

SYLLABUS
SOCL 1133 INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY
Summer 2022

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: Monday through Thursday

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 by appointment because I am also teaching a class on campus. If you do not have an appointment, but stop by 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 (13th 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.

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 with blah, blah" or "I disagree with blah, blah." I want to see some thought put into your responses and some chapter evidence of support for what you say. If you have trouble doing this, I recommend posting page numbers to back of what you are using from your chapter. Please remember to be civil.....(define this...no cursing, don't put someone down, 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 have only through that day (the due date) to post your response to the questions that I post (you have until 11:00 that night). Then I will leave the chapter open for an additional day (through 11:00 pm.) so that you can respond to the posting of at least three (3) other postings from other students. This is required! Remember that part of your participation grade is based on your **READING** the postings of the other students too—Please see below to make certain that you understand the 3 components for grading each chapter. Many students begin missing points because they do not respond to their classmates in a substantive manner and/or they do not read the four-fifths of ALL postings for the chapter.

GRADING for Participation:

The chapter discussions are graded according to the following:

Plus 4 for posting your initial posting by due date by 11 pm *and* for responding to the postings of your classmates by the following day 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 11pm on the due date as well.

Plus 1 for reading at least 4/5 (four-fifths) of *All* the postings of your classmates (D2L keeps track of what you read). I say "ALL" because it isn't just the initial postings.

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.

There will also be 3 additional projects, to equal 100 points (the equivalent of an exam grade). One is a research project (World Health Data 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, in which you are required to provide page numbers from your text for the concepts used in your analysis. You need to not only provide page numbers, but make certain that you are defining the

concepts and telling me how they relate to your current event. There are more instructions on D2L, but I am more than happy to answer any questions prior to the day this is due.

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 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 July 13 From 8 am to 11 pm	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 July 21 from 8 am to 11pm	Chap. 4: Building Order: Culture and History	Chap. 5: Socialization	Chap. 6: The Presentation of Self
EXAM 3 Opens July 27 th , 8-11	Chap. 7: Intimacy and Families	Chap. 8: Social Deviance	
EXAM 4 (Final) Opens August 4th, 8-11	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.	July 12th at 11:00 pm	50

Projects	DUE DATE	Point Value
Project 2: Culture Assignment	July 16th at 11:00 pm.	25
Project 3: current event analysis	August 3rd at 11:00 pm.	25