

SYLLABUS
SOCL 1143 X12
Sociological Inquiry
Fall 2025
Online

Sociology is the “systematic study of human societies (Newman 2022).” According to the American Sociological Association (n.d.), “sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies and how people interact within these contexts (para 1).”

Professor: Amy Clark, Ph.D.

OFFICE: O'DO 131 on campus; online through Zoom appointments

OFFICE HOURS: If you are on campus, feel free to drop by during my office hours or make an appointment to come see me. Otherwise, please schedule a Zoom appointment if you would like to meet virtually or outside of the times below.

Monday 9:55am-11:55am

Tuesday 10:55 am-11:55am

Wednesday 9:55am-11:55am

The best way to reach me is via email through D2L or at the email address below. If you need to schedule a Zoom appointment, then please give me as much advanced notice as possible, and we can set up a time. I answer emails from my D2L inbox and through the email address below Monday through Friday within 48 hours *excluding weekends*. However, electronic communication is time stamped, and I will honor the date and time that you contact me.

EMAIL: amy.clark@msutexas.edu

TEXT: The Process of Social Research (3rd Edition)

ISBN: 978-0-19-761373-3

Author: Dixon

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Copyright Year: 2023

*If you are on campus, the book is available on 2-hour reserve at the Moffett Library. Students may check it out on a first-come, first-serve basis. The book cannot be removed from the Library. Go to the circulation desk and ask to check out the book. You will need your MSU ID to check it out.

CITATION STYLE:

APA 7th edition format. The APA 7th edition manual is available for 2-hour reserve checkout in the Moffett-Library.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology is the scientific study of society. This means that as sociologists we

utilize the scientific method to observe, learn and make inferences on various levels of analysis. Society includes macro level structures, meso level culture, and micro level individual/group interaction. Within this general overview, sociologists focus on different aspects of society to answer fundamental questions about the world that surrounds us. This course will help you familiarize yourself with basic of sociological research methods of inquiry.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY:

- The *Respondus Lockdown Browser* download to a compatible device and a webcam for the *Monitor*; webcams can be checked out from the Moffett Library
- Microsoft Office 365 (free subscription through MSU) or other word processing software, which can be converted to a PDF.

ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING:

Exams: (4@150 points each; 600 points total)

There are four exams in the course worth 150 points each. Exams are to be completed in D2L on their respective due dates by 11:59pm CST. Students will have 50 minutes to complete 50 multiple choice and true/false questions. Students will have *two* attempts to complete the exam. The grades for both test attempts will be *averaged*. *The Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor will be used. Students will need a webcam to use with the Lockdown Browser for the monitor feature.* Test grades will not be curved. Exams will be made available by 9am on the day that they are due, and they are due no later than 11:59pm CST on the due date. *No late exams are accepted without an approved excuse.* Exams are open book/open notes.

Quizzes (4@25 points each; 100 points total)

There are four quizzes in the course worth 25 points each. Quizzes are to be completed in D2L on their respective due dates by 11:59pm CST. Students will have 20 minutes to complete 25 multiple choice and true/false questions. Quizzes are not open book/open notes and must be finished in one attempt. *The Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor will be used. Students will need a webcam to use with the Lockdown Browser for the monitor feature.* Quiz grades will not be curved. Quizzes will be made available by 9am on the day that they are due, and they are due no later than 11:59pm CST on the due date. *No quizzes are accepted without an approved excuse.*

Special Notes on Accommodations for Tests and Quizzes:

Students should notify me as soon as possible if they have accommodations for exams through DSS, and I must receive the DSS notification letter **before** the accommodation will be provided.

Applications: (2@100 points each; 200 points total)

There are 2 application assignments worth 100 points each. They are required to be two to three pages in length and **cited in APA 7th edition format**. Each assignment will be graded with a detailed rubric, and students will have access to the assignment directions ahead of time in the D2L course shell. Applications will be checked for possible plagiarism using Turnitin. Students should not use any Artificial Intelligence (AI) to assist the with writing their papers including but not limited to ChatGPT. Any use of AI will automatically result in a zero on the assignment. *Late application assignments will be accepted without an excused reason up to 48 hours after the due date.*

Discussion Boards (4 @25 points each; 100 points total)

There are four discussion boards worth 25 points each, which require both an original post AND two posts to the responses of peers. Each original discussion post should address the prompt provided in **at least 350 words**. Each peer post should be **at least 100 words**. Peer responses should continue the original discussion by offering additional insight, raising valid points, asking relevant questions, or suggesting additional resources for review. Discussion board assignments will be graded via a detailed rubric provided in the D2L course shell. *Late discussion boards will be accepted without an excused reason up to 48 hours after the due date.*

Graded Assessments

Graded Assessments	POINTS	Percentage of Final Grade by Category
Exams 1-4 (150 points each)	600	60%
Discussions and peer posts (4@25 points)	100	10%
Quizzes (4 @ 25 points each)	100	10%
Application Assignments (2@100 points each)	200	20%
Total Number of Points Available in the Course	1000	100%

Policy on Academic Dishonesty

- Students are NOT allowed to use ChatGPT or any other unauthorized AI in this class.
- Turnitin **will be utilized** to check for possible plagiarism on written assignments.
- Students suspected of cheating on exams, quizzes, or written assignments will be given a zero on the assessment and referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.
- Students should never submit another person's work; this is cheating and will result in a zero and referral to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities

Technical Difficulties

- If students experience a technical issue in D2L, students should reach out through the D2L Help feature to "[report a problem](#)."
- **Respondus LockDown Browser** is NOT compatible with Chromebook Laptops or mobile devices. iPad is the only mobile device that is compatible at this time.
 - Most of the time you will not encounter any problems, however, listed below are some common issues. Make sure you have the most recent version of the [LockDown Browser](#) on your computer. The most common issue is the loss of connection during the test. If you get a blank page or a spinning wheel, you will need to exit the test, close the browser, and re-enter the test. If you are taking this test at home, it is best that no other device is being used that requires the Internet while you are taking the test. Chromebook Laptops are NOT compatible with the LockDown Browser, so you will need to locate a different device. **If you have the ability to come to campus the LockDown Browser is on the computers in the Clark Student Center lab and the first floor Dillard lab. Note: There are no cameras on these computers, if your test requires the Monitor you will need to bring your own webcam or check one out from the Library.**
 - If you need assistance with issues, please use the Report a Problem link at the top of this page or email d2lhelp@msutexas.edu.
 - Always let your Instructor know that you've had a technical difficulty and have reached out to us

Late work:

- Applications and Discussion Boards will be accepted late for a penalty UP TO 48 HOURS LATE in D2L with an unexcused absence according to the policy listed below. Therefore, students MUST PAY ATTENTION to the difference between **the due date and the last date that an assessment is available**. If students have any questions about this, then please ask me as soon as possible. (Please also view the policy on **missing tests**.)
- No tests or quizzes will be accepted late; students who miss a test for an **approved reason** must make up the test. (See the excused absence policy.)
- Students who have technical difficulties must contact D2LHelp before the due date of the test in order for the technical difficulty to be considered as a reason to make up the exam.
- **Late penalties are as follows for unexcused application and discussion board assignments:**
 - **< or equal to 24 hours late, 50% reduction in the total point value of the assignment.** The deduction will be manually calculated by the instructor and applied in D2L once the assignment has been graded. The number of points deducted will depend on the point value of the assignment.
 - **> 24 hours late but < or equal to 48 hours late, will receive a 75 % reduction in the total point value of the assignment.**
 - **>48 hours late equals an automatic zero**

COURSE POINT TOTALS AND CORRESPONDING GRADING SCALE

Grades will be determined by the following scale:

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points	
A	900 or higher	90 to 100%
B	800 to 899	80 to 89%
C	700 to 799	70 to 79%
D	600 to 699	60 to 69%
F	Less than 600	59% or lower

Final grades are not rounded in this course because extra credit is offered.

Extra Credit: There will be one extra credit opportunity worth 30 points. It is due at the date and time listed in the Syllabus.

Course Policies**Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures**

- Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). *In this class, any use of ChatGPT or other unauthorized AI is considered cheating and academic dishonesty.*

The Americans With Disabilities Act

- The Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Office of Disability Accommodation. The telephone number is 397-4618.

Expectations about classroom etiquette and netiquette

- Students should be willing to listen to others and not engage in any form of hostile communication or excessively disruptive behavior (netiquette).
- Respect, empathy, kindness, and compassion for others will be a cornerstone in this course. Sociologists discuss things that are inherently controversial. Though this is an online class, some of our class “discussions” may be energized at times, and it may become apparent that not everyone agrees. Regardless, we are all part of a larger community at MSU Texas, and I expect that each of you will do your very best to respect one another. We are all here to learn and grow. Please know that if you feel triggered by any topic in this course, there are campus support services available.
- When interacting with me and each other online, please keep MSU Texas’ core value of respect in mind at all times. Rude, abusive behavior will not be tolerated online. Disruptive behavior will be referred to Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Online communications should display principles of netiquette and be civil in tone.

Extenuating Circumstances, Emergencies, Illness, and Academic Activities:

In order to make up missed tests and/or have late penalties removed from written assessments, students must have an approved excused, which can be documented.

Emergencies and other extenuating circumstances happen. The following count as emergencies and/or extenuating circumstances and should be evidenced by appropriate documentation:

- Written evidence of attending a mandatory university-sponsored activity (band, athletics, etc.)-documentation must come from college dean, Athletic Director, and/or Provost
- Official documentation of mandatory military service (i.e., deployment, etc.)
- Religious observance or Holy Day(s)
- Medical appointments related to pregnancy, pregnancy related complications, delivering early, or being restricted from activity for a certain amount of time due to pregnancy
- An acute or chronic illness, which prevents you from coming to campus or coming to class on time
- A written note from a medical clinic
- A written note from the MSU Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities
- A written note from a physician for a family member/loved one’s illness
- You experience issues related to Title IX including but not limited to assault, stalking, or domestic violence
- Official documentation of required jury or court appearance
- Death of a family member/loved one/close relative
- Documentation of a motor vehicle accident, domestic disturbance, theft of your property, etc., which prevented you from coming to class
- Unexpected homelessness, food insecurity, job displacement, or a loss of otherwise reliable transportation-*please let me know about this as soon as possible*
- If you suddenly became an unexpected caregiver of someone critically ill

- If you are a law enforcement, corrections officer, or first responder and are faced with a verifiable/documented work emergency, which prevented you from coming to class (i.e. a transport, accident, fire, or major trauma etc.)

Though the aforementioned list is thorough, if you have absences related to other extreme/extenuating circumstances beyond your control that are not listed above, then please let me know as soon as possible. I want you to be successful in this class, and I will make EVERY EFFORT to help you do so. **Please communicate with me as soon as something has gone wrong and before you begin missing several classes.** MSU Texas has a team of dedicated people ready to help you stay in school, and my desire is to support your continued education.

Pregnant and Parenting Students

To support the academic success of pregnant and parenting students and students with pregnancy related conditions, the University offers reasonable modifications based on the student's particular needs. Any student who is pregnant or parenting a child up to age 18 or has conditions related to pregnancy, may contact MSU's designated Pregnancy and Parenting Liaison to discuss support available through the University. The Liaison can be reached by emailing ruby.garrett@msutexas.edu or calling 940-397-4500. Should a student communicate with me that they are pregnant or have a pregnancy related condition or may need additional resources related to pregnancy or parenting, I will communicate that student's information to the Title IX Coordinator, who will work with the student and others, as needed, to ensure equal access to the University's education program or activity.

A pregnant student, a parenting student, or a student with pregnancy related conditions may be provided with supportive measures, based on the student's individualized needs, analogous to those provided to a student with a temporary medical condition, and provided such supportive measures do not fundamentally alter the nature of an education program or activity. Such supportive measures may include, but are not limited to:

For pregnant students:

- (1) Providing breaks during class to express breast milk, breastfeed, or attend to health needs associated with pregnancy or related conditions, including eating, drinking, or using the restroom;
- (2) Excusing intermittent absences to attend medical appointments;
- (3) Providing access to online or homebound education, including the providing of access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures (to the extent such materials, recordings are made available to any student with an excused absence);
- (4) Facilitating changes in schedule or course sequence, including extensions of time for coursework and rescheduling of tests and examinations and/or providing opportunity to make up missed assignments/assessments (such time extensions shall be applied in the same manner as the University grants and provides ADA/504 accommodations for additional time);
- (5) Allowing a student to sit or stand, or carry or keep water nearby;
- (6) Offering counseling;
- (7) Facilitating changes in physical space or supplies (for example, access to a larger desk or a footrest);

(8) Allowing the student to maintain a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals or unborn children;

(9) Providing elevator access;

(10) Facilitating a voluntary leave of absence from the University if the student is in good academic standing at the time the student takes a leave of absence, and facilitating a return to the student's degree or certificate program without being required to reapply for admission if the student remains in good academic standing; or

(11) Making other necessary changes to policies, practices, or procedures.

For Parenting Students:

(1) Facilitating priority registration to the extent the University provides early registration for any other group of students; or

(2) Facilitating a voluntary leave of absence from the University if the student is in good academic standing at the time the student takes a leave of absence, and facilitating a return to the student's degree or certificate program without being required to reapply for admission.

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick

Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213
laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout_id=6

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit <https://msutexas.edu/titleix/>

Resources

- Helpdesk hours: 8 AM-10 PM, 7 days a week
- Online Problem Reporting System <https://msutexas.edu/distance/oprs.php>

- Helpdesk direct phone: 940-397-3000
- Log-In instructions <https://msutexas.edu/distance/login-instructions.php>
- D2L access link: <https://d2l.msutexas.edu/>
- Advice to new online students <https://msutexas.edu/distance/new-online-students.php>
- Student Resources <https://msutexas.edu/distance/student-resources.php>

COURSE CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

All assessments are submitted in D2L because this is an online course. They are all due on Fridays by 11:59pm CST on their respective due dates.

WEEK NUMBER	ITEMS TO READ/VIEW/DISCUSS	ITEMS DUE/ SUBMISSION FORMAT
Week 1: August 25-31	Students should read/view the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus • Dixon Chapters 1 • PPT-Chapter 1 	Due on Friday, August 25, by 11:59pm CST in D2L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board #1 & 2 peer responses
Week 2: September 1-7 (September 1 st is a holiday)	Students should read/view the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dixon Chapter 2 • Chapter 2 PPT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Week 3: September 8-14	Students should read/view the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dixon Chapter 3 • Chapter 3 PPT • “Tea Room Trade” article (PDF) 	Due on Friday, September 12, by 11:59pm CST in D2L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application #1 • Quiz #1 (Dixon Chapters 1-3 & Tea Room Trade)
Week 4: September 15-21	Students should read/view the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam #1 Review 	Due on Friday, September 19th, by 11:59pm CST in D2L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 1 (Dixon Chapters 1-3 & Tea Room Trade)
Week 5: September 22-28	Students should read/view the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dixon Chapter 4 • Dixon Chapter 4 PPT • Watch “The Dark side of Science: The Milgram Experiment-Short Documentary) in D2L 	Due on Friday, September 26th, by 11:59pm CST in D2L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board #2 & two peer responses

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch: “The Milgram Experiment: Obedience to Authority” in D2L 	
Week 6: September 29-October 5	<p>Students should read/view the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dixon Chapter 7 • Dixon Chapter 7 PPT 	<p>Due on Friday, October 3rd, by 11:59pm CST in D2L</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #2 (Dixon Chapters 4 & 7)
Week 7:October 6-12	<p>Students should read/view the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Mark of a Criminal Record” article by Pager (PDF in D2L course shell) • Watch Pager’s video on “Race, Employment, and a Criminal Record” in the D2L course shell 	<p>Due on Friday, October 10th, by 11:59pm CST in D2L</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application #2
Week 8: October 13-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam Review 	<p>Due on Friday, October 17, by 11:59pm CST in D2L</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam #2 (Dixon Chapters 4-7 & Pager’s Experiment)
Week 9: October 20-26	<p>Students should read/view the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dixon Chapter 8 • Dixon Chapter 8 PPT 	<p>Due on Friday, October 24th, by 11:59pm CST in D2L</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board #3 & 2 peer responses
Week 10: October 27-November 2	<p>Students should read/view the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dixon Chapter 9 • Dixon Chapter 9 PPT 	<p>Due on Friday, October 31st, by 11:59pm CST in D2L</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board #4 and 2 peer responses
Week 11: November 3-9	<p>Students should read/view the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dixon Chapter 10 • Dixon Chapter 10 PPT 	<p>Due on Friday, November 7, by 11:59pm CST in D2L</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #3 (Dixon Chapters 8-10)
Week 12: November 10-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dixon Chapter 13 • Dixon Chapter 13 PPT 	<p>Due on Friday, November 14th, by 11:59pm CST in D2L</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam #3 (Dixon Chapters 8-10)
Week 13: November 17-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dixon Chapter 14 • Dixon Chapter 14 PPT • Abstract samples in D2L 	Due on Friday, November 21st, by 11:59pm CST in D2L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #4 (Dixon Chapters 13-14 & Abstract Samples)
Week 14: November 24-30 <i>(November 26-30 is Thanksgiving break)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	N/A
Week 15: December 1-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam Review 	Due on Friday, December 5th, by 11:59pm CST in D2L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam #4 (Dixon Chapters 13-14 & Abstract Samples) • Optional Extra Credit Discussion Board Due
Week 16: December 8-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A • There is no final exam in this class