

# SYLLABUS

## SOCL 1133-X30 Introductory Sociology

### Summer 1 2026

#### Contact Information

PROFESSOR: Dr. Beverly L. Stiles

OFFICE: O'Donohoe, Rm 124

#### OFFICE HOURS:

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 in a meeting. Also, please send mail to me through the D2L link ([Beverly.Stiles@d2lmail.msutexas.edu](mailto:Beverly.Stiles@d2lmail.msutexas.edu)). The link below is my on-campus email address and I don't really check it for D2L work.

PHONE: 940-397-4019

EMAIL: [Beverly.stiles@msutexas.edu](mailto:Beverly.stiles@msutexas.edu)

#### TEXT:

- Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life, David M. Newman. 14<sup>th</sup> Edition. Please make certain to have the 14<sup>th</sup> edition. ISBN: 978-1-0718-4955-2
- Not all of the textbook will be covered.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Learn to apply sociological concepts and theories to help you use the sociological imagination to understand the connections between individuals and the broader social contexts in which you live.
- Learn to use these concepts and theories to better understand your own social experiences and events in the larger social world.
- This course will allow you to begin to "think" like a sociologist.
- The ability to use multiple perspectives in understanding and analyzing social issues and everyday problems in human living.
- You will learn how to conduct some basic sociological research and learn the variety of ways that sociologists conduct research.
- Critical thinking skills to interpret and analyze multiple media messages at the local, national, and global levels.
- You will learn to communicate well in a world of variation and change.
- You will develop "People skills" in recognizing the needs of different groups and interacting with them as well as identifying potential conflict and potential resolutions.
- The ability to recognize and assess inequality in social situations at work and with the community and existing political structure.

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. The exam is only open for one day from 8:00 am to 11:00 pm. Once you start your exam, you will have 60 minutes to complete it. 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). We will spend two days on each chapter. You are to post YOUR response to the questions BY 11:00 PM on the first day when the chapter is due. You are to respond to three postings of your classmates

BY 11:00 PM the second day. I will also not give you credit for postings if you do it post on time (see grading below). Remember that part of your participation grade is based on your READING the postings of the other students too. Again, we will spend two days on each chapter.

### 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 11 pm *\*and\** for responding to the postings of your classmates. 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 the first night as well (actually, you won't receive credit for your posting if you do not post it the first night the chapter is due).

**\*Plus 1\*** for reading at least 4/5 (four-fifths) of all of the postings of your classmates by 11:00 pm. On the second night (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.

Please recognize that because you have 4 postings, each is essentially worth one point. I look to see if it is posted on time and if it is a quality posting. If it is not a quality posting, you do not receive credit for it, even if it was on time. Just post quality postings on time and you'll receive the 4 points for them. The other point is given if you have read 4/5s of ALL of your classmate's postings for that chapter.

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 of three possible culture projects 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).

### Grades

EXAMS and Participation	GRADING
Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3	100 points
Exam 4	100 points
Participation (11 x 9 = 99 + 1 added at the end)	100 points
Projects total 100 points	100 points

To average your grade, add up all points and divide by 5, after dropping the lowest exam grade.

### 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 397-4140.

## Exam Content

- Exam 1 (June 9)
  - Chap. 1
  - Chap. 2
  - Chap. 3
- Exam 2 (June 17)
  - Chap. 4
  - Chap. 5
  - Chap. 6
- Exam 3 (June 23)
  - Chap. 7
  - Chap. 8
- Exam 4 (July 1)
  - Chap. 10
  - Chap. 11
  - Chap. 12

Projects	Due Date	Point Value
Project 1: World bank or World health project	For this summer I am not going to require this. I am giving you the 50 points free	50
Project 2: Culture Assignment	June 12 by 11:00 PM	25
Project 3: Current event analysis	June 30 <sup>th</sup> by 11:00 PM	25