SYLLABUS FOR SOCI 2315 *DYNAMICS OF PREJUDICE* SECTION 501 (3 CREDITS) CRN #81021
CLASS HOURS & LOCATION: T/R: 1:30 PM – 2:45 PM @A-140 (8/18/25 – 12/5/25)

Professor: Dr. Julia Wai-Yin So @ juliaso@unm.edu (the best way to reach me)
Student Drop-in hours:
M/W: 10 – 10:30 AM @A-142F
M/W: 2:45 – 3:15 PM @A-142F
Or by appointment
Emergency contact: 505-925-8600 @ Academic Office

This course meets UNM's Critical Analyses of US & Global Cultures undergraduate degree requirement.

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Hi and Hello

I am Dr. Julia Wai-Yin So, but 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 mint 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 settled in Connecticut for two years and 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 was advised to major in social work. After taking an intro course in psychology and one in sociology, I fell in love with sociology. Fascinated with sociology, I moved on to earn my BA (graduated *summa cum laude*) and an 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 focus on college students. This passion also 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!

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, study, assignment completion, and class preparation) each week.

If you are interested in understanding how and why we see and interact with those who look or speak differently from us in a particular way, you are in the right course. In this semester, we will find out **how attitudes and beliefs of individuals shape intergroup relations** and their impacts on the daily lives of individuals as well as their effects on the larger social structure of US society. We will examine how profoundly **our society and the groups to which we belong influence us and our beliefs** and ultimately how these beliefs shape prejudice in our society. Throughout this semester, I would encourage you to challenge ideologies that are considered "common sense" or that are taken for granted and this in turn will allow you to critically engage issues in society such as racism, classism, or sexism. We will also attempt to understand **how privilege or the lack of affects our views on disability, LGBTQI issues, religion, and/or immigration.** Rather than investigating these themes in the abstract, we will learn to identify and unpack how these larger structural issues play an integral role in our everyday lives, interactions, and existence. Last but not least, we will address the social inequalities that exist in our society as a result of prejudice while discussing and engaging in strategies to work towards changing these aspects of society.

Required Course Materials

1. All handouts and reading materials are to be downloaded @ UNM Canvas.
2. UNM Lobo ID card to check out materials at UNM-Valencia Library.
3. A **valid** UNM email address as required by UNM policy.
4. A two-inch 3-ring binder & one pack of 4-tab dividers to organize your articles and assignments

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Identify the sources of attitudes and beliefs of individuals pertaining to various social groups (CLO 1)
2. Explain the meaning of privilege as well as being able to identify and address the different intersections of privileges that are inherent to them on an individual level (CLO 2)
3. Apply theories covered in the course to understand contemporary trends in majority-BIPOC relations (CLO 3)
4. Identify the multiple forms of marginalization and oppression that exist in society (CLO 4)

5. Describe the structural nature of these inequalities in U.S. society (CLO 5)
6. Apply course theories in a critical manner to a social theme of your choice (CLO 6)
7. Change at least one habit to reduce prejudice on an individual level (CLO 7)

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES ON CONTENT BY UNITS[1]	COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES ON ESSENTIAL SKILLS[2]
Unit 1 • explain the structural nature of inequalities in the U.S. (CLO 5) • explain the meaning of privilege (CLO 2) • identify the different intersections of privileges inherent to individuals (CLO2)	**I. Communication** – **Demonstrate clarity when you express yourself:** · Verbal communication with peers & instructor · Written communication expressed in exams & video reflection essays - **Demonstrate your competence to:** · Read & analyze reading assignments · Evaluate & present an argument **II. Critical Thinking – demonstrate your competence in the following areas:** • Problem setting • Evidence acquisition • Evidence evaluation • 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
Unit 2 • identify the sources of attitudes and beliefs of individuals pertaining to various social groups (CLO1) • apply sociological theories to explain contemporary trends in majority-BIPOC relations (CLO 3)	
Unit 3 • explain the structural nature of inequalities in the U.S. (CLO 5) • identify the multiple forms of marginalization and oppression (CLO 4) • change one habit to reduce prejudice on an individual level (CLO 7) • apply course theories in a critical manner to a social theme of your choice (CLO 6) *Please be sure to refer to the three course maps for this course. They will help you connect the learning materials with the learning outcomes of each module and unit.	

A table showing course learning outcomes.

Technology Assistance

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.

Attendance

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

[1] Please refer to the course map (downloadable from Canvas) for learning activities and assessment tools used to assess your learning,
[2] The rubrics for the three areas of essential skills are in the RESOURCE Folder of this course at UNM Canvas.

two class sessions, you might risk of failing this class or being dropped from this course. **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 Assignments

You have two free passes for submitting late assignments, with no penalty and no questions asked. Located on the last page of this syllabus, the free passes cannot be used beyond the schedule of the same unit. Please turn in your late assignment in hard copy together with the free pass to me personally. Beyond the two late assignments, please come and speak with me.

Mutual Expectations

This is a college course—it requires both reading and writing. If you dislike reading or writing, this is your opportunity to cultivate such habits, so you can be successful in college and the workplace. To succeed this course, you will independently complete the following activities each week:

- read between 20 and 40 pages of articles.
- answer the questions assigned to each article

COMMUNICATION WITH ME

- The best way to reach me is via UNM LobMail, not your personal email.
- 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 hand-written.
- respond to your eMail in LoboMail by the next business day.
- return all assignments in no more than two weeks.
- come to class on time and be prepared to teach.
- s sessions.
- keep your phone/digital device until the end of the class session, when you use it for unrelated class-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.



Student Code of Conduct

Students will be disciplined when engaged in any behaviors that "affect adversely the University's educational function…or…interfere with the rights of others to pursue their education, to conduct their University duties and responsibilities or to participate in University activities" per UNM policy.

Mutual respect is expected between students as well as between you and me, your professor. In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty are considered "responsible employees". This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct or sexual violence made to a faculty member must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (ceeo.unm.edu) at Main Campus. Read more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct.

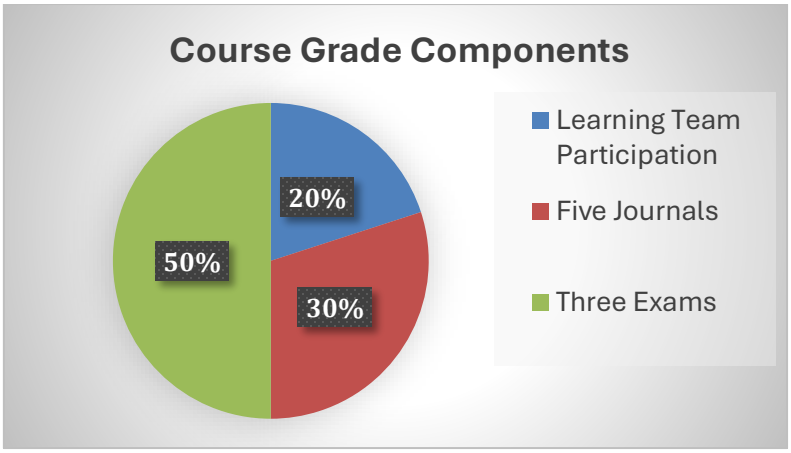
Academic Honesty It is to your advantage that you avoid "dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done by you or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students" and **Plagiarism**—an academic theft. This is when you copy an idea or any text that is more than six words from any source, including the Internet or your friends, without citing the source. Enclosing whatever you copy in quotation marks and citing the source will prevent you from committing plagiarism. Otherwise, you might 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 your academic file.



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!!



The final grade on your transcript will be based on the following:



99 - 100	A+
90 – 98.9	A
87 – 89.9	B+
80 – 86.9	B
77 – 79.9	C+
72 – 76.9	C* Please note that any grade less than a 72 is a failing grade.
67 – 71.9	D+
60 – 66.9	D
Less than 60	F

THE EVALUATION OF FINAL COURSE GRADE IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

A. THREE EXAMS (50% OF COURSE GRADE)

The average of three exams constitutes 50% of your course grade. Scheduled exam format includes true/false, multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blanks, and short answer essays. Exam materials include lectures, videos, handouts, and *all* assigned articles. All exams are closed books and closed notes. **No retakes or make-up exams are given**. Under extenuating circumstances, only **ONE** make-up exam is permitted with supporting documents from a bona fide third party. The make-up exam is an essay exam. **Be sure to have your Lobo ID with you on exam days.** The final exam is mandatory.

B. LEARNING TEAM PARTICIPATION (20% OF COURSE GRADE)

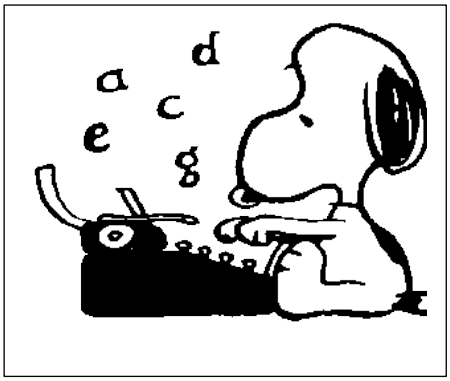
Attending class sessions and participating in class discussion regularly will help you pass this course. Class session format includes lectures, group activities, videos, and/or small group discussions. You and your team members are expected to discuss and present a summary of the assigned articles, and take quizzes/exams together. **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.

Guidelines for class discussions:

- acknowledge we all have misinformation
- acknowledge we live in a society where various forms of privilege and oppression exist
- acknowledge your peers are like you--doing the best they can to learn
- listen with an open mind and speak with an open
- heart
- practice active listening



C. FIVE JOURNALS (30% OF COURSE GRADE)



The average of five journals accounts for 30% of course grade. **All journals are due online before class on Mondays**. They have to be at least 500 words (about 2-page double-spaced) and address the questions listed on the assignment sheet. **I am unable to read hand-written work, please submit a typed essay**. A grading matrix is provided on the assignment sheet.

*According to UNM policy issued by the Sociology Department, the passing grade of *all* required sociology courses is a "C." Students must complete all course requirements by the end of the semester to earn credit for the course; otherwise, an "F" will be assigned. To protect your privacy, grades will only be given out face to face.

If UNM closes on the day of final exam because of inclement weather or other reasons, your final course grade will be calculated based on all work assessed up to that point during this semester. It includes the grades from: (1) the first two exams and (2) five journals, and (3) your learning team participation grade.

To excel in this class, it is critical that you follow the course schedule and do the work.

Course Schedule of Readings & Assignments

Unit 1: The Social and Political Construction of Difference

Wk	Date	Topics/Reading Assignment
1	8/18 (M)	Student online Intake Form Learning Team Assignment
	8/20 (W)	Article 1A
2	8/29 (M)	Article 1B
	8/31 (W)	Article 1C
3	9/1 (M)	Labor Day – campus closed
	9/2 (T)	Due—Journal #1 (Color of Money)
	9/3 (W)	Articles 2A & 2B
	9/5 (F)	Census Day – last day to drop without "W" grade Due – Online Intake Form
4	9/8 (M)	Articles 2C & 2D
	9/10 (W)	Articles 2E & 2F

5	9/15 (M)	Article 3A & 3B
	9/17 (W)	Article 3C
6	9/22 (M)	Due—Journal #2 (The Canary Effect) Articles 3D
	9/24 (W)	Article 3E
7	9/29 (M)	Articles 3F & 3G Review
	10/1 (W)	Exam (1)

Unit 2: Sources of Prejudice & the Reproduction of Class Privileges

Wk	Date	Topics/Reading Assignment
8	10/6 (M)	Articles 4A
	10/8 (W)	Articles 4B, 4C & 4D
	10/9 & 10/10	Fall Break (no class)
9	10/13(M)	Articles 5A
	10/15(W)	Articles 5C, 5D, & 5E
10	10/20 (M)	Due—Journal #3 (on Stereotype) Articles 6A & 6B
	10/22(W)	Articles 6C & 6D
11	10/27(M)	Article 6E
	10/29 (W)	Article 6F
12	11/3 (M)	Due—Journal #4 (on Implicit Bias) Review
	11/5 (W)	Exam Two on Unit 2
	11/7 (F)	Last day to withdraw **without** the permission of the Dean of Instruction

Unit 3: Social Transformation and Social Change

Wk	Date	Topic/Reading Assignment
13	11/10 (M)	Articles 7A & 7B
	11/12 (W)	Article 7C
14	11/17 (M)	Article 7D
	11/19 (W)	Article 7E

15	11/24 (M)	Due - Journal #5 (A Class Divided & Angry Eyes) Article 8A
	11/26 (W)	Article 8B
	11/27 – 11/28	Thanksgiving Holiday (no class)
16	12/1 (M)	Article 8C Review
	12/3 (W)	Mandatory Final Exam (either on 12/3 or 12/10. We will take a vote.
	12/5 (F)	Last day to withdraw with Dean's permission form

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

Campus Resources to help you succeed academically
(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 sjclawson@unm.edu for Sarah Clawson
- PASOS: 505-925-8546

- Technology Support: (505) 277-5757
- The Learning Commons: tutor@unm.edu
- The Wellness Center: (505) 925-8830
- Valencia Library: (text – 505-916-1647)
- Veterans & Dependents Services: Joseph Burgess at 505-925-8568

VETERAN SUPPORT SERVICES: If you are a veteran, I strongly encourage you to **self-identify** 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

SUPPORT SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DIFFERENT NEEDS: In accordance with University Policy 2310 and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any student who, because of a disability, may require certain special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. If you are a student with **documented** physical or learning disability, please notify me during the first week of class. 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 at 505-925-8840.

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 These principles 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.



Citizenship and/or Immigration Status: I welcome all students in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, 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 the professor, 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

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 upon request in advance.

Gender Neutral Restrooms

There are three: two inside the Writing Center and the third one is next to the elevator between Nursing Education Center and Student Community Center.



An image of Neutral Gender Restroom Sign

Safe Zone Areas

Located throughout the campus, these areas offer a safe space for LGBTQI students to share a conversation. You are welcome to come by my office.



An image of Safe Zone

Food and Housing Insecurity

If you have difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day 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. More importantly, 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.

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

I am using my free pass #1 for my absence on _____

Name _____ Lobo ID _____

*Expires after 12/10/2025.

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

I am using my free pass #2 for my absence on _____

Name _____ Lobo ID _____

*Expires after 12/10/2025.

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

I am using my free pass #1 for 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 _____**

I am using my free pass #2 for late assignment that was due on _____

Name _____ Lobo ID _____

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