What do Lady Amos (UN Under-Secretary-General for humanitarian affairs), Martin Luther King Jr, Robin Williams, and Michelle Obama have in common? They are all sociology graduates.

SOCI 1301.002

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

FALL 2019
Tu-Th 11:00 AM – 12:20 PM
Arts and Sciences Room 00212

ALEKSANDRA VELEVA CREGLER **OFFICE: CAS 144** acregler@uttyler.edu

What we'll learn:

As a Greek poet once said: "*many are the wondrous things, and naught more wondrous than man*".

Sociology's prime benefit is gaining a greater understanding of the complex and confusing yet charmingly simple nature of humans, and the societies in which we organize ourselves.

This course will help you look more objectively at our society and other societies. It directs attention to how the parts of society fit together and change, as well as makes us aware of the consequences of that social change.

By studying societal behavior, we can make comparisons, attempt to solve issues and gain a rational understanding of some of society's more frustrating habits.

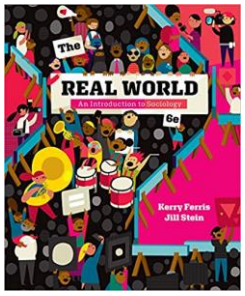
By focusing on the external forces that affect attitudes, values, and behaviors, sociology helps us better understand ourselves and the motivations of others around us. While we are all creatures of the various groups, organizations, and governments in our environments, we are also their creators.

If you are the type of person who does not necessarily follow the crowds (but are fascinated by their behavior), the type who is truly interested in what is going on in the world, then *Introduction to Sociology* should interest you.

Perhaps it is this enigmatic character which leads students to enjoy this subject so much.

Each student brings to this course a unique identity and a distinct perspective shaped by a unique set of experiences. These can and will be valuable resources in our study.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:



The Real World – An Introduction to Sociology by **Kerry Ferris and Jill Stein**

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company
ISBN-10: 0393639576
ISBN-13: 978-0393639575

NO PERSONAL DEVICE? NO WORRIES!

You'll have access to technology via **The Campus Computing Center** located in the *Ratcliff Building North, Room 3022.*

Office Hours: M-TH 7 AM – 11 PM
FRI 7 AM – 8 PM
SAT & SUN Noon – 10 PM
Ph: 903.565.5555

Course Objectives

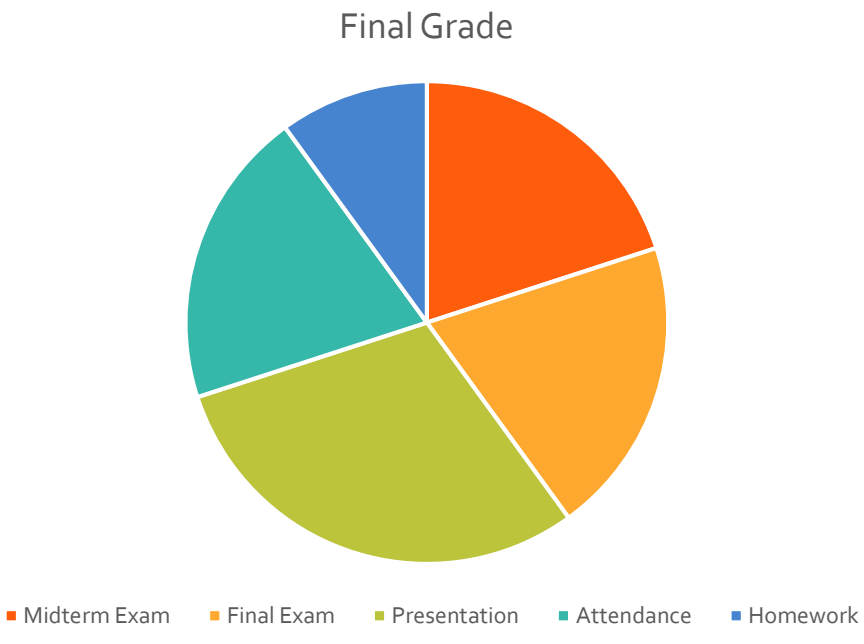
In addition to the goal that "you will be thoroughly versed in the topics of sociology", there are a number of more specific learning outcomes the successful student will experience in this course:

- Students will demonstrate social awareness, knowledge, and skills in written, verbal, and behavioral activities
- Students will be able to make rational and measured decisions in the interest of fairness, whereas a synthesis of group and independent projects provide students with skills of teamwork, self-dependence and autonomy.
- Students will be prepared for a lifetime of change by developing appreciation of diversity, love of learning, writing and study skills, and knowledge base about human behavior, social organization, culture, and social change

FUN SOCIOLOGY FACTS:

- From children fighting in a playground, to the debating chamber of parliament; from the dynamics of a flat warming party, to protests on the street—nothing escapes the sociologist's gaze.
- Sociologists like to analyze and explain human behavior. Every area of modern life can use the services of a sociologist.
- Sociologists have found the worse the economy, the longer the women's skirts are and the better economy, the shorter the skirt.

Course Evaluation



EXAMS: There are two (2) planned examinations for this course. Each exam will consist of essay-type questions – this will allow me to know how far and wide I can facilitate, orient and guide you with the knowledge, ideas, abilities, skills and attitudes that I tend to build up in order to achieve my teaching objectives, and to make you, as students, responsive to the changing needs of the society. Essays, however, can reveal the depth and breadth of students' knowledge, as well as erroneous conclusions that are drawn. This will allow you to practice your writing and argument development. The exams will contribute to 40% of your final grade.

PRESENTATION: Each student will be required to prepare a Research Project for a topic of his/her interest. Students will have complete academic freedom in choosing the format and the topic. This is with the intent to extend themselves to yield the benefits of research and public speaking. The complexities of research and presenting can be intimidating at first, but students will not be without help. By engaging in research firsthand, students find it easier to understand the rationale underlying others' research. For example, only after forming one's own hypotheses does one truly understand the nuances of research designs and better conceptualize course material. Exposure to an area of research undoubtedly also helps students explore career fields. Public speaking is actually a common phobia. Overcoming this fear can be a satisfying personal victory. It is also a great way to further personal development on many levels, since improving communication skills is helpful in every area of life: personal and professional.

ATTENDANCE: Class attendance is not mandatory but will be rewarded. However, I reserve the right to lower your final course grade by one or more letters if missing more than 50% of classes. Attending class regularly is one strategy to maintain satisfactory academic progress. ***"80% of success is showing up" – Woody Allen***

HOMEWORK: Homework is optional, but part of your grade – this is an indicator that you've spent additional time, effort and interest in the field, and it will be rewarded with points toward your final grade. There is no deadline for the homework, but students usually turn it in near the end of the course. If you are satisfied with your projection grade according to your ambitions, you don't have to turn any homework in. Homework is not mandatory for passing this course, but it is comprising a substantial percentage of your grade.

Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Presentation – Research	30%
Attendance - Class Participation	20%
Homework	10%

** This format may change due to agreements or circumstances beyond control*

Evaluation Criteria

A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	59 and below
I	incomplete

** Grades will be based on a total number of points earned. More in-depth assignments will be worth more points. At the end of the course, each student is assigned a final grade, according to the grading scale proposed. (See above)*

A An "A" reflects a level of performance which is "distinctly superior" to that shown by the majority of students in a course. "A students" show a level of commitment to scholarship equal to that shown by the instructor; they often research a topic beyond that required by any assignment. "A students" are consistently prepared for every class period, keenly engaged in the conduct of the course, and always seeking implications to the content of a course beyond that offered by the text or by a lecture example. They are usually the first to ask questions in class and their comments always demonstrate more than a superficial appreciation of a topic. Usually, "A students" have a unique aptitude for the material that they study and have mature time management skills such that they never cram for exams or need additional time to complete an assignment. Because they carry these skills and attitudes with them to other courses, "A students" usually earn the top grades in other courses. Needless-to-say, "A students" always earn the highest grades on examinations and papers. Because of the high standards demanded of these students, "A's" are earned by a small fraction of course participants, usually as few as 15% of the students enrolled in a course

B A "B" is the result of consistently above average academic performance. A "B" may in fact reflect "superior" achievement but is not quite the equal of the very best in a class. "B students" may earn the highest grade on several exams or papers, but do not do so consistently as other demands, including other courses, may compete with their scholarship to produce inconsistent performance. "B" grades are typically earned by 25-40% of a class at this University

C "C" results from consistently average work, or from highly variable work (periods of inferior achievement in addition to superior achievement). "C" grades often result from mere memorization of course content without an appreciation of the implications of the subject matter or an unwillingness to examine the subject in depth.
Consequently, "C students" may be able to recognize a term or concept but may not be able to explain it or place it in its proper context. "C's" are often the result when individuals cannot effectively manage the demands of their day such that they are driven from deadline to deadline. In addition, "C students" may give infrequent, but clear indication that they are disinterested in class discussions, lectures or even in the discipline itself. "C's" are earned by approximately 30% of a class

D A "D" reflects consistently below average work. While the "D student" may have performed passing work, usually she or he has never risen above average performance and may show significant periods of unacceptable performance. "D's" are the product of many factors, by other factors and activities for the student's time and attention. "D's" might result from factors such as illness or family emergencies that are beyond the student's ability to control; However, "D students" usually seek help only after irreparable damage has been done to their overall performance in a class. "D's" are earned by approximately 10-15% of students in a course;

F "F's" reflect failure to learn an appreciable amount in a course. There are many causes of this failure including poor preparation, lack of maturity, low scholastic aptitude, etc. "F's" result when an instructor cannot, in conscience, certify that a student shows any mastery of a subject beyond that level demonstrated by an uninformed lay person.
Because of our liberal course withdrawal policies, "F's" are usually rare, but at least two or three individuals (4-6% of a course) receive one because their disinterest is so profound that they do not know or care about their impending failure until weeks following the last date to withdraw from a course.

I If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an incomplete "I" for the course. The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year for both undergraduate and graduate students.

COURSE POLICIES

LATE WORK

Dates for submission of papers or taking exams will be observed closely. I do not accept late work or provide extensions. Graded in-class work missed due to absence cannot be made up unless I receive official notice from the University.

PLAGIARISM

As a Ut Tyler faculty member, I am required to uphold the Honor Code established by the University. In the event that you are caught violating this code, I am required to notify the appropriate Judicial Affairs, which will negatively impact both your grade in this course and your permanent academic record.
http://www.uttyler.edu/mopp/documents/8Student Conduct and Discipline.pdf

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic Devices are permitted for taking notes and brief searches. Otherwise they should be off. Ringers on cell phones should be silenced. Texting is not permitted! Failure to comply with this policy will negatively impact your participation score.

DECORUM

You are not required to agree with me or your peers. You are expected to be courteous, and your participation should demonstrate your understanding of rhetoric: careful listening, thoughtful acknowledgement of perspectives, and ethically constructed counterclaims that focus on the quality of the argument and not on the value of the person. Discriminatory language will not be tolerated.

QUESTIONS PROBLEMS

Please direct all questions/problems to me as soon as they arise.

Course Schedule

I	Introduction	Documentary Presentation: *Stanford Prison Experiment (Part 1)*
II	What is Sociology?	No Class: Career Day

*** You can send a preliminary statement of your presentation project (email a short project description). Be as specific as possible. If you remain undecided about your focus, send ideas for two possible projects.*

III	Thinking Sociologically	Documentary Presentation: Stanford Prison Experiment (Part 1)
IV	Researching the Social World	Discussion: Stanford Prison Experiment

*** Are you looking for sources and need suggestions? Are you encountering problems not easily resolved? Now is the time to seek advice without penalty or prejudice. After this week, everyone will briefly discuss their projects.*

V	Culture	Research Presentation and Discussion
VI	Separate and Together: Life in Groups	Research Presentation and Discussion
VII	Deviance	Research Presentation and Discussion

VIII	Midterm Exam Research Presentation and Discussion
IX	Social Class: The Structure of Inequality Research Presentation and Discussion
X	Race and Ethnicity as Lived Experience Research Presentation and Discussion
XI	Constructing Gender and Sexuality Research Presentation and Discussion
XII	Life at Home: Families and Relationships Research Presentation and Discussion
XIII	Education Research Presentation and Discussion
XIV	No Class: Thanksgiving Week
XV	Social Change Research Presentation and Discussion

WEEK XVI – Final Exam

*** This is a proposed schedule and it is subject to change by the instructor due to special circumstances*

University Policies and Additional Information

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: *http://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. (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.

Student Accessibility and Resources
In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call *903.566.7079*. You may also send an email to *cstaples@uttyler.edu*

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.

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 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.

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)