delivered entirely online. Students will use their UTD NetID account to login at: <http://elearning.utdallas.edu>. Please see more details on [course access and navigation information](#).

To get started with an eLearning course, please see the [Getting Started: Student eLearning Orientation](#).

UTD provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The services include a toll free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service. Please use this link to access the UTD eLearning Support Center: <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp>.

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Communications

This eLearning course has built-in communication tools, which will be used for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and a web conferencing tool may also be used during the semester. For more details, please see [communication tool information](#).

Interaction with Instructor: The instructor will communicate with students mainly using the Announcements and Discussions tools. Students may send personal concerns or questions to the instructor using email (yukiw@utdallas.edu).

Email Use Policy

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's UT Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at UT Dallas provides a method for students to have their UT Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts. Due to this policy, the instructor will NOT respond to emails from any types of account other than UTD account.

Academic Integrity

A detailed explanation of academic integrity is available at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus.policies>, with extensive guidelines for avoiding plagiarism in your assignments. Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of www.turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective. Also, please be aware that for online classes, letting another person complete your work for you or representing them as you is considered cheating. Only the student registered for the class may participate in class work or assignments. PLEASE DO YOUR OWN WORK!

General Policies and Procedures

The University of Texas at Dallas provides a number of policies and procedures designed to provide students with a safe and supportive learning environment. Brief summaries of the policies and procedures are provided for you at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> and include information about technical support, field trip policies, off-campus activities, student conduct and discipline, copyright infringement, withdrawal from class, student grievance procedures, incomplete grades, access to Disability Services, and religious holy days. You may also seek further information at these websites:

http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm

<http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

<http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm>

<http://www.utdallas.edu/disability/documentation/index.html>

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Student Resources

The following university resources are available to students:

UTD Distance Learning: <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/cstudents.htm>

McDermott Library: Distance Learners (UTD students who live outside the boundaries of Collin, Dallas, Denton, Rockwall, or Tarrant counties) will need a UTD-ID number to access all of the library's electronic resources (reserves, journal articles, ebooks, interlibrary loan) from off campus. For UTD students living within those counties who are taking online courses, a

Comet Card is required to check out materials at the McDermott Library. For more information on library resources go to <http://www.utdallas.edu/library/distlearn/disted.htm>.

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Grading Information

Weights

Quizzes	15	%
Film response papers and discussion entries	25	%
Individual Research Project	20	%
Midterm and Final	30	%
Participation (activities, blog, survey etc.)	10	%
Total	100	%

Grading Scale

Scaled Score	Letter Equivalent
90+	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
Less than 60	F

Pluses and minuses will be given if the scores are just below or above the borderline.

Accessing Grades

Students can check their grades by clicking “My Grades” under Course Tools after the grade or each assessment task is released.

Assessments

Quizzes

Each chapter will have a quiz covering assigned reading material, lecture posted by the instructor, and assigned film. Each quiz is timed, and the number of attempts allowed within a scheduled time window will be specified. Please read the on-screen instructions carefully before you click “Begin Assessment”. After each quiz is graded and released, you may go back to the Assessments page and click “View All Submissions” to review your results.

Please note: each quiz link will be deactivated after the assignment due time. After your submission is graded, you may click each assignment’s “Graded” tab to check the results and feedback.

Mid-term and Final Examination

Mid-term and final will cover assigned readings, lecture, assigned films, discussion board questions, and other material that are posted on eLearning. Exams will be given online and

timed, and the number of attempts allowed within a scheduled time window will be specified. Please read the on-screen instructions carefully before you click “Begin Assessment”. After each exam is graded and released, you may go back to the Assessments page and click “View All Submissions” to review your results.

Film Report

You are to write five brief reports discussing films you are assigned to watch for each chapter (there is not assigned film for chapter 1 and 6). All of the tiles are available to view at McDermott Library Media Desk. Detailed instruction for each chapter’s report will be given in the lecture. This assignment should be submitted via **Turnitin** (instruction below). All the work we do throughout the semester,

Discussion Board

For each chapter, three- to four discussion questions will be posted. You must answer at least ONE of the questions by referring to a film of your choice. That film must NOT be the ones that are required for your Film Report Assignment, NOR the ones that are analyzed at length in the textbook or other assigned readings. It is your responsibility to read the assigned material carefully and select an appropriate title that addresses the issues raised in each chapter (You may choose one from the extensive list of films in the back of the textbook or a tile briefly mentioned in the reading.) Each original posting should:

- o Mention at least ONE point from the week’s readings, lecture, and/or the group assignment file posted on eLearning.
- o Include title, year released, and a brief plot summary of the film you are referring to .
- o Mention at least ONE point from the week’s readings, lecture, and/or the group assignment file posted on eLearning.
- o When appropriate, relate new content to what you have already learned in the course to date.
- o Critically analyze the content —your posting should not be just a summary of the reading or film
- o Write grammatically correct and proofread for spelling errors
- o You may refer to your own personal experiences as long as you stay within the subject matter and stick to the class material.
- o The entry has to be your original writing. Entries with suspicious originality will be screened via Turnitin (Please see Academic Integrity section above.).

In addition to posting your answer to discussion questions, you must respond to at least TWO of your classmates’ postings. Your responses to other students’ entries should:

- o Incorporate from the other postings
- o Be logically reasoned and supported
- o Be grammatically correct and proofread for spelling errors

Examples of unacceptable responses:

- o I agree
- o Yes
- o No
- o Ditto
- o Whatever
- o That’s lame
- o Anything abusive
- o A personal example without sociological perspective

Your postings will be graded and assigned points for each chapter.

Group Assignment

Each student needs to sign-up for a group. Each group will be responsible for compiling a PowerPoint file (or you can use prezi.com and provide link) that presents sociological framework of the social issue(s) addressed in the assigned part of the textbook (list is below) by the designated due date. Each presentation should include the following: general description of sociological theories that relates to the topic, historical development, statistic data that demonstrate current state in comparison to the past, some specific research cases, and reference list. Template PowerPoint file is provided in the Group Assignment folder and can be downloaded. Each group member should read at least **ONE** academic article related to the topic of your assigned part and include the information in the presentation (Refer to the suggested material list). Be sure to read your assigned chapter and other assigned material before you start working on this project. One group member should email the presentation as an attachment (or URL of prezi.com). Submitted presentation file will be posted on eLearning and shared with your classmates.

List of the topics and due dates

Chapter 3 (2/6/12)

1. Race and crime
2. Racism and government policy
3. Latinos and Racial Stereotyping

Chapter 4 (2/20/12)

1. Feminism
2. Masculinity
3. Sexuality (including bisexuality and transgender)

Chapter 5 (3/19/12)

1. Sociology of Work/Labor
2. Family Life

Chapter 6 (4/2/12)

1. Cultural Criminology
2. Immigration and government policy

Chapter 7 (4/9/12)

1. Social Movements
2. Environmental Sociology

Individual Research Project

Your final assignment will be to produce a film research paper, about five pages in length, using a film of your choice. The film must not be the one that is required for the class, nor the one that is analyzed at length in the textbook or other assigned reading. You may use one of the titles you used for Discussion Board entry. You are required to post topic, choice of film to analyze, and research questions on discussion board by 3/12/12 11:59 PM, Detailed instructions will be provided during the semester. This assignment should be submitted via **Turnitin** (instruction below). All the work we do throughout the semester, including your careful reading of the textbook, will prepare you for this assignment!

Turnitin eLearning Assignment Submission Instructions

Some of your assignment will be submitted and examined through the integrated plagiarism detection tool called Turnitin. Please find the Turnitin assignment submission icon on the

designated course page and click to open it. To submit your file, please click the submit icon, on the next page, select the option of “file upload” (or “cut and paste”), enter the submission title, click Browse to locate your file and click Submission button. You can then review (click “cancel, go back” if needed) and confirm your submission. (Note: only one single file may be submitted. Some common file types accepted are: Word, PDF, TXT and RTF.) You can go back to the assignment page to check the Originality Report (showing percentage of similarity match and the source detected) when it becomes available. Please note it may take some time for Turnitin to generate the originality report especially during semester end busy time. For overwritten or resubmitted paper, it takes 24 hours. For more information and assistance on using Turnitin, please go to: <https://turnitin.com/static/training/index.php>

Participation

A portion of your grade (10%) is allotted for participation. You will be required to engage in various activities including blog and surveys as part of lecture. I consider participation to be thoughtful and appropriate contributions to these activities. Negative participation includes interruptions and inappropriate language or conduct. Please note that this component of evaluation is not purely quantitative but instead involves my discretion as to your participation in the course.

Late/Make-up Work and Extra Credit

Because this is an online course, there should be ample time to complete all assignments. Therefore, late assignments will not be accepted, nor will makeup work be given. No extra credit assignments will be given in this class.

Academic Calendar

WEEK/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	Chapter	ASSESSMENT / ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
0	Course Access and Self-Orientation			
1 Jan. 17-22	Introduction: Sociology and Film	1	Self-introduction blog entry Read Chapter 1 and other assigned material	1/22/12, 11:59 PM
			Sign-up for Group Assignment	1/25/12, 11:59 PM
			Quiz 1	1/29/12, 11:59 PM
2-3 Jan. 23-Frb.5	Social Class and Inequality	2	Read Chapter 2 and other assigned material Watch "Music of the Heart" (1999) and submit Film Report Quiz 2 Discussion Board entries	2/5/12 11: 59 PM
4-5 Feb. 6-Feb.19	Race and Ethnicity	3	Group Assignment	2/6/12 11: 59 PM
			Read Chapter 3 and other assigned material Quiz 3 Watch "Crash" (2005) and submit Film Report Discussion Board entries	2/19/12 11: 59 PM
6-7 Feb.	Gender and Sexuality	4	Group Assignment	2/20/12 11:59 PM

20-Mar. 4			Read Chapter 4 and other assigned material Quiz 4 Watch "Nine to Five" (1980) and submit Film Report Discussion Board entries	3/4/12 11:59 PM
8 Mar. 5- 11	Review and Mid-term		Mid-term	3/11/12 11:59 PM
9 Mar. 12-18	Spring Break		Individual Research Project Proposal (Post topic, choice of film to analyze, and research questions on discussion board)	3/18/12 11:59 PM
10-11 Mar. 19-Apr. 1	Work and Family	5	Group Assignment	3/19/12 11:59 PM
			Read Chapter 5 and other assigned material Quiz 5 Watch "Little Miss Sunshine" (2006) and submit Film Report Discussion Board entries	4/1/12 11:59 PM
12 Apr. 2-8	Global Connection	6	Group Assignment	4/2/12 11:59 PM
			Read Chapter 6 and other assigned material Quiz 6 (No assigned film and film report this week) Discussion Board entries	4/8/12 11:59 PM
13-14 Apr. 9- 22	Social Change and Environment	7	Group Assignment	4/9/12 11:59 PM

			Quiz 7 Watch "Soylent Green (1973)" and submit Film Report Discussion Board entries	4/22/12 11:59 PM
15 Apr. 23- 29	Wrap-up		Research Project Paper and presentation	4/29/12 11:59 PM
16 Apr. 30-May 6	Review and Final		Final	5/6/12 11:59 PM

Scholastic Honesty

The University has policies and discipline procedures regarding scholastic dishonesty. Detailed information is available on the [UTD Judicial Affairs](#) web page. All students are expected to maintain a high level of responsibility with respect to academic honesty. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. (Revise and/or state your own policy as necessary).

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Course Evaluation

As required by UTD academic regulations, every student must complete an evaluation for each enrolled course at the end of the semester. A link to an online instructional assessment form will be emailed to you for your confidential use.

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University Policies

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

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