

SYLLABUS
SOCL 1133 INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY
Spring 2025

Sociology is the scientific study of human social behavior and human groups. It is a foundation for any discipline or occupation that deals with human beings—and that includes almost all fields.

Professor: Dr. Beverly L. Stiles

OFFICE: O'Donohoe 124

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon. 11:00-noon

Tues. 9:30-11:00

Wed. 11:00-noon

Thurs. 9:30-11:00

Of course, most of you will not be available locally, but for those of you who are, while I hold regular office hours, I am available to you outside of these times. However, it is best if you make an appointment to see me so that I am free when you stop by. If you do not have an appointment and I am free, I am more than willing to make some time to see you. However, if you just stop by, there will be times when I am unavailable or may be with another student. Do not take this personally.

PHONE: 397-4019

EMAIL: Beverly.stiles@msutexas.edu

TEXT: Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life, David M. Newman (14th Edition). Please make certain to have the 14th edition.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Introduce you to sociological concepts and theories

Help you to use these concepts and theories to better understand your own social experiences and events in the larger social world

Provide you with an understanding of how sociologists conduct research

This course will allow you to begin to “think” like a sociologist:

The student should acquire an understanding of the “sociological perspective.” This is an important term because it points to the fact that the discipline of sociology is more than just the facts that have been accumulated. Rather, it is a way of thinking about and viewing human behavior. The “common sense” knowledge of human behavior that we all acquire through living in society often contains a great deal of accurate information—it must if we are to survive in society. However, it also contains much that is erroneous—under rigorous investigation it simply turns out to be false. The sociological perspective goes beyond the level of common sense knowledge by using scientifically sound procedures to understand human social behavior and human group life. This perspective involves an understanding of both how a sociologist does his or her work—the scientific method as it is utilized in

sociology—as well as the knowledge that sociologists have acquired concerning the organization of groups and society.

EXAMS AND GRADING:

There will be four (4) exams, including the final (the final is not comprehensive). Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. I will also drop your lowest exam grade. Your first 3 exams will be open Sunday through Monday. Your final will be open only one day (Saturday from 8:00 am to 11:00). You will have 60 minutes to take the exam. This gives you time to get set up with lockdown browser. It will not give you time to look up answers. You may use your book to take the exams, unless it is digital. If you use a digital book, you can use your notes only (because you are not allowed to have any other device open when taking exams). If you have a regular book, you may choose to use notes instead, but you may not use both a book and notes. I use lockdown browser, but am allowing you to use your books, but I must be able to see everything on your desk. There can be no one else in the room with you either. If I find there is cheating happening, I will remove the right to use a book or notes for exams. This will affect everyone in the class. You must read the chapters even though you can use a book or notes, because you will not do well if you do not read. I am just giving you a fair warning. If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero and that will be your drop grade. If you miss two exams, you will need to drop the class because there are no makeup exams.

DISCUSSION AND PARTICIPATION:

You will also receive a grade for your Participation at the end of the semester (worth 100 points...9 points for each chapter's discussion). This participation will be based on responses to the discussions that I post and the responses to your classmates post as well as what you read from the other students postings (the D2L system does keep track of everything you do so I can keep track of this---It's really an amazing system). I will post one to three questions (sometimes 4) for each chapter. I want actual dialogue here rather than simply responding by saying "I agree" or "I disagree." I want to see some thought put into your responses and some evidence of support for what you say, from your chapter (it helps to use page #s for material referenced in your discussion replies). Please remember to be civil, provide each other with an open environment for discussing and disagreement, but be careful of the manner in which you do so. I will post discussion questions for each chapter (sometimes I do this a few days in advance for those who read ahead or so that students know what questions will have to be answered as they're reading the chapter). You are to post YOUR response to the questions BY FRIDAY EVENING AT 11:00 PM. This gives everyone the weekend (through Sunday night at 11:00) to respond to the postings of at least 3 (THREE) other students. This is required!! Please know that it is unfair for you to not post your initial posting by Friday at 11:00 pm because if you post your initial posting on Sunday, that doesn't give your classmates the opportunity to respond to your posting. I will also not give you full credit for postings if you do it this way (see grading below). Remember that part of your participation grade is based on your READING the postings of the other students too.

GRADING for Participation:

The chapter discussions are graded according to the following (worth 9 points):

Plus 4 for posting your initial posting by due date by Friday at 11 pm *and* for responding to the postings of your classmates by the following Sunday at 11PM (the date the chapter closes). You will get a zero if you only post your initial response but do not follow through and post all remaining responses. I'll deduct points if you do not post your initial response by Friday as well.

Plus 1 for reading at least 4/5 (four-fifths) of **ALL** of the postings of your classmates by Sunday at 11 pm. (D2L keeps track of what you read)

Plus 4 for posting such that it is evident that you are drawing from material that you have read for the current chapter (quality). I don't want you to just spout off and reply or make statements without drawing from the text. If you draw from the text, tell me what in the text and using, a page # helps you and everyone else too.

Essentially, each posting is worth two points---That's what it equals out to. There are 4 postings and 8 points for postings, plus one point for reading the postings.

There will also be 3 additional projects, to equal 100 points (the equivalent of an exam grade). One is a research project (World Bank Data Project or world health project). One is a culture project in which you will view a Youtube video and answer some questions. You will not do well if you do not read the chapter prior to watching the video and answering the questions. The last project is an analysis of a current event, using text concepts and information for the analysis (more info. on D2L). You may not use AI—No Chat GPT. If you do so, you will receive a zero for the project. I will treat the use of AI as plagiarism.

EXAMS AND PARTICIPATION	GRADING/POINTS
Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3	100 points
Exam 4	100 points
Participation (9 x11 chapters=99 + 1 added at the end)	100 points
Projects total 100 points	100 points

To average your grade, add up points and divide by 6 (unless you drop a test grade and then you'll divide by 5).

Grades will be determined by the following scale:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = below 60

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.

EXAMS			
EXAM 1 Opens Feb. 16 thru Feb.17th at 11pm	Chap. 1: Taking a New Look at a Familiar World	Chap. 2: Seeing and Thinking Sociologically	Chap. 3: Building Reality: The Social ..
EXAM 2 Opens Mar. 23rd, closes Mar. 24th at 11:00 pm.	Chap. 4: Building Order: Culture and History	Chap. 5: Socialization	Chap. 6: The Presentation of Self

EXAMS			
EXAM 3 Opens April. 6 th , closes April. 7 th at 11Ppm	Chap. 7: Intimacy and Families	Chap. 8: Social Deviance	
EXAM 4 (Final) May 10 8:00am – 11:00pm	Chap. 10: Social Class and Inequality	Chap. 11: Race and Ethnicity	Chap. 12: Sex and Gender

Projects	DUE DATE	Point Value
Project 1: World Health Project.	Feb. 14th at 11:00 PM	50
Project 2: Culture Assignment	Mar. 2nd at 11:00 pm.	25
Project 3: current event analysis	May 9th at 11:00 pm.	25