Introduction to Sociology  
Spring 2018  
SOCI 1301-001 Tu/Th 3:30-4:50  
Business Building (BUS) 257

Instructor: Dr. Rachel Head  
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Office: BUS 204  
Phone: (903) 565-5680  
Office Hours: W 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment

Sociologists run into this problem all the time: How can we make the ordinary extraordinary and evoke ordinariness in such a way that people will see just how extraordinary it is? (Bourdieu 1998)

THE PROMISE OF SOCIOLOGY
Can humans control their own destiny? Can you really study anything objectively? Do most people conform to social norms? Is race a biological category or a social construct? Is class inequality a serious problem? Is the gender wage gap justified?

While many of these questions are often the domain of philosophers, the promise of sociology is that we can use logic, theory, and systematic observation to begin to develop our own critically reasoned answers to these questions. This course is designed to help you develop foundational knowledge in sociology and apply that knowledge to solve social problems and perhaps a few philosophical conundrums along the way. So…are you in?

REALIZING THE PROMISE OF SOCIOLOGY
If you’ve stayed with me so far, then welcome to Introduction to Sociology!
To realize the promise of sociology, you will be doing the following throughout the semester:

1. defining key concepts of the sociological imagination, sociological theory, research methods, socialization, culture, social institutions, intersectionality, race, class, and gender;  
2. using sociological theories and concepts to analyze and explain social problems, including the underlying origins of such problems;  
3. manipulating and analyzing numerical and non-numerical data to make critically reasoned judgments;  
4. linking social problems to culture, socialization, and social institutions;  
5. assessing the impact of race, class, and gender on life chances;  
6. creating innovative approaches to social problems grounded in the academic content of the course;  
7. developing some means for intellectual self-defense.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND CANVAS
There are two required books in this course:

New: $39.95  Rent New: $25.95  
Used: $29.95  Rent Used: $18.00

New: $39.95  Rent New: $25.95  
Used: $29.95  Rent Used: $18.00

3. There are also required readings in the form of PDFs that are available on the Canvas class website. In addition to required readings, the Canvas course website contains instructions and submission links for the course assignments, grades for the course, various announcements, and other useful information. To access Canvas go to [http://www.uttyler.edu/canvas/](http://www.uttyler.edu/canvas/) Use your UTT Username and Password to login. Contact the Office of Digital Learning – Canvas if you encounter any problems with the website (canvas@uttyler.edu or (903) 566-6200).

ASSESSING YOUR LEARNING

This course is based on active learning—I use an array of teaching techniques that share the essential characteristic of students being actively engaged. The success of the class depends on all of us making contributions and developing a learning community. It is important that you thoroughly read the assigned materials and participate in class discussions. You are encouraged to email me or make an appointment to discuss any issues related to the course. The course is organized by learning modules (1-8). Each module has clear student learning outcomes, required readings, and assignments.

There are a total of 100 points in the class. Your grade is based on Attendance, In-Class Activities, RATs, a DAM, and two Exams:

- Attendance worth 5%
- In-Class Activities worth 10% (5 in-class activities; 2 points each)
- Readiness Assessment Tests worth 30% (6 RATs; 5 points each)
- Data Analysis Module worth 25% (1 DAM; 25 points)
- Midterm and Final Exams worth 30% (2 exams; 15 points each)

Grades will be determined as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89.9 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79.9 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69.9 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9 or fewer points</td>
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**Attendance (5% of your grade):** Students are expected to attend classes regularly and to complete reading assignments. The lectures will integrate the readings with complementary material. Doing well on the exams will depend on consistently attending class and keeping up with the course readings. Students will be allowed 2 unexcused class absences.

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**Bloom’s Taxonomy**

How will you and I know if you are “realizing the promise of sociology?” How will we know if you’re learning?

In 1956, Benjamin Bloom developed a typology of learning, identifying the cognitive processes involved in acquiring knowledge. His typology suggested six successive skills—the first skills (i.e., remembering and understanding) must be developed before subsequent levels can be mastered. I have created assessments in this course with these skills, and their necessary progression, in mind.
absences. Each subsequent absence will result in losing 1 point from the 5 point attendance score.

**In-class Activities (10% of your grade):** You will have 5 in-class activities during which you will apply, synthesize, and evaluate the course material. Each in-class assignment or group task is worth 2 points. The in-class activities will occur randomly throughout the semester and I will not allow students to do the in-class works outside of the designated class time except in the circumstances listed below under ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP WORK. It is in your best interest to attend class regularly.

**Readiness Assessment Tests (RATs) (30% of your grade):** In order to engage in higher order thinking skills and contribute to class, you will need to have mastered key concepts before coming to class. Thus, there are 7 RATs assigned throughout the semester to test your memory and understanding of concepts in the assigned readings. Of the 7 RATs, 6 will count towards your final grade. The basic approach is as follows:

- At the beginning of 7 Modules in the course, you will take a 10-question multiple-choice RAT to ensure that you understand the basic concepts in the textbook chapter.
- You will read the assigned textbook chapter before every Module. I will give you a study guide for each RAT outlining the key concepts you should know, but will not lecture on the material before you take the RAT. In other words, you are responsible for studying the assigned reading.
- Each RAT closes at 11:59 p.m. on Monday (due dates are marked on the course schedule). You will have 20 minutes to complete the RAT online.
- Since you already know the basic concepts after taking the RAT, class meetings will be used to apply, analyze, and evaluate concepts.
- Then we will start a new Module with another RAT, and so on.

**Data Analysis Module (DAM) (worth 25% of your grade):** During the semester, you will have 1 DAM, worth 25 points. The DAM provides you with the opportunity to represent, interpret, and analyze data related to course material. Detailed instructions and a grading rubric are provided for the DAM on the course website and the due date is marked on the course schedule.

**Midterm and Final Exams (worth 30% of your grade):** There are two exams, a midterm and final. The midterm will cover Modules 1-4 and is worth **15 points**. The final exam will cover Modules 5-8 and is worth **15 points**. Each exam will cover the assigned readings, class discussions/activities, and lecture material and will consist of essay questions.

Please Note: I will not accept late work except in the circumstances listed below under ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP WORK. You should make every effort to attend class. If you have to miss class for any reason, you should contact me in advance.

**Extra Credit:** These are the only mechanisms through which you can earn points in this course. There will be no extra credit opportunities or projects.

**Incomplete Grades:** Except under disastrous and documented circumstances, no grades of “I” (Incomplete) will be assigned in this course.
UNIVERSITY & INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

Attendance and Make-up Work
I will take attendance for each class period. To receive consideration for make-up work you must either have a sanctioned anticipated situation (e.g., participation in official University functions, court attendance, religious observances, or military duty) or a documented emergency situation (e.g., student illness, injury or death of immediate family member).

- 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.
- 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.
- Students with documented emergency situations must notify the instructor before the missed assignment date by email. The assignment must be made up within one week of the assignment due date. Failure to do so will result in a grade of 0 on the missed assignment.

Make-up work will be allowed only in situations where absences are excused.

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.

- “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 instructor 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.
• All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

**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.

**Mutual Respect**

It is important that we treat one another with respect in this course. Although this class is designed to foster open debate, an atmosphere of mutual respect must also be maintained. Disrespectful behaviors include talking on one’s cell phone during class, arriving late or leaving class early on a consistent basis, text messaging during class, reading materials during class, using laptops during class, etc. Such behavior will not be tolerated. Students may be asked to leave the class for engaging in such behaviors.

**Harassment**

Each of us deserves to be treated, and is obligated to treat others, with dignity and respect, regardless of our sex, race, lifestyle, or the beliefs and values that we hold. If anyone (including the professor or your peers) says or does anything in this class that you consider harassment, please contact me (in person or anonymously) or contact the Department of Social Sciences.

**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 Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible 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 of 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.

**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: http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

**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. (For Fall, the Census Date is Sept. 12.) 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 (Sept. 12th) 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.

**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 Resources for Students**

- **UT Tyler Writing Center** (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- **UT Tyler Tutoring Center** (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- **UT Tyler Counseling Center** (903.566.7254)

**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](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](http://www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free).
# TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

## UNIT I. SOCIAL SYSTEMS: WHAT IS A SOCIETY?

### MODULE 1. Introduction to the Course and the Sociological Imagination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date (Week)</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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| Jan 16 & 18 (Week 1) | Introduction to the Course | **Readings:**
| | | Canvas class website
| | | Course syllabus on Canvas
| | | **Optional Reading:**
| | | Johnson. “The Forest and the Trees.” Canvas Module 1

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<tr>
<th>Date (Week 2)</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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</table>
| Jan 23 & 25 | Sociological Imagination | **Readings:**
| | | Mills. 1959. “Reading 1: Excerpt from *The Sociological Imagination.*” Pp. 6-13 in reader
| | | Durkheim. 1897. “Reading 4: Excerpt from *Suicide: A Study in Sociology.*” Pp. 46-51 in reader
| | | **Assignments:**
| | | RAT #1 due Monday, Jan 22 via Canvas at 11:59 p.m.
| | | ***Note: Complete weekly readings before class meetings***

### MODULE 2. Culture

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date (Week 3)</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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| Jan 30 & Feb 1 | Culture | **Readings:**
| | | ***Note: Census Date is Monday, Jan 29***

### MODULE 3. Social Institutions

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<tr>
<th>Date (Week 4)</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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</table>
| Feb 6 & 8 | Social Institutions | **Readings:**
| | | Western. 2006. “Reading 3: Excerpt from *Punishment and Inequality in America.*” Pp. 26-42 in reader
| | | **Assignments:**
| | | RAT #2 due Monday, Feb 5 via Canvas at 11:59 p.m.
## UNIT II. SELF AND AGENCY: WHO ARE YOU AND HOW DO YOU KNOW?

### MODULE 4. Socialization

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Week 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 27 &amp; Mar 1</td>
<td>Gender Socialization and the Media</td>
<td>Naples. “Chapter 7: Gender and Intersectionality.” ONLY Pp. 186-198 in textbook</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM due Tuesday, Mar 6 via Canvas at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td><em><strong>Note: Mid-Semester Grades posted at my.uttler.edu Tuesday, Mar 13</strong></em></td>
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### UNIT III. SOCIAL INEQUALITY: HOW MUCH INEQUALITY IS THERE AND HOW IS IT (RE)PRODUCED?

### MODULE 5. Studying and Changing the Social World

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Week 8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 13 &amp; 15</td>
<td>Spring Break: No Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Week 9)</td>
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<td>(Week 10)</td>
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### MODULE 6. Race and Intersectionality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mar 27 &amp; 29 (Week 11)</th>
<th>Attitudinal Discrimination, Institutional Discrimination, and Colorblindness</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assignments:</strong></td>
<td>RAT #5 due Monday, Mar 26 via Canvas at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Apr 3 &amp; 5 (Week 12)</th>
<th>Where Race Lives</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Note:</strong></td>
<td>Monday, Apr 2 is the last day to withdraw from one or more courses***</td>
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### MODULE 7. Gender and Intersectionality

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<tr>
<th>Apr 10 &amp; 12 (Week 13)</th>
<th>Gendered Organizations and the Gender Wage Gap</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shackleton, J.R. 2008. <em>Should We Mind the Gap?: Gender Pay Differentials and Public Policy.</em> Please note: you only need to read pp. 45 - 66 on “Explaining the Overall Pay Gap.” In Module 7 on Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assignments:</strong></td>
<td>RAT #6 due Monday, Apr 9 via Canvas at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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### MODULE 8. Class and Intersectionality

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<tr>
<th>Apr 17 &amp; 19 (Week 14)</th>
<th>Defining Class and Poverty</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
<td>Obach. “Chapter 6: Class and Intersectionality.” Pp. 150-185 in textbook</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assignments:</strong></td>
<td>RAT #7 due Monday, Apr 16 via Canvas at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>DAM due Thursday, Apr 19 via Canvas at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Apr 24 &amp; 26 (Week 15)</th>
<th>Power and Countervailing Powers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
<td>Derber. 2000. “Reading 11: Excerpt from <em>Corporation Nation.</em>” Pp. 120-131 in reader</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| May 1 & 3 (Week 16)  | FINAL EXAM due Thursday, May 3 via Canvas at 11:59 p.m. |