NORTHEAST TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

"Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed."

Carmen Shurtleff

Professor of Sociology/Social Work

cshurtleff@ntcc.edu
903.434.8307
Office Location: IA 105A

Preferred Communitcation: Microsoft Teams

Office Hours:

Monday:	By appointment
Tuesday:	9:00-12:00
Wednesday:	By appointment
Thursday:	By appoinment
Friday:	By appointment

This syllabus documents all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Course Description: The scientific study of human society, including ways in which groups, social institutions, and individuals affect each other. Causes of social stability and social change are explored through the application of various theoretical perspectives, key concepts, and related research methods of sociology. Analysis of social issues in their institutional context may include topics such as social stratification, gender, race/ethnicity, and deviance. Three credit hours.

Prerequisite(s): None

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Compare and contrast the basic theoretical perspectives of sociology.
2. Identify the various methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data in sociology.
3. Describe key concepts in sociology.
4. Describe the empirical findings of various subfields of sociology.
5. Explain the complex links between individual experiences and broader institutional forces.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Social Issue	100 points	SLO #4
Social Experiment	100 points	SLO #5
Discussions/Activities	100 points	SLO #1, #2, #3
4 @ 25 points each		
Mid-term	100 points	
Final	100 points	
Total Possible	500 points	

Grading and evaluation--Generally, a " C " course grade represents an acceptable level of work. A course grade of "B" represents a substantial effort and achievement. It is a grade for the better-than-average product and effort. An "A" is awarded only for outstanding efforts and quality in the required products. The grades will be awarded on the following basis:

A = 90% to 100% of possible points
B = 80% to 89% of possible points
C = 70% to 79% of possible points
D = 60% to 69% of possible points
F = 59% and below of possible points

Tests/Exams: There will be two tests (100 points each). Everyone must take the final exam. Exams include multiple choice, matching or definitions, and short essay questions. As a rule, make-up examinations will not be permitted unless the student's absence is excused in advance. A grade of incomplete ("X") will not be given unless the student contacts the instructor to make special arrangements for making up the required work. Only emergency situations that prohibit the student from completing the course as planned warrant consideration of the grade of "X".

Required Textbook(s):

The Real World; An Introduction to Sociology 8th ed. Kerry Ferris. Jill Stein. W.W. Norton and Company, 2016. Publisher: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.
ISBN Number: 978-0-393-41933-7

Minimum Technology Requirements:

Below are some technical requirements for using Blackboard that will help your experience in this course. You will see the NTCC Tech Support email address and phone number below. Please contact them if you run into any technical problems during the semester. Please let your instructor know you are having difficulties as well. If you need further NTCC technical support services, please contact IT at IT@ntcc.edu or 903.434.8140.   Blackboard will work on both a Mac and a PC. (Chrome Books are known to have issues with Blackboard.) Accessing Blackboard through Fire-Fox or Chrome as your web browser is best. If you have trouble with improper activities, you might change your web browser as your first solution. The Default Browser in Windows 10 is Edge. This browser does not do well with Blackboard! If you go to Windows Accessories, you will find Internet Explorer still on your computer,

but it is not your default browser. If you struggle to navigate with Edge, close it and go to Internet Explorer. You can download Blackboard Student for your smartphone from the Play or App stores. More information is available for Technology Requirements and Support under the Student Resources – Technical Support Tab in Blackboard.

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

The ability to communicate via email, including sending attachments; navigate the World Wide Web using a Web browser such as Internet Explorer; use office applications such as Microsoft Office (or similar) to create documents; willingness to learn how to communicate using a discussion board and upload assignments to a classroom Web site.   In addition, students need to be comfortable uploading and downloading saved files; navigating blackboard, including using the email component within Blackboard.

For more information or technical assistance on using the Learning Management System, please refer to the Home Page, Orientation Module in Blackboard's critical technical requirement, information, and support folder.

Course Structure and Overview:

Course Structure and Overview: This is a sixteen-week online course where students must access graded activities on the Blackboard Learning Management System. A typical class involves general participation by all members in discussions. Students must complete online homework, discussion forums, assignments, and exams. Students must watch instructional videos, read course textbooks, and complete online assignments in the Learning Management System, Blackboard, by due dates.

Tests/Exams (CT1):

Mid-term: July 7th
Final: August 4th
Grading: 100 points per exam

There will be two tests (100 points each). Everyone must take the final exam. Exams will include multiple-choice, matching or definitions, and short essay questions. As a rule, make-up examinations will not be permitted unless the student's absence is excused in advance. A grade of incomplete ("X") will not be given unless the student contacts the instructor to make special arrangements for making up the required work. Only emergency situation that prohibits the student from completing the course as planned will warrant consideration of the grade of "X".

Assignments:

All written assignments should be typed (12-point font), double-spaced, with one-inch margins, a title page and stapled. Students are encouraged to submit written work that has been spell-checked and is free of grammatical errors. Students are expected to use APA style when citing reference materials. Please refer to the APA manual or use www.apastyle.org for guidelines on writing in APA format. Students are advised that points will be deducted if these criteria are unmet.

Discussions/Activities
Due Date: Varies

Discussions/Activities is where we will assess your participation, whether you are an online or face-to-face learner. You are expected to be an active and engaged class member throughout the semester. Discussions/Activities are a way to exchange ideas and learn from your peers. Each student is expected to participate in the discussions/activities fully. It could involve summarizing articles, responding to questions from the text, or viewing and commenting on streaming videos.   There will be a minimum of 4 discussions/activities worth 25 points each.

ONLINE LEARNERS:

To receive credit, you must post your response to the posted discussion board questions by Thursday at midnight. In addition, you must post a response to another peer's post by Sunday at midnight. Your grade on the discussion board is based on participation. Each discussion board assignment is worth 25 points. However, to receive full credit for these posts, you must fulfill some basic requirements: - After posting your answer to the question, you are expected to respond to at least one other peer in the class. Initial posts should be at least 75 words, and a response at least 50 words. All posts should be relevant to the topic being discussed but should also attempt to introduce a new point of view or piece of information or otherwise further the discussion. Posts should use correct grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary appropriate for a college-level course. Misuse of the discussion boards will not be accepted.

Social Experiment
Grading: 100 points
Due Date: June 30ᵗʰ

Each student will conduct a non-intrusive experiment wherein you attempt to validate the existence of a particular norm in our society. A social experiment is a research method that involves manipulating one or more variables in a controlled environment to observe the effects on human behavior and how people behave in certain social situations. It is a way to test hypotheses and theories about human behavior in real-world scenarios. Within society are norms; norms are the unwritten rules that govern a society's behaviors, beliefs, and values. They can vary across cultures, generations, and contexts but are generally expected of every member of that society. For instance, wearing appropriate clothing when attending a formal event or using polite language when speaking to someone older than yourself. Social experiments often seek to test these norms by creating different scenarios and manipulating variables such as group dynamics, authority figures, or physical surroundings to see how they affect behavior toward others. Through social experimentation, researchers can gain insight into social behavior and identify patterns that may take time to become apparent. After conducting your social experiment, you will write about your finding by answering the questions below:

Write a **two-page** reflection paper and answer the following questions:

Describe in detail the activity you conducted (20pts).
Describe in detail what behavior or norm you tested (20pts).
Describe in detail people's reactions (10pts).
Describe your reaction, including any uncomfortable thoughts or feelings (10pts).
Describe in detail what you learned from the experiment (10pts).
Describe individual experiences and how they affect other societal systems (20pts).
Did the student write the paper in the correct APA format, including works cited (10pts)?

Social Issue Reflection (CT2 & EQS3)
Due Date: July 21st

In this assignment, students will select any social issue that interests them and apply all three significant theories (Functional, Conflict, Symbolic Interaction) to explain the issue/event. I'm not expecting a comprehensive explanation of any given social issue but rather that each student applies the three theories to the social issue. There is no right or wrong application of theory in evaluating your submissions. Still, you will be graded on how well you understand and attempt to use a specific theoretical perspective.

Some social issues you may choose could be:
Economic problems and bailouts,
Climate change,
Gender inequality,
Poverty,
Political Gridlock,
Oil exploration.

Write a **two-page** reflection paper and answer the following questions:

Describe in detail the social issue (20pts).
Describe in detail why it is a social issue and how it affects society, including cited supportive data (20pts).
Describe in detail people's reactions to the social issue, including any personal experiences (10pts).
Describe your reaction, including any thoughts or feelings (10pts).
Describe the application of the three major sociological theories (20pts).
Did the student write the paper in the correct APA format, including works cited (10pts)?
Give an example of how you can help others gain an understanding of the social issue (10pts).

Total Points: 100 points

Communications:

The college's official means of communication is via your campus email address. Emails will be responded to within 48 hours.   I will use your campus email address, Microsoft Teams, and Blackboard to communicate with you outside class. Ensure you keep your campus email cleaned out and below the limit so you can receive important messages.   The preferred communication method is Microsoft TEAMS will improve communication between students and instructors.

All students are strongly encouraged to download the Microsoft team's app on their personal phones or computer. This will be my primary communication tool for this course. To download the Teams mobile app, go to your mobile device's IOS App Store or Google Play Store and download the app. Once downloaded, use your NTCC email and password to log in. You can access Microsoft Teams from any internet browser by going to the following link: https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/log-in. You can also download Teams to your computer using the link above.   Be sure to turn on notifications in your setting to avoid missing notifications or important announcements for this course. **Please note that you will not receive notifications using the internet browser only.**   I typically respond within one hour to messages; however, I may take up to 24 hours to reply.   If you need additional help, please contact me at cshurtleff@ntcc.edu.

Look for this app:

Institutional/Course Policy:

Late work will only be accepted with prior approval by the instructor. Students are always expected to be respectful toward classmates and professors! Review Student Conduct in the Student Handbook. It is the student's responsibility to check Blackboard for important information/announcements regarding the course. Students should be working on course material via Blackboard every week. Do not wait until the last minute to complete and submit assignments in case of technical issues.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (http://www.ntcc.edu/) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:
NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach, using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty, such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion, is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

ADA Statement:
It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special population's page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law protecting student education records' privacy. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable U.S. Department of Education program. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records.

These rights transfer to the student when attending a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." A parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the student's written consent. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the student's written consent unless the student requests in writing. Directory information is defined as the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, the field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Student Social Support Resources:
At Northeast Texas Community College, we understand that students often have concerns that could lead to barriers to success. If you are a student that needs support and/or guidance, NTCC offers EagleAssist. EagleAssist is a comprehensive hub for students to access resources beyond the classroom. Some of those services include but are not limited to classroom accommodations, mental health counseling, NTCC Care Center, Financial Literacy, and Emergency Assistance. Included in those services are essential needs services provided through the NTCC CARE Center, located in IA105. The NTCC CARE Center houses our Eagle Pantry, which provides monthly food and hygiene products for current students expressing a need. **Mental Health Resources:** *As an NTCC student, you can access therapists and on-demand crisis counseling. Students can access services by accessing the link: https://www.thevirtualcaregroup.com/ntcc/.* NTCC supports alleviating barriers enabling student value and success, regardless of lived experience. To access services, please email eagleassist@ntcc.edu or CARE@ntcc.edu. In addition, if you need additional community resources, please www.ntcc.edu/carecenter.