Textbook and/or Resource Material
There are no required textbooks for this course. All readings will be made available on Blackboard.

We will be using the iClicker student response system in class this term. Be sure to bring your iClicker each day. The iClicker will also be used for daily quizzes, participation and to keep track of attendance. Please see the attendance policy on page 5 of the syllabus.

You should purchase the following model:
iClicker2

The mobile application, REEF Polling by iClicker will not be allowed. You must use the iClicker remote.

How to register:
To receive credit for the responses you submit with iClicker, you must register your iClicker. You must do so by the end of the drop/add period—February 1. Students who register after this time will not receive credit for previous quizzes.

Special instructions for REEF Polling by i-clicker
To create a REEF Polling by iClicker account, visit app.reef-education.com or download the app for iOS. Creating an account automatically starts a free 14-day trial subscription. You can add your iClicker to your REEF account by following the prompt on your screen.

Be sure to select UTRGV and the appropriate course and appropriate section.

Once you create your REEF Polling account, be sure that you've added your Student ID to your profile to complete the registration process.

Cheating
I consider bringing a fellow student’s iClicker to class to be cheating and an act of scholastic dishonesty. If you are caught with a remote other than your own or have votes in a class that you did not attend, you will forfeit all clicker points and may face additional disciplinary action (see page 5 of the syllabus)

Classroom Laptop Policy
The use of laptops or other electronic devices, with the exception of your iClicker remote, is not permitted unless otherwise stated by the professor.

Course Description and Prerequisites
This course provides a survey of the study of human society and the relationship of culture, social interaction, and group life to personality and human behavior. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes for the Course
This course is an introduction to sociology for majors and non-majors. We will explore how social networks, organizations, and institutions influence people’s identities and beliefs, their opportunities in life, and their everyday choices. We will investigate how class, gender, race, and cultural differences are created and maintained in places like college campuses, hospitals, the workplace, and elsewhere. We will learn about and apply some of
the tools sociologists use to study these processes. As we go, we will also consider ethical controversies surrounding these and related topics. The course will also help prepare students for the behavioral science portion of the MCAT exam.

**Learning Objectives for Core Curriculum Requirements**
This course satisfies the core curriculum requirement in Social and Behavioral Sciences. The core outcomes addressed in the course include: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Social Responsibility, and Personal Responsibility.

**Assignments and Grading**
- **Attendance (10%)**
- **iClicker (40%)**
- **Homework assignments (25%)**
- **Final Exam (25%)**

**Attendance**
If you use your iClicker remote at least once during the course, your attendance will be recorded. You are permitted **three absences without penalty** to your attendance grade. See page 5 for details.

**iClicker**
Each class will start with a short quiz that you will take with your iClicker. **Be sure you arrive on time.** The quizzes will cover material from previous lectures or the readings to be discussed that day. No notes will be permitted during this time.

Throughout the class, you will also use your iClicker remote to respond to poll questions, opinion questions, and review questions.

You must be physically present in the room to answer iClicker questions.

The points are a running total, and I will drop the lowest 10% of your responses.

There are no makeups for missed iClicker questions.

**Homework Assignments**
Each week, you will be given a short assignment to complete on your own time. **You will have one week to complete this assignment.** You are permitted to miss one assignment; however, no late assignments will be accepted.

Homework and in-class writing assignments (part of participation) will be graded on a <check-plus, check-minus, minus-minus> scale, equating to a 100, 75 and 0. Check-pluses will be given for work completed with effort and accuracy, check-minuses for completion but minimal effort and/or accuracy. Minus-minus will be given for missing work.

**Final Exam**
The final will be given in class during the university designated time. The questions will be a combination of defining/understanding terms, short answer and essay questions.

The exam will be closed book and a computer is not permitted. There are no make-up exams. If you are absent, this absence must be officially excused and communicated as soon as possible.

Any form of cheating or communication with other students during an exam will results in a 0 on the exam for everyone involved.
Participation
Every student will be expected to participate in class. This includes active participation in class discussion, in-class writing assignments, regular attendance and professional behavior. Each student will be granted one warning, but further acts of unprofessional behavior will result in a lower overall grade in the course, losing one point for each infraction.

Unprofessional behaviors include:
• showing up to class late or leaving early
• violating classroom laptop policy
• submitting non-original work as your own
• texting or other phone use in class
• disrespecting others (not paying attention, sleeping, interrupting others)
• missing deadlines or coming to class unprepared
• using email inappropriately (see http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor for tips on how to avoid common errors students make when emailing professors). Read emails before you send them, check the syllabus for policies first, and email me regarding regrading.
• Engaging in other similar unprofessional behavior

Late work: I will not accept late work. Therefore, you need to be certain that you turn in your work on time. UTRGV’s grading policy is to use straight letter grades (A, B, C, D, or F).

Extra Credit Movie Nights
Two times this semester we will get together at 7pm to watch popular movies or television shows relevant to the course material followed by a short discussion. Snacks and beverages provided. These are optional and will provide an opportunity to boost your grade.

I will add an extra 3 points to your homework or quiz grade, depending on the night attended.

February 5/8: Will add 3 points to your homework grade
April 16/19: Will add 3 points to your quiz grade

Additional Extra Credit
You will also receive a 2-point bonus to your final exam grade for uploading a profile picture to Blackboard by January 30th. This should be a clear picture of your face with no one else included in the picture, similar to your university ID card picture.

Personal Identities
Gender is central to the lives of many students, and not all students go by their legal name or find that the information in the University system does not accurately portray their identity. Please send me an email and let me know what your preferred name and pronouns are. For example, I prefer to be called Professor Bostic or Dr. Bostic, and my preferred pronouns are her & she.

Calendar of Activities
The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at https://my.utrgv.edu/home at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Some important dates for spring 2018 include:

- January 16: First day of classes
- January 19: Last day to add a course or register for spring 2018
- March 12 – 17: SPRING BREAK – NO classes
- March 30 – 31: EASTER HOLIDAY – NO classes
- April 12: Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
- May 2: Last day of classes
- May 3: Study Day – NO class
- May 4 – 10: Spring 2018 Final Exams
- May 11 - 12: Commencement Ceremonies
Course Schedule (*Subject to change*)

I: Sociological Foundations

**Week 1** (1/16, 1/18): Introduction to the Sociological Imagination

**Week 2** (1/23, 1/25): Socialization and the Construction of Reality

**Week 3** (1/30, 2/1): Groups & Network

**Week 4** (2/6, 2/8): Research Methods

II: Social Divisions

**Week 5** (2/13, 2/15): Social Structure & Social Class

**Week 6** (2/20, 2/22): Social Structure & Gender

**Week 7** (2/27, 3/1): Social Structure & Race

III: Social Institutions

**Week 8** (3/6, 3/8): Culture

**Week 9** (3/20, 3/22): Families

**Week 10** (3/27, 3/29): Religion

**Week 11** (4/3, 4/5): Education

**Week 12** (4/10, 4/12): Health

**Week 13** (4/17, 4/19): Markets and the Economy

**Week 14** (4/24, 4/26): Social Movements and the State

IV: Putting it all Together

**Week 15** (5/1): Conclusions & Review

**Final Exam:** May 8 @ 1:15pm
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD: *Required on all syllabi. Do not modify.* Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

- Spring 2018 Module 1 February 14 – February 20
- Spring 2018 Module 2 April 11 – April 17
- Spring 2018 (full semester) April 11 – May 2

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations. **Students will be permitted 3 unexcused absence without penalty.**

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; 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. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

COURSE DROPS:

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the
class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**STUDENT SERVICES:** Recommended on all syllabi.
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- **Learning center:** BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELC TR 100 (Edinburg)
- **Writing center:** BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- **Advising center:** BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- **Career center:** BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)