

SYLLABUS
SOCL 1133 INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY
Summer II 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:

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. Also, please send mail to me through the d2l mail link. The link below is my on campus email address and I don't really check it for D2L work.

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TEXT: Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life, David M. Newman (14th Edition). ISBN: 978-1-0718-4955-2

COURSE OBJECTIVES

COURSE OBJECTIVES—Students should develop the following skills

- 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 within 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.

READING HINTS:

A good textbook does not ensure learning. Textbooks must be used properly. I have found over the years that many students simply do not know how to use a textbook, so I am providing, as a part of this syllabus, some suggestions for reading your text.

- The first rule is to begin reading immediately, don't postpone.
- Secondly, realize that reading a textbook is different than reading a newspaper, a magazine, a novel, or something on your electronic devices. Much of the latter is written to give you information quickly and at a glance and to entertain. A textbook is designed to instruct, to develop a position, and to support that position. It demands far more from its readers than all of the latter. While newspapers, magazines, novels, and the like are designed to be read only once, the author of a textbook expects that several readings may be required to fully understand the material. So, allow enough time to read the material several times. **One** strategy is to quickly read the material and grasp the general organization and major points, then carefully read a second time, making reading notes, and then reread quickly one more time immediately before an exam. The third time you should be able to quickly read some passages while concentrating on the more difficult ones. This strategy will also give you a good feeling for how the author writes and organizes material.
- Keep reading, even if you reach a passage or even pages that you find difficult and that you do not understand. At least read the words. You will find that while you may not understand one point, the next point may be considerably easier and you may understand it quite well.
- Make a schedule for reading and don't deviate from it. Set a date to complete your first reading, second, and third. Schedule yourself for only a few pages at any one session.
- Underline and circle words. Mark and write in the margins. The beauty of a loose-leaf textbook is that if you can put your text in a notebook, you can three-hole punch and add additional pages with your study notes and even notes from class. All in one tidy package!

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. You will have one day between 8:00 and 11:00 pm to take the exam. Once you open it up, you'll have 60 minutes to take it right then, not open it again later to complete it. Just be certain you understand that it will also close after 11:00 pm. Sixty minutes gives you time to get set up with lockdown browser. It will not give you time to look up many answers. There are no makeup exams. I drop the 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 student 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 (I want you 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 on the first day the chapter is due. Then you'll have until 11:00 pm the next night to respond to 3 of your classmates' postings and to read the 4/5s postings. Each chapter is open for 2 nights. Please know that it is unfair for you to not post your initial posting on time. 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 11 pm *and* for responding to the postings of your classmates by the following night. 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 on the first night 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. I sent information about this in the email I sent as well

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).

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 June 10 th through 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 June 18 th through 11:00 pm.	Chap. 4: Building Order: Culture and History	Chap. 5: Socialization	Chap. 6: The Presentation of Self
EXAM 3 Opens June. 24th through 11pm	Chap. 7: Intimacy and Families	Chap. 8: Social Deviance	
EXAM 4 (Final) open July 3rd through July 4th at 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 or World Bank Project.	June 9 th at 11:00 PM	50
Project 2: Culture Assignment	June 13th at 11:00 pm.	25
Project 3: current event analysis	July 2nd at 11:00 pm.	25