# University of North Texas at Dallas
## Fall 2020
### SYLLABUS for Distance Learning
#### SOCI 3200: Sociological Theory 3Hrs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department of</th>
<th>Sociology &amp; Psychology</th>
<th>School of</th>
<th>Liberal Arts &amp; Life Sciences</th>
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<tr>
<th>Instructor Name:</th>
<th>Dr. Steven L. Arxer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office Location:</td>
<td>Founder’s Hall, Room 321</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Phone:</td>
<td>972-338-1592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email Address:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Steven.Arxer@untdallas.edu">Steven.Arxer@untdallas.edu</a></td>
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</tbody>
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**Office Hours:**

**Virtual Office Hours:** Mondays 9am-10am (Zoom live chat/video conference)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84324167428?pwd=ekJNU2FhaWhHUS9vSVIJWlJTeDZ5QT09
Meeting ID: 843 2416 7428
Passcode: 0Yy9zB

**Scheduled Email communication:** T/TH 8-10am (Canvas communication via email)
Or by appointment (please email to schedule a time)

*Not available on Saturday and Sundays, and weekdays after 10 PM.*
Response time back to email is 48 hours.

*Please check your Canvas email & Announcement page. I regularly send announcements and information to official student email accounts.*

Classroom Location: Online
Class Meeting Days & Times: Online

**Course Catalog Description:** Survey of development of sociological theory; emphasizes nature and types of contemporary theory.

Prerequisites: SOCI 1510 or equivalent

**Required Text:**

- Title: Introduction to Sociological Theory 2nd edition
- Author: Michele Dillon

*TB: Textbook Chapters
*Canvas: Canvas readings

**Access to Learning Resources:**

- UNT Dallas Library:
  - phone: (972) 780-1616
  - web: [http://www.untdallas.edu/library](http://www.untdallas.edu/library)
  - email: library@untdallas.edu

- UNT Dallas Bookstore:
  - phone: (972) 780-3652
  - web: [http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore](http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore)
  - e-mail: untDallas@bkstr.com

**Course Goals or Overview:** The goals of this course are as follows -
The purpose of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the range classical and contemporary sociological theories and perspectives. Key to this course will be examining the epistemological and ontological assumptions underpinning sociological theories. This goal will be accomplished by emphasizing how sociological theories view the nature of individual, social order, and their interrelationship.

**Learning Objectives/Outcomes:** At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify assumptions underlying theoretical arguments
2. Identify limitations of theoretical arguments
3. Understand alternative viewpoints on social scientific issues
4. Describe how theory contributes to sociological knowledge
5. Compare and contrast major theoretical orientations
6. Explain how theories reflect and affect the historical context in which they are developed
7. Explain basic concepts such as culture, roles, norms, social structure, social institution, socialization, and stratification

**Online Course Outline**

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class or via class email or Canvas announcement. Additional readings and activities may be added, these will be noted in the Readings and Activities/Assignments sections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics/Readings/Links</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>SLO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1- August 24-August 30: Introduction to Sociological Theory</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANVAS: “The Sociological Imagination” by C. W. Mills</td>
<td>1. Bio Introduction</td>
<td>1. 8/26 by 11:59pm</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Links: Defining Sociology and the Sociological Imagination <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2OyXx9jkk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2OyXx9jkk</a></td>
<td>2. Discussion Board 1</td>
<td>2. Original Post 8/26 by 11:59 PM and Reply Post 8/30 by 11:59 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is Sociology?</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBLBlm5ruMw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBLBlm5ruMw</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>TED Talk: The Wisdom of Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWD6g9CV_sc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWD6g9CV_sc</a></td>
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**Week 2- August 31-September 6: Understanding Concepts and Historical Background to Sociological Theory**
### Week 3 - September 7-13: Classical Foundations—Conflict Theory, Inequality

| TB: Michele Dillon, “Chapter 1: Karl Marx” | 1. Discussion Board 2 | 1. Original Post 9/2 by 11:59 PM and Reply Post 9/6 by 11:59 PM | 1, 3, 4, 6 |
| Canvas: “Free Labor: Producing Culture for the Digital Economy” |  |  |  |
| Links: |  |  |  |
| The Importance of Auguste Comte [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbHwTeUr1v4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbHwTeUr1v4) |  |  |  |
| Comte’s Law of 3 Stages [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEtm7u9mRtY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEtm7u9mRtY) |  |  |  |

### Week 4 - September 14-20: Classical Foundations—Functionalism, Social Facts and Solidarity

| TB: Michele Dillon, “Chapter 2: Emile Durkheim” | 1. Discussion Board 4 | 1. Original Post 9/9 by 11:59 PM and Reply Post 9/13 by 11:59 PM | 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 |
| Links: |  |  |  |
| Social Facts and Solidarity [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGargZd9KkQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGargZd9KkQ) |  |  |  |
| Elementary Forms of Religious Life [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_R2FeCGh0ek](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_R2FeCGh0ek) |  |  |  |

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Week 4: September 14-20: Classical Foundations—Functionalism, Social Facts and Solidarity

| TB: Michele Dillon, “Chapter 2: Emile Durkheim” | 1. Discussion Board 4 | 1. Original Post 9/16 by 11:50 PM and Reply Post 9/20 by 11:50 PM | 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 |
| CANVAS: “The Elementary Forms of Sports Fandom” | 2. Assignment #2 | 2. 9/20 by 11:59 PM |  |
# Week 5- September 21-27: Classical Foundations—Rationality, Bureaucracy, and Religion

**TB:** Michele Dillon, “Chapter 3: Max Weber”

**CANVAS:** “The McDonaldization of Society”

**Links:**
- Rationalism and Bureaucracy
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TypEb0tbFho
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dP2Sa9raZdY&list=PLdqh3iVhzW1Q1rvtG12OS_0h7u8tHpOKh&index=7

- Bureaucracy and Film:
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fy3rjQGc6IA

- Protestantism and the Spirit of Capitalism:
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CpGupes7Nv1&list=PLdqh3iVhzW1Q1rvtG12OS_0h7u8tHpOKh&index=8

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Discussion Board 5</th>
<th>Writing Assignment #3</th>
<th>Original Post 9/23 by 11:59 PM and Reply Post 9/27 by 11:59 PM</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>2.</td>
<td>1, 2, 5, 6, 7</td>
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# Week 6- September 28-October 4: Expanding Foundation—Critical Theories

**TB:** Michele Dillon, “Chapter 5: Critical Theory, Technology, Culture and Politics”

**Links:**
- Theodore Adorno and Consumer Culture
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YGnPgtWhsW

- Consumerism and Politics Today: No Logo film
  - https://vod.library.unt.edu/cat_vodentry.php?film=545

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<tr>
<th>Discussion Board 6</th>
<th>Original Post 9/30 by 11:59 PM and reply Post 10/4 by 11:59 PM</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>1, 2, 5, 6, 7</td>
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# Week 7- October 5-11: Expanding Foundation—Power and Dependency

**TB:** Michele Dillon, Chapter 6 Conflict, Power and Dependency in Macro-Societal Processes

**CANVAS:** “The Power Elite”

**Links:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussion Board 7</th>
<th>Original Post 10/7 by 11:59 PM and Reply</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1, 2, 5, 6, 7</td>
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</table>
C. W. Mills—The Power Elite  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UrXrv1fNkw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UrXrv1fNkw)

Interlocking Directorates  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ogf8OlgOw64](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ogf8OlgOw64)

http://www2.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/power/class_domination.html

Income Inequality--PBS  
[http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/332/video.html](http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/332/video.html)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2. Writing Assignment #4</th>
<th>Post 10/11 by 11:59 PM</th>
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<td></td>
<td>2. 10/11 by 11:59 PM</td>
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**Week 8- October 12-18: Structural Functionalism**

TB: Michele Dillon, “Chapter 4 Talcott Parsons and Robert Merton: Functionalism and Modernization”

CANVAS: “Some Principles of Stratification: A Critical Analysis”

Links:
- Structural Functionalism and Talcott Parsons  
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhPH3piqLVQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhPH3piqLVQ)

- Robert Merton’s Strain Theory  
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3yQyA-hfys](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3yQyA-hfys)

**Week 9- October 19-25: Symbolic Interactionism—Mind, Self and Society**

TB: Michele Dillon, “Chapter 8: Symbolic Interactionism”

CANVAS: “Barbie Dolls and Sea Monsters”

Links:
- What is Symbolic Interactionism?  
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFQIIM8IRZU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFQIIM8IRZU)

- Erving Goffman and Social Scripts

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Discussion Board 8</th>
<th>1. Original Post 10/14 by 11:59 PM and Reply Post 10/18 by 11:59 PM</th>
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<td>1, 2, 5, 6, 7</td>
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**EXAM 2: Opens October 16th (12 am)/ Closes October 19th (11:59 pm)**
### Week 10- October 26- November 1: The Social Construction of Reality

**TB:** Michele Dillon, “Chapter 9: Phenomenology and Ethnomethodology”

**Links:**
- History and Key Concepts of Phenomenology: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjknxljepKA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjknxljepKA)
- What is the Social Construction of Reality?: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVCkJ7jLnz0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVCkJ7jLnz0)

### Week 11- November 2-8: Contemporary Theories of Power and Oppression—Feminist Theories

**TB:** Michele Dillon, “Chapter 10: Feminist Theories”

**CANVAS:** “Hybrid Hegemonic Power”

**Links:**
- Gender Performativity, Judith Butler: [http://youtu.be/Bo7o2LYATDc](http://youtu.be/Bo7o2LYATDc)
- Emotion Work and Emotion Labor: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOj-0fm79AA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOj-0fm79AA)
- Gender Inequality—TED Talks

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<tr>
<th>Week 10- October 26- November 1: The Social Construction of Reality</th>
<th>Week 11- November 2-8: Contemporary Theories of Power and Oppression—Feminist Theories</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TB:</strong> Michele Dillon, “Chapter 9: Phenomenology and Ethnomethodology”</td>
<td><strong>TB:</strong> Michele Dillon, “Chapter 10: Feminist Theories”</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Links:</strong></td>
<td><strong>CANVAS:</strong> “Hybrid Hegemonic Power”</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the Social Construction of Reality?: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVCkJ7jLnz0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVCkJ7jLnz0</a></td>
<td>Emotion Work and Emotion Labor: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOj-0fm79AA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOj-0fm79AA</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Week 12- November 9-15: Contemporary Theories: The Body and Control**

TB: Michele Dillon, “Chapter 11 Michel Foucault: Theorizing Sexuality, the Body and Power”

Links:
- Discipline and Punish—Michel Foucault [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ci61KBsZVbl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ci61KBsZVbl)
- State of Surveillance [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VkKeM-OK6g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VkKeM-OK6g)

1. Discussion Board 12
2. Original Post 11/11 by 11:59 PM and Reply Post 11/15 by 11:50 PM

**Week 13- November 16-22: Contemporary Theories of Power and Oppression—Theories of Race and Racism**

TB: Michele Dillon, “Chapter 12: Race, Racism and the Construction of Racial Otherness”

CANVAS: “How Jews Became White Folk”

Links:
- Race as a Myth? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnfKgffCZ7U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnfKgffCZ7U)
- Race and Inequality [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WiConeatM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WiConeatM)

1. Discussion Board 13
2. Writing Assignment #7
1. Original Post 11/18 by 11:59 PM and Reply Post 11/22 by 11:50 PM
2. 11/22 by 11:59 PM

**Week 14- November 23-25: Contemporary Grand Theories**

Thanksgiving Break: November 26-29


Links:
- Cultural Capital [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DBEYiBkgp8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DBEYiBkgp8)

1. Discussion Board 14
2. Original Post 11/25 by 11:59 PM and Reply

1, 2, 5, 6, 7
# Social Capital and Success

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqwTRl9cdn4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqwTRl9cdn4)

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## Week 15 - November 30 - December 6: Globalization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Discussion Board</th>
<th>Original Post</th>
<th>Reply Post</th>
<th>Assigned Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TB: Michele Dillon, “Chapter 15 Globalization”</td>
<td>1.</td>
<td>12/2 by 11:59PM</td>
<td>12/6 by 11:59PM</td>
<td>1, 2, 5, 6, 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Links:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Globalization and Sports</td>
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<td>Durkheim and Merton on Globalization</td>
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## Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

### Biographical Introduction—10 points

#### Discussion Posts—150 points (10 points each)

We will have 15 online, asynchronous graded discussions over the course of the semester worth 10 points each. Discussions will draw from the posted links that include videos and short readings. Your original posting should be about 1-2 paragraphs long or about 250-300 words and include the creative and relevant use of sociological concepts from course materials. Be sure to provide specific examples. Your post should also use appropriate spelling and grammar. In addition to the original post, each you must make a reasoned reply or reaction to at least two of your classmates’ postings during each class discussion, each reply post should be around 50-75 words. Links to each discussion board are posted on the course Canvas site. The link is located in your course Modules as well as in the Discussion link on the main menu. Your initial post will on a particular day and should address the initial question posted. Your second post will be within two days after your initial post and should include at least two responses to two different classmates’ original posts.

### Writing Assignments –140 points (20 points each)

You will be required to complete 7 writing assignments based on readings posted on Canvas. Directions and the Turnitin submission link for each assignment are posted on the course Canvas site under “Writing Assignments” on the main Canvas navigation panel. These writing assignments are intended to measure
your ability to apply a range of course concepts to the assigned videos through responding cogently to the prompts. Assignments should be between 2-3 pages in length, 1-inch margins, New Times Roman, 12 point font.

**Exams –200 points (50 points each)**

There are 4 exams in this course. Exams will consist of 40 multiple choice questions. It will draw from the assigned course textbook chapters. Exams can be found in the menu link titled “Exams”. Scheduled times for each exam are listed in the course schedule. There will be a time limit and the exams will not allow for multiple attempts. Students will have 80 minutes to complete each exam.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Matrix: Activities/Assignments</th>
<th>Value (percentages)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biographical Introduction (1)</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Posts (15)</td>
<td>150 points (10 pts each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignments (7)</td>
<td>140 points (20 pts each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (4)</td>
<td>200 points (50 pts each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>500 points</strong></td>
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**Grade Determination**

- **A** = 90% or better (450-500 points)
- **B** = 80 – 89 % (400-449 points)
- **C** = 70 – 79 % (350-399 points)
- **D** = 60 – 69 % (300-349 points)
- **F** = less than 60%(299- fewer points)

**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](http://www.untdallas.edu/disability). You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDdisability@untdallas.edu or at Building 2, room 204.

Canvas 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. Canvas course management system's accessibility statement is also provided: [http://www.Canvas.com/Platforms/Learn/Resources/Accessibility.aspx](http://www.Canvas.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.

Assignment Policy: (According to the instructor’s discretion while working in concert with the division/program’s guidelines).

Exam Policy: (Online exams and the ability to retake is solely at the instructor’s discretion). NOTE: Online exams may be proctored on campus per instructor’s discretion.

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 Canvas 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 Canvas, 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 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 affected 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.

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.

Canvas Learn 9.1 is the platform software for this course. Canvas 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
- https://Canvas.secure.force.com/publickbarticleview?id=kAB700000008Oom
- https://learn.unt.edu/Canvascswebdav/institution/BrowserCheck/check_full.html