SYLLABUS SOCL 1133-104 Introductory Sociology Fall 2024 M/W/F 9:00am-9:50am Prothro-Yeager PY 100

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'Donohoe 131

Mon. 10:00am-11:00am Tues.11:00 am-2:00pm Wed. 10:00am-11:00am

The best way to meet with me is on campus during my office hours, which are listed above. If you have a limited time window, then please make an appointment during my office hours; that way I am able to dedicate specific time to addressing your needs and concerns. Otherwise, you may have to wait if I am in an appointment with another student. 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. You can also reach me via email or by the D2L message inbox; I answer emails 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

REQUIRED TEXT: Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life (14 Edition) by David M. Newman (2022). ISBN-13 978-1071849552

\*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.

#### OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- At least 4 scantrons for your exams; an example of the type of scantron will be demonstrated in class. Please make sure your scantron is wrinkle free and in good condition. It may help to have extra just in case.
- A regular no. 2 pencil and a pencil sharpener or extra sharpened pencils
- A composition book or a spiral notebook (if you plan to complete the extra credit)
- 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.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Define and explain sociological concepts and theories
- Articulate the social, historical, political, and economic factors that influence events from a sociological perspective
- Describe the importance of sociological research
- Investigate social structures and influences and how people interact in small groups, organizations, and societies
- Utilize your sociological imagination to explore social forces, which have shaped your own social experiences, identity, and group memberships

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

A general survey course introducing students to the field of sociology. Emphasis is on people as products of groups, social interaction, and social forces. Topics covered include marriage and family, deviance, social class, minority relations, and collective behavior with an effort toward helping students understand the social world and their roles in it.

### ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING:

### Exams: Worth 100 points each; 400 total

Exams are completed **in class** on their respective due dates, and they are completed **via scantron**. Students are required to bring a scantron and no. 2 pencil to each exam. (Please make sure that you **DO NOT FOLD** your scantron. Please keep it straight and wrinkle free.) Each exam will be 50 questions, which includes true/false and multiple-choice questions.

Students will have **40 minutes** to complete the questions. Students who arrive to class late on test day **must finish the exam by the time they are taken up by the instructor** and will not be provided extra time to finish the exam. (Please also view the policy on **Missed Exams**.) Test grades will not be curved, and no test grades will be dropped. Students have an option to replace their lowest test grade with an optional exam at the end of the semester. (See policy on **Replacing Lowest Test Grades**.) The tests are **not** open book, and students **cannot use** notes.

### Special Notes on Accommodations for Tests:

- 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.
- Based on approved accommodations and testing needs, students can arrange to take a test on campus with an approved proctor in an alternate setting.
- If students are allotted extra time based on a reasonable accommodation, then they should *also plan ahead and communicate with me* so that they can start the test **at the same time** it is started in class.
  - If this cannot be done, then they will receive an **alternative version of the test**.

### Reflection Papers: 50 points each; worth 200 points total

There are four reflections over the course of the semester, and they are required to be one page in length. Each reflection is worth 50 points. Detailed instructions are provided in D2L. Reflections will be checked for possible plagiarism using Turnitin. Though these are informal papers, students should check them for grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors. Reflection papers will be accepted late; please view the policy on Late Work.

### Projects: Worth 300 points total

There will also be 3 projects over the semester, which equal 300 points (total). 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. Projects will be submitted through an assignment link in the D2L course shell on their respective due dates. The projects cover culture (100 points), current events (100 points), and the World Bank (100 points). If students need help completing their projects, they may utilize TASP support services in the Moffett Library. Students are required to cite sources in APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition format. Students should follow all assignment directions, and students should check them for grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors. Projects are usually between one to three pages in length and double spaced. Projects will be checked for possible plagiarism using Turnitin.

### Quizzes

There are 10 quizzes worth 10 points each. Quiz number one (the Syllabus Quiz) will be completed in class. (It does not require a scantron.) Quizzes 2-10 will be completed in D2L on their respective due dates and times. Students will have one attempt per quiz, and the *Respondus Lockdown Brower* with the *Monitor* will be used. (Please also view the **Technical Requirements** for this class.) Students will need a webcam to use with the Lockdown Browser for the monitor feature. Quizzes are 10 multiple choice or true false questions, and students will be given **15 minutes** to complete each assessment. Quizzes can be submitted late in D2L per the **policy on Late Work**. If students have accommodations for extra time on quizzes, then they must provide me with the DSS notification letter in order to be provided extra time.

#### **Graded Assessments**

Graded Assessments	POINTS	Weighted Percentage of Final Grade by
		Category
Exams 1-4 (50 questions/100points each)	400	40%
Projects (3 at 100 points)	300	30%
Reflections (4@50 points each)	200	20%
Quizzes (10 @ 10 points each)	100	10%
Total Number of Points Available in the Course	1000	100%

### **Extra Credit**

• The instructor will provide detailed information on the extra credit opportunity, and it worth a maximum of 20 points. The extra credit opportunity requires either a composition notebook or a spiral notebook.

#### **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

- If students miss an exam due to a university approved excuse or an otherwise excused absence, they will be required to make up a different version of the exam at the end of the semester on a date specified by the instructor in the Syllabus. Students will not be provided the same version of the exam administered in class.
- Exams cannot be made up without an excused absence. It is **absolutely the responsibility of the student** to make up exams in class on the specified date at the end of the semester, and exams must be made up on this date. Otherwise, students will receive a zero. Unexcused exams cannot be made up for any reason

### **Option to Replace Lowest Test Grade**

• Everyone has the option to **replace their lowest test grade** with an exam over chapters 13 and 14. This exam will be 50 questions (multiple choice and true/false) from the textbook. Students can take it on the makeup test day at the end of the semester, which is listed in the Syllabus. If this exam benefits the student, I will replace their lowest test grade with this grade-even if their lowest test grade is a zero-due to an unexcused exam.

# **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 <u>d2lhelp@msutexas.edu</u>.
  - Always let your Instructor know that you've had a technical difficulty and have reached out to us

### Late work:

- Projects, reflections, and quizzes will be accepted late for a penalty UP TO 72 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 will be accepted late; students who miss a test for an **approved reason** must make up the test on a day at the end of the semester specified by the instructor. *They will not take the same version of the test that was originally given in class*.

- Unexcused quizzes, projects, and reflections may be submitted in D2L up to 72 hours late, but they will be penalized at the following rates:
  - < or equal to 24 hours late, 25 % 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.</li>
  - > 24 hours late but < or equal to 48 hours late, will receive a 50 % reduction in the total point value of the assignment.</li>
  - >48 hours late but < or equal to 72 hours late, 75% 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.</li>
  - >72 hours late WILL NOT be accepted and will be marked as a ZERO in D2L.

# COURSE POINT TOTALS AND CORRESPONDING GRADING SCALE

Grades will be determined by the following scale:

**Table 2**: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
А	900 or higher
В	800 to 899
С	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than
	600

### **Course Policies**

Student Handbook Refer to: Student Handbook-2021-22

### 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). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. *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 statue 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

• Coming to class is an essential part of a student's learning experience in this course. Students are expected to promptly attend class and actively participate. Students should engage in civil dialogue with

others and keep a positive attitude and a growth mindset. Students should be willing to listen to others and not engage in any form of hostile communication or excessively disruptive behavior (see policies on course etiquette and netiquette).

- Respect, empathy, kindness, and compassion for others will be a cornerstone in this course. Sociologists discuss things that are inherently controversial. 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 listen and grow. Please know that if you feel triggered, there are campus support services available.
- When interacting with me and each other, please keep MSU Texas' core value of respect in mind at all times. As a class, we will design a course contract, which is a document that contains "rules of the road" for how we will treat each other in this class. Signing the contract will be a requirement before continuing in the class. Rude, abusive behavior will not be tolerated either in person or 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.

### Use of cell phones and laptops in class

• There may be times where brining your phones and laptops are appropriate based on instructor direction. Otherwise, please refrain from using your phone or laptops during class, and keep them put away during lecture. In the event that you are experiencing a family or personal crisis, then please sit close to the door; you may go into the hall and check your messages or make a phone call if it is **absolutely an emergency**. Otherwise, please be mindful that unauthorized use of technology can be distracting. Class lectures **cannot be recorded** unless you have an accommodation from disability services. *I must have the appropriate documentation from the DSS office as soon as possible*.

### **Excessive absences**

• If you stop coming to class without communicating with me, you can be dropped. If something serious has happened, which prevents you from coming to class, then please *reach out to me as soon as is reasonably possible*. In this class, **more than 6 unexcused absences are considered excessive**. MSU Texas is student-oriented, and I am student focused. So, I will do everything I can to help you be successful this semester, but I don't know what you don't tell me. Per MSU Texas' policy,

students will be issued one verbal and one written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Please don't just stop coming to class without notifying me of your specific situation. I understand that life happens, and I want to do everything possible to help you stay on track and have a positive experience in my class.

# Extenuating Circumstances, Emergencies, Illness, and Academic Activities:

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. The MSU Texas Student Handbook has additional information on certain types of absences and what you should do next. Some of these are listed below.

### **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 <u>ruby.garrett@msutexas.edu</u> 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 conduction, 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 <u>https://msutexas.edu/titleix/</u>

#### 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: <u>https://d2l.msutexas.edu/</u>
- Advice to new online students <u>https://msutexas.edu/distance/new-online-students.php</u>
- Student Resources https://msutexas.edu/distance/student-resources.php

### COURSE CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

With the exception of Quiz #1, Exams 1-4, and optional extra credit which are due in class, all other assessments are due in the D2L course shell on Friday at 11:59pm CST. Quiz #1, Exams 1-4, and optional extra credit are turned in during class on the day in which they are due. Please check the Academic Calendar for a schedule of holidays. There is NO final exam in this class.

WEEK NUMBER	ITEMS TO READ/VIEW/DISCUSS	ITEMS DUE/ SUBMISSION FORMAT
Week 1:	In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following • Syllabus, course calendar, course policies, and course etiquette/netiquette-	Quiz #1 (Introduction & Syllabus) due in class August 30th
Week 2: Labor day holiday (No classes September 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<ul> <li>In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following: <ul> <li>Chapter 1 Lecture Outline, PowerPoint, and Exhibits</li> <li>Information about Sociology at MSU &amp; jobs related to the degree</li> </ul> </li> <li>In Newman (2022), students should read the following: <ul> <li>Chapter 1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	• Quiz #2 due by 11:59pm CST on September 6 <sup>th</sup> due in D2L
Week 3:	<ul> <li>In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following:</li> <li>Chapter 2 Lecture Outline, PowerPoint, and Exhibits</li> </ul>	• Quiz #3 and Reflection #1 due by 11:59pm CST on September 13 <sup>th</sup> in D2L

	Review instructions for	
	upcoming class projects	
	In Newman (2022), students should read the following: • Chapter 2	
Week 4:	In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following • Chapter 3 Lecture Outline, PowerPoint, and Exhibits	• Quiz #4 and Project #1 due by 11:59pm CST on September 20t <sup>h</sup> in D2L
	In Newman (2022), students should read the following: • Chapter 3	
Week 5:	N/A	• Exam #1 (Chapters 1-3) and optional extra credit due in class on September 27 <sup>th</sup>
Week 6:	In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following: • Chapter 4 Lecture Outline, PowerPoint, and Exhibits	• Quiz #5 due by 11:59pm CST on October 4th in D2L
	In Newman (2022), students should read the following: • Chapter 4	
Week 7:	In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following:	• Reflection #2 and Quiz #6 due by 11:59pm CST on October 11 <sup>th</sup> in D2L
	• Chapter 5 Lecture Outline, PowerPoint, and Exhibits	
	In Newman (2022), students should read the following: • Chapter 5	
Week 8:	In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following • Chapter 6 Lecture Outline, PowerPoint, and Exhibits	• <b>Project #2</b> and <b>Quiz #7</b> due by 11:59pm CST on <b>October 18<sup>th</sup></b> in D2L
	In Newman (2022), students should read the following: • Chapter 6	

Week 9:	N/A	• Exam 2 (Chapters 4-6) and
WEEK J.		optional extra credit due in class on <b>October 25<sup>th</sup></b>
Week 10:	<ul> <li>In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following <ul> <li>Chapter 7 Lecture Outline, PowerPoint, and Exhibits</li> </ul> </li> <li>In Newman (2022), students should read the following: <ul> <li>Chapter 7</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	• Reflection #3 and Quiz #8 due by 11:59pm CST on November 1st in D2L
Week 11:	In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following: • Chapter 8 Lecture Outline, PowerPoint, and Exhibits In Newman (2022), students should read the following: • Chapter 8	• Quiz #9 and Project #3 due by 11:59pm CST on November 8 <sup>th</sup> in D2L
Week 12:	<ul> <li>In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following:</li> <li>Chapter 10 Lecture Outline, PowerPoint, and Exhibits</li> <li>In Newman (2022), students should read the following: Chapter 10</li> </ul>	• Exam 3 (Chapters 7-8) and optional extra credit due in class on November 15th
Week 13:	<ul> <li>In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following:</li> <li>Chapter 11 Lecture Outline and PPT</li> <li>In Newman (2022), students should read the following: <ul> <li>Chapter 11</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	• Quiz #10 and Reflection #4 due by 11:59pm CST on November 22nd in D2L
Week 14: *No class on Thursday due to Thanksgiving Break	In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following:	• N/A and enjoy your holiday!

	<ul> <li>Chapter 12 Lecture Outline and PPT</li> <li>In Newman (2022), students should read the following:</li> <li>Chapter 12</li> </ul>	
Week 15:	• N/A	<ul> <li>All make up exams must be completed in class on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> students who do not need to make up an exam are not required to attend this class period.</li> <li>Exam #4 (Chapters 10-12) and optional extra credit due in class on December 6<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>
Week 16:	No final exam	