

300

DR. ALEKSANDRA V. CREGGLER



SPRING 2026

INDEPENDENT STUDY

400

THE FIRST WISDOM
OF SOCIOLOGY IS
THIS - THINGS ARE
NOT WHAT THEY
SEEM.

Peter L. Berger

INDEPENDENT STUDY

THIS INDEPENDENT STUDY OFFERS A FLEXIBLE, STUDENT-DRIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE A SOCIOLOGICAL TOPIC IN DEPTH. STUDENTS DESIGN A PROJECT ALIGNED WITH THEIR INTERESTS AND GOALS, SUCH AS A RESEARCH PAPER, CRITICAL BOOK REVIEW, OR APPLIED CASE ANALYSIS, UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE INSTRUCTOR.

THE COURSE EMPHASIZES MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY AND REAL-WORLD ISSUES, WHILE STRENGTHENING STUDENTS' ANALYTICAL THINKING, RESEARCH SKILLS, AND ACADEMIC VOICE. PROJECT TOPICS AND STRUCTURE ARE DEVELOPED THROUGH INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION AND TAILORED TO EACH STUDENT'S ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL TRAJECTORY.

THIS COURSE REQUIRES A HIGH LEVEL OF SELF-DIRECTION, INITIATIVE AND SUSTAINED ENGAGEMENT THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER.

INSTRUCTOR: DR. ALEKSANDRA V. CREGLER

MEET YOUR PROFESSOR

Hello!

My pronouns are **she/her**.

You may refer to me as **Professor Cregler**, or **Dr. Cregler**.

My preference is that you do not refer to me by my first name.

Born and raised in Macedonia (Eastern Europe), I come from a family with a rich tradition in education. I have collaborated with upper-level governmental departments in my native country, engaging with notable figures such as the President, the Secretary of Education and Foreign Affairs, the Mayor of Tyler, TX, and engaged with institutions like the FBI, the National Institute of Health, as well as various international diplomatic embassies and consulates.

My educational background includes a degree in Sociology, a master's degree in Cultural Studies with a focus on Intercultural Communication, and a doctorate specializing in Social Psychology. As a published author of two books, I bring extensive applied experience to my areas of expertise.

My work is all about making connections between big ideas and everyday life, between research and real people. I've had the chance to collaborate with universities like Princeton, Harvard, and the University of Bologna, but what drives me most is using sociology to better understand and improve the world around us.

My current research looks at the challenges faced by vulnerable communities and how our everyday interactions shape identity and social reality.

More than anything, I care about helping students grow - in how they think, what they question, and how they show up in the world. In my classes, you'll be encouraged to stay curious, think critically, and keep learning far beyond the semester.



ACREGLER@UTTYLER.EDU



CAS 144



OFFICE HOURS: T/TH 10AM - 11PM OR BY APPOINTMENT



UT Tyler
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

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

- Develop a focused research question or theme in sociology
- Locate, evaluate, and synthesize relevant scholarly sources
- Apply sociological frameworks to analyze social issues or texts
- Produce a final academic product with clear argumentation and reflection
- Communicate professionally and engage in self-directed learning

*in THIS
class
you WILL
Learn...*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

TOTAL: 100 POINTS

Assignment	Points	Description
Initial Proposal	10	1-2 page overview of your topic, goals, and intended format
Annotated Bibliography	20	8-10 scholarly sources with short annotations
Progress Check-In	10	Mid-course reflection + updated outline or draft-in-progress
Final Project	50	Research paper (8-10 pages) or book review (6-8 pages) with sociological insight
Professionalism & Communication	10	Timely check-ins, responsiveness, and engagement throughout

Grading Scale

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 0-59

Timeline (Spring 2026)

This timeline is a suggested structure. Adjustments can be made through communication, but the final project is due by April 20.

Phase 1: Orientation & Project Design (Early Semester)

- Initial meeting with instructor
- Clarification of research focus, goals, and final deliverable
- Submission of a written project proposal
- Review of ethical research requirements

Phase 2: Ethics Training & Background Research

- Completion of CITI training (required for all projects involving human subjects)
- Development of a foundational literature review or background research
- Refinement of research questions and methods

Phase 3: IRB Preparation & Approval (If Applicable)

- Preparation and submission of IRB application
- Revision of IRB materials as needed
- No data collection may begin until IRB approval is granted

*** (Projects not requiring IRB will follow an alternative approved project plan.)*

Phase 4: Project Development & Data Collection

- Data collection, fieldwork, or applied project work (if applicable)
- Ongoing analysis and reflection
- Periodic check-ins with the instructor

Phase 5: Drafting & Revision

- Drafting of final paper, report, or project
- Incorporation of instructor feedback

Phase 6: Final Submission

- Submission of final project by the end of the semester
- Projects must demonstrate independent work, analytical depth, and engagement with relevant scholarship

UT TYLER POLICIES

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University:

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies:

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy:

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2- year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services:

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Tyler at Texas offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible a diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance:

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement:

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation:

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

UT TYLER POLICIES

Student Standards of Academic Conduct:

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but 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.

1. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test; failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

- "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.
- "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

Important Covid-19 Information for Classrooms and Laboratories

Students are expected to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories). The UT Tyler community of Patriots views adoption of these practices consistent with its [Honor Code](#) and a sign of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff.

Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, digestive issues (e.g. nausea, diarrhea), or a higher-than-normal temperature should stay at home and are encouraged to use the [UT Tyler COVID-19 Information and Procedures website](#) to review protocols, check symptoms, and report possible exposure. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email saroffice@uttyler.edu.

Recording of Class Sessions

Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

LOG IN TO CANVAS FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS COURSE