

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY SOC 1301-002 - SPRING 2026

INSTRUCTOR: Carol Cirulli Lanham, PhD

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OFFICE: 3.120 Green Hall

PHONE: 972-883-2867

STUDENT HOURS: Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Wednesdays 2:30–3:30 p.m.

In person and by appointment on Microsoft Teams. Other times available upon request.

<https://bit.ly/StudentHours2026>

EMAIL: cclanham@utdallas.edu

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT: Richard Dunks, MS

Email: richard.dunks@utdallas.edu

Office: GR2.512, Office #2

STUDENT HOURS: Wednesdays, 3:00–5:00 pm (in person)

Additional times are available by appointment via Calendly:

<https://calendly.com/rxd230033-utdallas/30min>

CLASS TIME AND LOCATION: Wednesdays 4 pm to 6:45 pm– JO 4.502

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES AND/OR OTHER RESTRICTIONS: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the basic concepts of sociology and provides insight into how we shape society and how society shapes us. We will explore the basic principles of sociology, and their application in social research and social policy. We also will examine how social interaction and social structures influence both intimate relationships and global society. Topics will include gender, age, social class, culture, race-ethnicity, group dynamics, deviance, and social institutions, such as religion and marriage and family. By reviewing sociological explanations of various forms of social behavior, we will pave the way for further study in the field.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the sociological perspective and use it to analyze group behavior and social interaction.
- Identify the three major sociological perspectives and apply them to specific contemporary social issues.
- Demonstrate understanding of key sociological terms and concepts used by sociologists to study society.

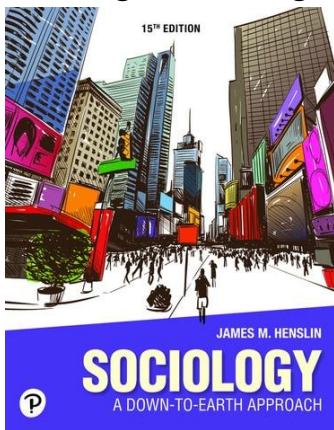
- Describe how sociologists study major social institutions, including religion, family, education, and other core social structures.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK (Perusall ONLY):

This course uses a digital textbook accessed exclusively through Perusall.

Do NOT buy this textbook from the university bookstore, Amazon, the publisher’s website, or any other online retailer. You will purchase and access the textbook directly inside Perusall using the link provided in eLearning.

Textbooks purchased anywhere else will not connect to this course and cannot be used for assignments or grading.



James M. Henslin, Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach, 15th edition, Pearson, 2024 ISBN-13: 9780137875450

CLASS FORMAT AND INSTRUCTOR’S EXPECTATIONS

This course will be taught **in person**, and regular attendance and participation are expected. All assigned readings are completed in Perusall. These textbook assignments are required and are part of your course grade. (Reading the textbook outside of Perusall will not count toward these requirements.) Course topics are introduced in class and supported by assigned Perusall readings. Quizzes assess your understanding of the readings and related course material.

GRADING POLICY

Participation	10%
Reading Assignments	20%
Class Presentation	10%
Observation Assignments	30%
In-Class Quizzes	<u>30%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale

A+	97-100	C+	77-79	F	59 and below
A	94-96	C	74-76		
A-	90-93	C-	70-73		
B+	87-89	D+	67-69		
B	84-86	D	64-66		
B-	80-83	D-	60-63		

PARTICIPATION

This course is taught in person, and you are expected to attend every class. One unexcused absence is permitted over the course of the semester; additional absences may affect your participation grade. Attendance alone does not count as participation. To earn full participation credit, you must engage actively in class activities, including small-group discussions, and in-class exercises. Students who are physically present but working on other assignments, using their computers for unrelated content, or scrolling on their phones during class will not receive participation credit for that day.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

As explained in the required textbook section, **you must purchase your textbook through Perusall**, a collaborative annotation and discussion platform. The 14 textbook chapters for this course are available there, and I will count the 10 highest Perusall grades when calculating your final grade for this section of the course.

To successfully complete these assignments, you are expected to read the assigned chapters and add comments, annotations, and questions in Perusall. Your grade on Perusall assignments can improve if you access the readings multiple times, read in small chunks rather than all at once, and respond to the questions and comments posted by other students. For this reason, you should start early and return to the readings often.

Be sure to review the Perusall information posted in eLearning. Please do not access Perusall by going directly to the website. You must access all Perusall assignments through the links provided in eLearning.

CLASS PRESENTATION

Students will work in teams of two to give an 8–10 minute presentation on one of the core course topics, scheduled throughout the semester. Presentations are not intended to teach the textbook content. Instead, each team will select a contemporary, real-world example from U.S. society and apply two–three sociological concepts to help explain it. Presentations should engage the class through a discussion

question or brief activity. All students are expected to participate and complete a short evaluation of each presentation.

OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENTS

Over the course of the semester, you will complete three short observation assignments with a classmate. One assignment focuses on culture, where you identify symbols, norms, and values in a real-world setting; one focuses on deviance, where you observe how norms are broken and enforced in public spaces; and one focuses on marriage and family, where you analyze portrayals of family life in media. Each assignment requires a brief written submission using a structured worksheet. Together, these assignments encourage you to apply key sociological ideas outside the classroom.

QUIZZES

Quizzes will be given regularly throughout the semester to assess understanding of assigned readings and material discussed in class. Each quiz will consist of 10 questions to be completed in 10 minutes and will cover basic concepts from the lectures and textbook. Quiz dates listed in the syllabus are subject to change, so it is important to stay current with the reading and attend class regularly. **Your lowest two quiz grades will be dropped, and no make-up quizzes will be offered.**

CLASS MODALITY

This course is conducted in person to support interactive learning and meaningful discussion. Students are expected to attend class in person each week. If you are unable to attend a class meeting, it will count as an absence. One unexcused absence is permitted over the course of the semester; additional absences may affect your participation grade. Regular attendance is essential for an effective learning experience.

CLASS CITIZENSHIP

Please be respectful of your classmates and your professor. Refrain from talking to others during lectures, working on unrelated assignments, or using devices to view content not connected to class. Staying present and engaged helps create a better learning environment for everyone.

STUDENT HOURS

The hours listed on the front page of this syllabus is time for you, the student. It is time that I have dedicated for whatever you need. We can talk about the course, balancing work and school, grad school, recommendation letters or any other topic. I use Microsoft Bookings for office hours. You will find the link on the first page of this syllabus and at the top of the course page in eLearning. When you book an appointment, you will receive a calendar invite with the Teams link. Be sure to email me if you'd prefer to meet in person instead of online. I will be in my office during Student Hours.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION

Students can expect a response to emails within 24 hours during the work week (Monday–Friday). Emails sent on weekends or outside normal business hours may receive a response on the next business day. In rare cases, response times may be extended due to extenuating circumstances.

EMAIL ACCOUNT

Please be sure that you know how to access your UTD email account and can check it regularly. The university provides students with free email accounts in order to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of individuals corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. Therefore, 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. For help with your UTD email account, call 972-883-2911 or go to <http://www.utdallas.edu/ir/helpdesk/>

eLEARNING SYSTEM

This class uses UTD's eLearning System for posting course content. You should log in to your eLearning account on the first day of class to ensure that you have no problems accessing the site. If you are not familiar with eLearning, watch the [student tutorials](#). You can get more help by calling 1-866-588-3192 or visiting the [eLearning Help Desk - The University of Texas at Dallas](#)

CLASS MATERIALS

Class materials will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course, however, they are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

CLASS RECORDINGS

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the AccessAbility Resource Center has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course.

Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

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approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#)

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The faculty expects a high level of responsibility and academic honesty from students. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work. Only students registered for the class may participate in class work or assignments.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Cases of scholastic dishonesty will be referred to the [Student Code of Conduct](#)

GENERATIVE AI

Cheating includes using unauthorized materials to complete an assignment ([Student Code of Conduct - UTDSP5003](#)). In this course, the use of AI tools for any assignment is **not permitted**. AI-generated content may not be submitted as your own work, in whole or in part.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University of Texas at Dallas is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. The syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. If you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (2008), you are required to register with the [AccessAbility Resource Center \(ARC\)](#), located in the Administration Building, Suite 2.224. They can be reached by [email](#), calling 972-883-2098, or at their [website](#). To receive academic accommodations for this class, please register and request services by completing the Request for Services form with the proper documentation and meeting with the Director of ARC.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT RESOURCES

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students. Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>

Click [here](#) for additional UT Dallas Policies and Procedures

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

*Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

Week 1 1/21	Overview of the Course The Sociological Perspective Henslin (H): Chapter 1 Chapter 1 Perusall Due 1/27
Week 2 1/28	Culture H: Chapter 2 Chapter 1 Quiz – 1/28 Observation Assignment on Culture – Due 2/11 Chapter 2 Perusall Due 2/3
Week 3 2/4	Socialization H: Chapter 3 Chapter 2 Quiz – 2/4 Chapter 3 Perusall Due 2/10 Presentation on Socialization – 2/4
Week 4 2/11	Social Structure and Social Interaction H: Chapter 4 Chapter 3 Quiz – 2/11 Chapter 4 Perusall Due 2/17 Presentation on Social Structure and Social Interaction – 2/11
Week 5 2/18	How Sociologists do Research Chapter 4 Quiz – 2/18 Chapter 5 Perusall Due 2/24
Week 6 2/25	Societies to Social Networks H: Chapter 6 Chapter 6 Perusall Due 3/3 Chapter 5 Quiz – 2/25 Presentation on Societies and Social Networks – 2/25

- Week 7**
3/4
Bureaucracy and Formal Organizations
H: Chapter 7
Chapter 7 Perusall Due 3/10
Chapter 6 Quiz – 3/4
Presentation on Bureaucracy and Formal Organizations – 3/4
- Week 8**
3/11
Deviance and Social Control
H: Chapter 8
Chapter 8 Perusall Due 3/24
Chapter 7 Quiz – 3/11
Observation Assignment on Deviance (In Class Assignment)
- Week 9**
SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
- Week 10**
3/25
Global Stratification
H: Chapter 9
Chapter 9 Perusall Due 3/31
Chapter 8 Quiz – 3/25
Presentation on Global Stratification – 3/25
- Week 11**
4/1
Social Class in the United States
H: Chapter 10
Chapter 10 Perusall Due 4/7
Chapter 9 Quiz – 4/1
Presentation on Social Class in the United States – 4/1
- Week 12**
4/8
Sex and Gender
H: Chapter 11
Chapter 11 Perusall Due 4/14
Chapter 10 Quiz – 4/8
Presentation on Sex and Gender - 4/8
- Week 13**
4/15
Race and Ethnicity
H: Chapter 12
Chapter 12 Perusall Due 4/21
Chapter 11 Quiz – 4/15
Presentation on Race and Ethnicity – 4/15
- Week 14**
Marriage and Family

Chapter 16 Perusall Due 4/28

Chapter 12 Quiz – 4/22

Presentation on Family – 4/22

Observation Assignment on Marriage and Family Due 5/6

Week 15

4/29

Aging and the Elderly

Chapter 13 Perusall Due 5/5

Chapter 16 Quiz – 4/29

Presentation on Aging – 4/29

Week 16

5/6

Course Wrap Up

Chapter 13 Quiz – 5/6

Comet Creed

As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.