Syllabus For Introduction to Sociology (Fall 2025—16-week)



The University of New Mexico—Valencia

SOCI 1110 SECTION 501 (3-CREDIT) | CRN #81022 | (8/18/25 – 12/5/25)

Professor: Dr. Julia Wai-Yin So (juliaso@unm.edu)

Student drop-in hour:

M/W 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM & 2:45 PM – 3:15 PM @ A-142-F
or by appointment

Emergency contact: 505-925-8600 @ Academic Office

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About this syllabus

This syllabus is your roadmap to your course success. Please save this syllabus to your desktop or print a hard copy, so it is handy for you to refer to it frequently for topics covered under each unit, assignment due dates, and allocated grades for each assignment. The table of content to the right facilitates your search for topics.

Hi and Hello

I am your instructor for this course--Julia Wai-Yin So. Please call me Dr. So, although I am the kind of doctor that has no patients. I am of Chinese ancestry and my Chinese name is 蘇 惠 賢. The first character 蘇 (So) is my family name. It means basil as well as to revive. The next two characters 惠 賢 (Wai-Yin) are my first name which means intelligent and virtuous. Julia is my baptismal name. It means youthful. Do you know the meaning of your name?

A native of Hong Kong, I came to the U.S. in 1980. I first lived in Connecticut for two years and later in Texas for 26 years before moving to NM in 2008. Prior to migrating to the U.S., I had also lived in Japan and Ecuador for 6 and 2 years respectively.

When I was a community college student, I took an intro course in psychology and one in sociology. Fascinated with sociology, I moved on to earn my BA (graduated *summa cum laude*) and MA in sociology. My doctoral degree is in Political Economy and Public Policy which is a multi-disciplinary degree in political science, economics, and sociology. My dissertation compares the academic performance of four racial/ethnic groups of high school students with respect to their labor force participation.

Today, my primary interest remains in the academic performance of students, though focuses on college students. This passion drives my teaching philosophy which is to help students learn and cultivate a habit of critical thinking--an essential skill that helps you survive and thrive in today's society. In general, learning is about expanding our worldview and enriching our perspectives, not to mention improving the community we live in. It is an intellectual process that involves reading, writing, observing, discussing, and thinking critically. To reap the most benefits out of this course, I encourage you to reflect on your understanding of the course material as we examine the social world around us while applying the knowledge gained to your daily lives.

My role as your instructor is to facilitate your learning. As we learn together, I welcome you to share your experience with one another. How much you learn in this course depends on the amount of work you put into it; and hopefully, you will have fun while doing it. Enjoy the ride and not to worry too much about the grade. It is only one indicator of your course performance. It does not define who you are!

Lastly, a little bit about me—I enjoy traditional European classical music. I do not read novels, nor do I go to bars. I cannot read without my glasses and adequate lighting. Neither do I hear well without my hearing aids.

A statement of respect

I am committed to respect everyone in this class, no matter what social groups you belong to. I would also like to ask everyone to do the same. Some topics that we will be discussing can be sensitive or embarrassing, and even emotional, especially when we are reminded of our own experiences. I would like to gently caution everyone what is said in this course remains in the context of this class and is solely for the purpose of academic discourse and fostering a more inclusive learning environment. **Mutual respect** means either you or I do not talk on phone or text. Nor do we talk over each other or yell at each other. It is expected between students as well as between you and me, your professor. Thank you!

In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty are considered "responsible employees" by UNM. This designation requires me to report any gender discrimination disclosed to me to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (oeo.unm.edu) at the UNM-Albuquerque Campus. This includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct or sexual violence made to another student or a faculty member. Read more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct.

What is this course about?

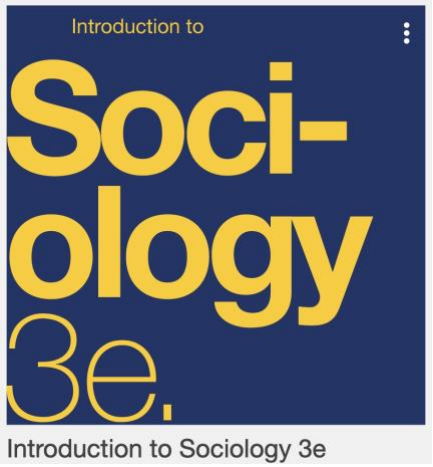
This is a three-credit-hour course. Class meets for two 75-minute sessions of direct instruction for 16 weeks during the Fall 2025 semester. Please plan for a minimum of six hours of out-of-class work (or homework, assignment completion, and class preparation) each week.

Reading, writing, and critical thinking are essential in this **college course**. Designed to introduce you, the student, to the basic **concepts and theories of sociology**, as well as the **methods utilized in social research**, this course addresses how sociological concepts and theories can be utilized to analyze and interpret our social world and describes how profoundly **society and groups influence us**. Your taken-for-granted or common-sense understandings of society, social institutions, and social issues will be challenged. Special attention will be given to the intimate **connections between personal lives and the larger structural features of social life.** The implications of social inequalities, such as race/ethnicity, gender, social class, and intersectionality will also be discussed.

What is the required textbook & materials?

1. **Introduction to Sociology (3rd ed).** OpenStax College. 2021. This is an open-source textbook (i.e. it is free). The digital version is ISBN-13: 978-1-951693-36-7. Please scan the QR code or click at the book cover and the browser will take you to the publisher's website where you can download the textbook. If you prefer to purchase a paper version, you may order a copy at the same website. Please do not select "view online". Downloading the entire book allows you cite the page # when working on your assignment. The page # does not show when viewing the textbook online.

Figure 1- Scan the QR Code to download the textbook



Textbook cover.

2. UNM requires all students to communicate using their **valid** UNM email address.
3. Access *Kanopy* from UNM Valencia Library, then set up your individual personal account (or call Valencia Library @ 505-925-8990 to help set up your account).
4. To keep records of any hard copy for this course, consider using a one-inch 3-ring binder & one pack of 4-tab dividers to organize the syllabus, your notes, handouts, and assignments by 3 units.

What will I be learning?

At the end of the semester, when you do your part as a student, you will be able to:

Table 1: Course Learning Outcomes by Content and Skills

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES ON CONTENT	COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES ON ESSENTIAL SKILLS[1]
1. Describe the three sociological perspectives and the sociological knowledge bring to the social sciences (CLO1) 2. Describe sociological imagination and explain the relationships between social structures, social forces and individuals (CLO2) 3. Demonstrate the ability to apply the perspectives of symbolic interactionist theory, conflict theory, and structural-functionalist theory to qualitative and/or quantitative data (CLO3) 4. Explain intersectionality and the connections between race, class, gender, disability, sexual identity and other forms of structural inequality (CLO4) *Please be sure to download the three course maps for this course from the Resource Folder. They will	**I. Communication** – **Demonstrate clarity when you express yourself with:** · Clear verbal communication with peers & instructor. · Clear written communication in discussion boards & reflection learning journals. - **Demonstrate your competence in:** · Reading & analyzing reading assignment. · Evaluating & presenting arguments. **II. Critical Thinking – demonstrate your competence in the following areas:** – Problem setting – identify a problem. – Evidence acquisition – collect data to describe the problem and to propose solutions to solving the problem. – Evidence evaluation – evaluate the data collected to substantiate your argument for

[1] The three areas of essential skills are required by the Higher Education Department in New Mexico.

help you to connect the learning materials with the learning outcomes of each module and unit.	a problem and your proposal to solve the problem. – Making an argument & drawing conclusion. **III. Personal & Social Responsibility – demonstrate your competence in the following areas:** – Intercultural understanding and competence – Explain & work with issues pertaining to human activities. – Ethical reasoning on human problems. – Teamwork & collaboration skills. – Civic knowledge, discourse & engagement.

Table 2: Course Learning Outcomes by Content and Essential Skills

Technology Requirement

1. Though a F2F course, please submit all assignments in Canvas. Please be sure you have internet access with up-to-date browser, operating system, and adequate WIFI-band, so you can complete this course successfully.
2. Some readings will be available to you in PDF format. You will need to download and install Adobe Acrobat Reader software on your computer.
3. You also need Microsoft Word to complete your assignments.

Where can I get IT help?

If you encounter IT related issues, please do not contact me for assistance. I am your instructor and do not have the ability or capacity to solve your IT situation. You may visit IT Support for additional information. For specific questions relating to *Canvas,* please call UNM-Central Campus at 505-277-5757 or visit UNM Canvas.

What is the attendance policy?

Attending classes regularly and participating in class discussion will help with your understanding of course materials and thus ensure your success in this course. You have two free passes (attached to the end of this syllabus) for missing classes with no questions asked. When you miss more than two class sessions, you might risk of failing this class or being dropped from this course. Be sure to contact me after your third absence. **If you are on financial aid, I urge you to attend *all* class sessions and participate in class activities. Passing this course will help you keep your future eligibility for financial aid.**

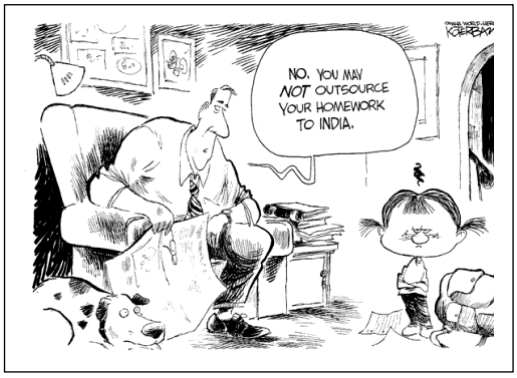
Late Assignment

You have two free passes (attached to the end of this syllabus) for turning in late assignments, within the same unit, with no questions asked. When you miss more than two assignments, you might risk of failing this class or being dropped from this course. I encourage you to cultivate a habit of accountability

Code of Conduct

Academic Honesty includes being honest "in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done by you or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students" and **Plagiarism**—an academic theft. It is when you copy an idea or any text that is more than six words from any source, including the Internet or your friends, without citing the source. To avoid plagiarism, be sure to enclose whatever you copy in quotation marks and **cite the source**. According to UNM policy, any student suspected of academic dishonesty will be subject to the investigative and disciplinary process of UNM.

I take academic honesty very seriously. When you behave otherwise, you will be dropped from the course and a report will be submitted to the Instruction Dean. The same report will be kept in the student's academic file.



Why should I do my work?

Learning takes time and effort. It requires reading, writing, and thinking. If you do not like group work, this is your opportunity to cultivate a habit of teamwork—an essential skill in today's workplace. Participating in group work and/or turning in assignments on time will help your understanding of course materials and thus ensure your success in this course. **If you are on financial aid, passing this course will help you keep your future eligibility for financial aid**. Submitting your completed assignments on time and participating in all the learning activities will definitely help.

What do we expect of each other?

This is a college course—it requires reading, writing, and critical thinking. If you dislike reading and/or writing, this is your opportunity to cultivate such habits. This course is also your opportunity to acquire the habit of being a critical thinker. Each week, you are required to read between 30 and 50 pages of reading and spend about 6 hours on assignments.

COMMUNICATION WITH ME

- The best way to reach me is via the email in Outlook. I will respond within 24 business hours.
- Make an appointment with me in advance to reduce your waiting time at the student drop-in hours.
- You are welcome to speak with me before or after class. Please be aware that these conversations have to be brief and are not private conversations.

YOU CAN EXPECT ME TO …

- not accept work that is not typed.
- return all graded assignments in two weeks.
- come to class on time and be prepared to teach.
- contact you when you miss **two** class sessions.
- keep your phone/digital device until the end of the class session, when you use it for class-unrelated activities or without my permission.
- give you only one verbal warning when you are disruptive in class before I ask you to leave.
- call campus police to escort you out of the classroom when disruptive behavior continues.



What suggestions would you give to future students to help them succeed in this course?

Keep up with the work. Dr. SO is not kidding when she says you'll pass if you show up and do your work!!

Grading Scheme - How is my work graded?

To excel in this class, I highly encourage you to follow the course schedule and do the work. The total earned grade will be weighted to a maximum of 100 points for the course letter grade.

*According to the policy of Sociology Department, **the passing grade of required sociology courses is a "C."** Students must complete all course requirements to earn credit for the course. Those who fail to complete the requirements will be assigned an "F". The final letter grade will be posted on LoboWeb. It is based on the following:

Average of 3 Learning Reflection Journals	50%
Average of 3 Assessments	10%
Average of 3 VRE essays	20%
Class Participation	20%
Total	100%

99 - 100	A+
90 – 98.9	A
87 – 89.9	B+
80 – 86.9	B
77 – 79.9	C+
72 – 76.9	C*
67 – 71.9	D+
60 – 66.9	D
Less than 60	F



Please note that any grade less than a 72 is a failing grade.

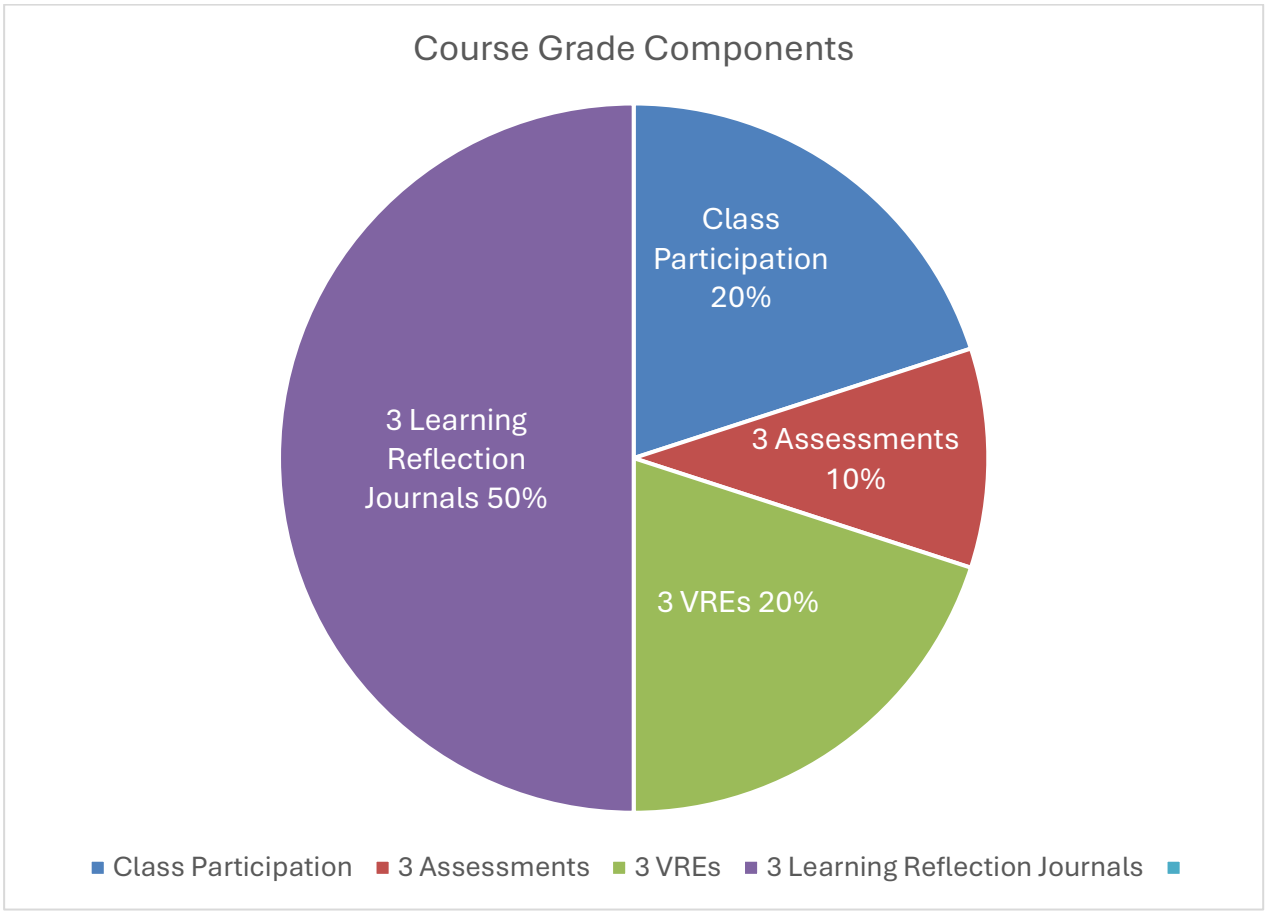


Figure 2: A pie chart showing the components of course grade.

3 Learning Reflection Journals—50% of Course Grade

The Learning Reflection Journals (one for each unit) are to assess your knowledge of the concepts presented in this course with respect to the learning outcomes on both contents and essential skills of communication, critical thinking, and social & civil responsibility listed in the syllabus.

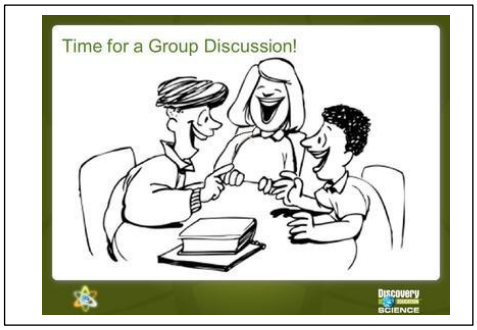
3 Assessments – 10% of Course Grade

Submit the assessments in Canvas. Each assessment is worth 10 points. The average of the three assessments accounts for 10% of the course grade. Check course schedule below for due dates.

Unit (1) - Assessment (1): Gratitude Assignment
Unit (2) - Assessment (2): Self-esteem Assessment
Unit (3) - Assessment (3): Test anxiety Assessment

Class participation – 20% of Course Grade

Class session format includes lectures, team activities, videos, and/or team discussions. Students are randomly assigned to Learning Teams of three. Your team is to discuss materials and participate in team activities throughout the semester. As a team, you are to assign a speaker at each class session. The assigned speaker will speak for the team in class. You do not earn any grade for the day that you are absent. I hope you will find the class interesting and engaging because interest and engagement are valuable parts of your learning. To learn about UNM's policy on netiquette, please click Guidelines for group discussions.



VIDEO REFLECTION ESSAYS (VRE: 20% OF COURSE GRADE)

A total of three VREs are required. Students are required to watch a video and write a minimum of 500-word reflection essay, addressing the questions in the assignment sheets. Each VRE is worth 50 points. The average of the three essays accounts for 20% of course grade. A grading matrix is provided on the assignment sheets. Check course schedule below for due dates.

Unit (1) - VRE (1): *Food Inc.*
Unit (2) - VRE (2): *Raising Cain*
Unit (3) - VRE (3): *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?*

Course Schedule of Learning Activities

*All assignments are due in Canvas before class. Do not turn in assignment in class.
All tasks are in black text | assignment due dates are in blue text

Unit I – Society & Culture

Wk	Date	Module	Ch	Topics /Assignments
1 & 2	8/18 (M)	1	1 2.1	LAS 1 – The study of Society Online Student Intake Form
3 & 4	9/1 (M)			Labor Day – campus closed
	9/3 (W)	2	5.1 5.2	LAS 2 - Culture
	9/5 (F)			Census Day – last day to drop without "W" grade
	9/8 (M)			Online Student Intake Form – due before class
5 & 6	9/15 (M)	3	4 6	VRE 1 – due before class LAS 3 - Social Structure & Socialization
	9/22 (M)			Assessment 1 – due before class

Unit II –Socialization & Social Institutions

Wk	Date	Module	Ch	Topics/Assignments
7 & 8	9/29 (M)	4	5 14	Learning Reflection Journal (1) – due before class LAS 4 - Socialization & Development of the Self
	10/6 (M)			10/10 & 10/11 (Th – Fri) UNM Fall Break (No class)

9 & 10	10/13 (M)	5		LAS 5 - Institution of Family
	10/20 (M)			Assessment 2 - due before class
11 & 12	10/27 (M)	6	16	LAS 6 - Institution of Education
	11/3 (M)			VRE 2 – due before class
	11/7 (F)			Last day to withdraw without Dean's permission on LoboWeb

Unit III – Social Inequality

Wk	Date	Module	Ch	Topics/Assignments
13 & 14	11/10 (M)	7	9	Learning Reflection Journal (2) – due before class LAS 7 Social Inequality
	11/17 (M)			
15 & 16	11/24 (M)	8	11	Assessment 3 – due before class LAS 8 Racial/Ethnic & Gender Inequality
				11/28 & 11/29 Thanksgiving Holiday
	12/1 (M)			VRE 3 – due before class
	12/5 (F)			Last day to withdraw with Dean's permission form

12/10 (W) -Submit Learning Reflection Journal (3) @ 10:30 AM

Where can I get help?

(Info accessed from UNM-Valencia website on 8/1/2025)

Course/Campus Resources:

- Academic Success Team: 505-925-8907
- Assessment Center: (505) 925-8560
- Campus Police: (505) 925-8570
- Career Services: (505) 925-8840
- Equal Access Services: 505-925-8560 or vcaccess@unm.edu
- Pasos: 505-925-8546 or pasos@unm.edu
- Technology Support: (505) 277-5757
- The Learning Commons (Tutoring Service): tutor@unm.edu
- The Wellness Center: (505) 925-8830
- Valencia Library: (text – 505-916-1647)
- Veterans & Dependents Services: Joseph Burgess at 505-925-8568/jburgess@unm.edu
- Download LoboGuardian & be safe: https://loboguardian.unm.edu/
- Stressed? Contact Agora Crisis Center at 505-277-3013 or 855-505-4505

SUPPORT SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DIFFERENT NEEDS: In accordance with University Policy 2310 and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you are a **student with documented physical or learning disability**, please contact me as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. If you have special need and require accommodation in the classroom or other academic settings, it is **your** responsibility to contact the Office of Accessibility Services at 505-925-8560.



Universal Design for Learning Principles (UDL)
To create a more inclusive learning environment, I try my best to employ Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles, which emphasize the use of multiple means of representation, expression and engagement during lesson development in order to effectively reach the widest possible number of students from the outset, rather than through individual "retrofits" of instruction and assessment.

VETERAN SUPPORT SERVICES: If you are a veteran, I strongly encourage you to **identify yourself to me**, especially if you seek awareness for or need accommodations. For additional assistance, please contact Joseph Burgess at 505-925-8568 or jburgess@unm.edu

Accommodation for Spiritual Tradition and/or Faith-based Observance
Please notify me of your obligations to spiritual tradition or faith affiliation. Reasonable accommodation for such observances will be considered when requested in advance.

Citizenship and/or Immigration Status: I welcome all students regardless of citizenshipresidency, or immigration status. I respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. As for all students in the class, family emergency-related absences are generally excused with reasonable notice to me, as noted in the attendance guidelines above. UNM has made a core commitment to the success of *all* our students, including members of our undocumented community.

I am an Ally of NM Dream Team

An image of Dream Team

Located throughout the campus, these Safe Zone areas offer a safe space for LGBTQI students to share a conversation. You are always welcome in my office.

GENDER NEUTRAL RESTROOMS

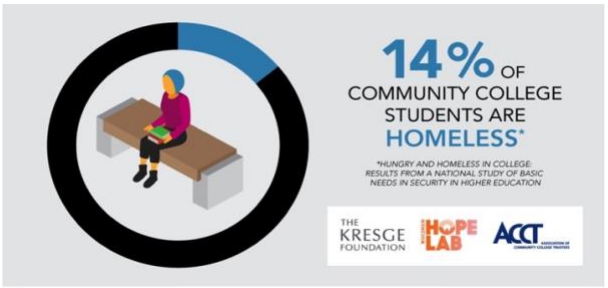
They are four on campus: two are inside the Writing Center, one is next to the elevator between the Nursing Education Center and Student Community Center, and one inside the Administration Building.

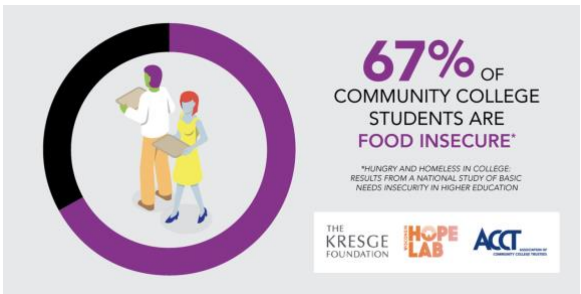


Door sign of a gender neutral restroom

Food and Housing Insecurity

UNM-Valencia recognizes food and housing insecurity among college students are national phenomena in recent years. If you have difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food daily or securing a safe and/or a stable place to live, please **contact PASOS Resource Center at PASOS@UNM.EDU or 505-925-8546** for support. Furthermore, if you feel comfortable letting me know of your situation, not only will I respect your privacy, but will also share any resources that I know of.





Your Success in this Course Depends on YOU!
Your Success in Life Also Depends on YOU!

Free Passes

Free pass #1 for class absence* **Date _____**

This is my free pass #1 for my absence on _____

Name _____ Lobo ID _____

*Expires after 12/10/2025.

Free pass #2 for class absence* **Date _____**

This is my free pass #2 for my absence on _____

Name _____ Lobo ID _____

*Expires after 12/10/2025.

Free pass #1 for late assignment* **Date _____**

This is my free pass #1 for the late assignment that was due on _____

Name _____ Lobo ID _____

*This late assignment free pass expires beyond the unit date.

Free pass #2 for late assignment* **Date _____**

This is my free pass #2 for the late assignment that was due on _____

Name _____ Lobo ID _____

*This late assignment free pass expires beyond the unit date.