

SYLLABUS  
SOCL -1143 X12 Sociological Inquiry  
Fall 2023  
Online

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. Since all human behavior is social, the subject matter of sociology ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob; from organized crime to religious traditions; from the divisions of race, gender and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture. (American Sociological Association n.d.: para 1)

Professor: Amy Clark, ABD

OFFICE: O'Donohoe 131

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon. 10:00am-12:30pm

Tues. 12:30pm-2:00pm

Wed. 10am-11:00am

The best way to meet with me face-to-face is on campus during my office hours, which are listed above. If you have a limited time window, then please make an appointment with me 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](mailto:amy.clark@msutexas.edu)

TEXT:

The Process of Social Research (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)

ISBN: 9780190876654

Author: Dixon

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Copyright Year: 2018

CITATION STYLE:

APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition format. The APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition manual is available for 2-hour reserve checkout in the Moffett-Library.

COURSE GOALS

Sociology is the scientific study of society. This means that as sociologists we utilize the scientific method to observe, learn and make inferences on various levels of analysis. Society includes macro level structures, meso level culture, and micro level individual/group interaction. Within this general overview, sociologists focus on different aspects of society to answer fundamental questions about the world that surrounds us. This course will help you familiarize yourself with basic information about sociological research and methods of inquiry.

## 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 IN D2L

#### Formatting

- Exams 1-3 will be **timed** and administered **in the D2L course shell**. There is no final exam in this course.
- The exams will consist of 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions related to required readings, chapter outlines uploaded in D2L, course lecture recaps, (sent via email or posted as “notes” in D2L), and any required videos. Coming to class is essential in order to prepare you for the exams.
- With 50 questions total, each question will be worth 2 points for a total of 100 points per exam.
  - M/C and T/F questions will range in difficulty from easy, medium, and hard.
    - Students will have 70 minutes to complete all 50 questions.
  - Exams must be completed in one sitting once they are started; students will only be allowed one attempt to take the test.
  - Questions may be made available one at a time.
- *Respondus Lockdown Browser* will not be used. However, students **must study and be familiar with the material listed above in order to complete the exam in D2L in the required amount of time.**

#### Policy on Academic Dishonesty

- Exams are open book/open notes, but students are NOT allowed to use the internet (on computers, cell phones, iPads, etc.) to search for answers to exam questions. Also, students are NOT allowed to use ChatGPT or any other unauthorized AI to prepare for their tests. Students are NOT allowed to take the tests together or consult ANY other students or any other people about answers to test questions. As students prepare for exams, they should ask ME questions if they need help.

#### Exam Availability

- Exams 1-3 will be made available at **9:00 am CST in the D2L course shell** on the day in which they are due, and they will **close (no longer be available) at 11:59pm CST** on the due date. Thus, students are required to plan ahead and devote at least 70 uninterrupted minutes on the test due date in order to complete the exam.
- Students can **complete** their exam at a time that works best for them between 9am CST and 11:59pm CST on the due date. Because the exam must be *completed in one sitting once it has started*; it must be submitted BEFORE the time in which it is due in D2L.
- **NO exams will be made available earlier or extended past the due date/time** out of fairness to all students. Thus, students are required to plan ahead for this time commitment. If students miss the exam for an excused absence, they will not be administered the same version of the test. No exams will be accepted late. See policy on missed exams and technical difficulties below.

#### Policy on Missed Exams & Technical Difficulties

- If a student misses an exam due to an excused absence and/or extreme circumstance, then the student will be given a **different** version of the test to make-up.
- Please refer to the policy on excused absences for more information.

## **Policy on Technical Difficulties**

- If a student experiences technical difficulties during an exam, then a screenshot/picture **must be taken** verifying the specific technical difficulties as well as verifying how far the student made it through the exam questions-including the time elapsed.
  - If students experience a technical issue in D2L, students should reach out through the D2L help feature to “[report a problem](#).”
  - I reserve the right to require students to make up a **different version** of the remaining test if they experience technical difficulties. This option is the fairest to all of the other students.
  - Students should use the most secure internet connection available and allot enough time to complete the exam in one sitting.

## **Special Notes on Accommodations:**

- If students are allotted extra time based on a reasonable accommodation, then they should also plan ahead and communicate with me. Reasonable accommodations can be made with appropriate documentation from DSS.

## **Preparation of Exams**

- In order to prepare for exams, students should consult required readings posted in the D2L course shell, any posts from the instructor to the “notes” section of D2L, any course wide emails from the instructor with lecture recaps, chapter PPTs (when applicable), readings in Dixon (2018) when applicable, and watch any required videos. Students should also review previous quiz questions.

## **Test grades will not be curved or dropped**

Test grades will not be curved, and no test grades will be dropped.

## **Application Assignments**

There will be 2 application assignments over the course of the semester (see course schedule for due dates). Your assignment should be 3 pages (minimum), double-spaced, 12-point font, with one inch-margins. The assignment should incorporate/ summarize key methodological points from the assigned article (1 page) and give a critical analysis of the article’s methods (2 pages). You will also be required to cite your source(s) in APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition format. (The APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition manual is available for 2-hour reserve check out at the Moffett Library.) The Writing Lab on the first floor of the Library also provides help with APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition citations. Additionally, detailed instructions about how to complete each application assignment are available in the D2L course. The assignments will be graded via a detailed rubric. Application assignments will be submitted in D2L in the module in which they are due.

## **Discussion Boards**

There are a total of 5 discussion boards in the course, and each original post on the discussion board is worth 50 points. Also, students earn overall course participation points (up to 50 points) for responding to two peers on each post. Thus, students can earn up to 10 participation points per discussion board (see description below). These points are adjusted manually by the instructor over the course of the semester. For original posts, students are required to follow all directions, which includes posting one original comment in response to the prompt. Your original post should be at least two paragraphs in length. This should be cited in APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition format. Each peer response should be substantive and be at least one paragraph in length (each). Discussion boards will be graded based on a detailed rubric.

## **Course Participation Points**

Points for active participation on the discussion board (two substantive peer responses per original post), a positive attitude, and civil communication (proper netiquette) are worth 5% of the points available in the course.

Since there are 5 discussion boards in the course, students can earn up to 10 points per discussion board for participation. Lack of proper netiquette and/or rude communication with other students and/or the instructor will result in a deduction in students' course participation grade. No student should engage in any type of negative communication about other students on any social media platform.

### Quizzes

- Quizzes are 10 multiple-choice and/or true false questions. They are timed and administered in D2L. They must be complete in one sitting, and students have 20 minutes to complete them. The quizzes will be related to the assigned materials to read/view as well as related publisher PowerPoints (when applicable). There are 10 quizzes in the course, and each quiz is worth 20 points.
- **Two attempts will be allowed on quizzes in D2L, and the highest score will be the one that counts for a grade.** These are designed to be low stakes assessments, which help students measure how much they comprehend the textbook readings and related publisher PPTs. Also, the quizzes help students become accustomed to answering publisher-generated multiple-choice items before they take exams. Quizzes are open book/open notes, but ChatGPT or other unauthorized AI should not be used to look up the answers to quiz questions. (See also Academic Dishonesty policy)
- **Quizzes will be made available to take anytime 72 hours prior to their due date.** They will be located in the respective module in which they are due.
- No quizzes will be dropped. Quizzes MAY be submitted late per the course late work policy-up to 72 hours after they are due for a respective late penalty.
- Students should pay close attention to the **DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE DUE DATE AND THE LAST DATE THAT THE QUIZ WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR A LATE PENALTY. THIS IS THE LAST DATE AVAILABLE.** Quizzes will be available up to 72 hours after they are due.

Graded Assessments	POINTS	Percentage of Final Grade
Exam 1 (50 questions @2 points each)	100	10%
Exam 2 (50 questions @2 points each)	100	10%
Exam 3 (50 questions @2 points each)	100	10%
Application Assignments (2@100)	200 (total)	20%
10 Quizzes (10 questions on each quiz @ 2 point each)	200 (total)	20%
Discussion Boards (5 @ 50 points)	250 (total)	25%
Active Participation, Positive Attitude, and Civil Communication (10 points per discussion board)	50	5%
<b>Total Number of Points Available in the Course</b>	<b>1000</b>	100%

### Late work:

- **No late work** will be accepted for exams. Thus, **exams close at 11:59pm CST on their due date without exception.** (See exam availability; see the make-up policy.)
- Application assignments, discussion boards, respective participation points for peer posts, and quizzes may be accepted UP TO 72 HOURS LATE in D2L with an unexcused absence according to the policy listed below. Thus, quizzes, application assignments, and discussions will be left AVAILABLE for 72 hours after they are DUE in D2L. Therefore, **students MUST PAY ATTENTION to the difference**

between the due date and the last date that an assessment is available to submit late. If students have any questions about this, then please ask me as soon as possible.

**Unexcused application assignments, discussions, participation points, and quizzes, 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 penalty reduces the maximum number of points that can be earned on the assignment; the number of points deducted will depend on the original point value of the assignment. The deduction will be manually calculated by the instructor and reflected in D2L once the assignment has been graded. *Submitting an assignment minutes late in D2L is still late and will be penalized at this rate without an approved excuse.*

For example, if a quiz is worth 20 points and is submitted **< or equal to 24 hours late, a manual deduction of 5 points will be subtracted from the final score. 5 is 25% of 20 points.**

**> 24 hours late but < or equal to 48 hours late, will receive a 50 % 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. For example, if a quiz is worth 20 points and is submitted **> 24 hours late but < or equal to 48 hours late, a manual deduction of 10 points will be subtracted from the final score. 10 is 50% of 20 points.**

- **>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. For example, if a quiz is worth 20 points and is submitted **>48 hours late but < or equal to 72 hours late, a manual deduction of 15 points will be subtracted from the final score. 15 is 75% of 20 points.**
- **>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
A	900 or higher
B	800 to 899
C	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 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.

### Expectations about netiquette

- Students are expected to actively participate and respond to at least two peers per original discussion post. 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 on the discussion board, through email, or through posting on social media (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 discussion boards 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.
- When interacting with me and each other, please keep MSU Texas' core value of respect in mind at all times. Rude, abusive behavior will not be tolerated 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.

### Missing Excessive Work/Not Logging In

- If you stop logging in to class without communicating with me, you can be dropped. If something serious has happened, which prevents you from doing work in this class, then please *reach out to me as soon as is reasonably possible*. 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 logging in and turning in work 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 online 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 physician or MSU infirmary
- 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

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.

**Emergencies** (MSU Texas Student Handbook, pp. 61-62):

Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities - For personal emergencies such as hospitalization or family emergency, or a prolonged absence, a student should notify the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

**Illness** (MSU Texas Student Handbook, pp. 61-62):

Vinson Health Center - When a student's illness warrants verification, the student may seek medical treatment through the Vinson Health Center, after which the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities and/or faculty members will be notified by the Vinson Health Center.

**Academically Related Activities** (MSU Texas Student Handbook, pp. 61-62):

MSU Texas Student Handbook policy states: "Academically-related activities (class field trips, attendance at conferences, etc.) which result in absences require the cooperation of individual faculty members. Even though such activities are educational in nature, they do not qualify as

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

All assessments are due in **the D2L course shell on Monday at 11:59pm CST**. There is no final Exam.

MODULE	ITEMS TO READ/VIEW/DISCUSS	ITEMS DUE/DUE DATE
<b>Module 1</b>	<p>In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syllabus, course calendar, course policies, and course</li> <li>• <a href="#">Introduction to the discipline of sociology video</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">What Is Sociology? Crash Course Sociology #1</a></li> <li>• Read What is Sociology? &amp; Where are MSU sociology graduates employed? (Link D2L)</li> <li>• Read Ferris. "Introduction to Sociology." (PDF in D2L)</li> <li>• Read Mills, C. Wright. "The Sociological Imagination." (PDF in D2L)</li> </ul>	<p>Item due by <b>Monday, September 11</b> at 11:59pm CST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete <b>Discussion Board #1</b> and post replies to two peers</li> <li>• <b>Quiz #1</b> (Introduction to Sociology Videos &amp; Readings)</li> </ul>
<b>Module 2</b>	<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dixon (2018) Chapter 1</li> </ul> <p>In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Dixon chapter 1 PPT</li> <li>• <a href="#">Social Groups</a> (Video)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Symbols, Values, &amp; Norms</a> (Video)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Cultures, Subcultures, and Countercultures</a> (Video)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Social Research Methods</a> (Video)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Major Sociological Paradigm</a> (Video)</li> </ul>	<p>Due date <b>Monday, September 25</b> (No later than 11:59 pm CST)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion Board #2</b> and post replies to two peers</li> <li>• <b>Quiz#2</b> (Module videos)</li> <li>• <b>Quiz #3</b> (Dixon Chapter 1)</li> </ul>
<b>Module 3</b>	<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dixon (2018) Chapters 2-3</li> </ul> <p>In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Dixon chapter 2-3 PPTs</li> <li>• <a href="#">Henrietta Lacks, the Tuskegee Experiment, and Ethical Data Collection</a> (Video)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Trust in research -- the ethics of knowledge production</a> (TEDx video)</li> </ul>	<p>Due date <b>Monday, October 9</b> (No later than 11:59pm CST)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion Board #3</b> and post replies to two peers</li> <li>• <b>Exam #1</b> (Dixon Chapters 1-3)</li> </ul>
<b>Module 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Dixon Chapter 4</li> </ul> <p>In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Dixon chapter 4 PPT</li> <li>• Read Humphries, Laud. "Tearoom Trade: Impersonal Sex in Public Places." (PDF)</li> <li>• Read Example of Assessing Ethics in "The Tearoom Trade" (Link)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Ethical Sociology</a> (Video)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Monday, October 23</b> (No later than 11:59pm CST)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quiz #4</b> (Dixon Chapter 4)</li> <li>• <b>Application Assignment #1</b></li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Deviance</a> (Video)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Examples of Sociological Methods &amp; Studies</a> (Video)</li> </ul>	
<b>Module 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Dixon Chapter 7-8</li> </ul> <p>In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Dixon Chapters 7-8 PPT</li> <li>• <a href="#">Sampling Methods and Bias with Surveys</a> (Video)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Research Methods: Experiments</a> (Video)</li> </ul>	<p>Due date <b>Monday, November 6</b> (No later than 11:59pm CST)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quiz # 5</b> (Dixon Chapter 7)</li> <li>• <b>Quiz #6</b> (Dixon Chapter 8)</li> <li>• <b>Discussion Board #4</b> &amp; two peer responses</li> </ul>
<b>Module 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Dixon Chapter 10</li> </ul> <p>In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Dixon Chapter 10 PPT</li> <li>• <a href="#">Race, Employment and a Criminal Record</a> (Video)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Racial/Ethnic Prejudice &amp; Discrimination</a> (Video)</li> <li>• Read Pager, Devah. 2003 “The Mark of a Criminal Record.” (PDF)</li> </ul>	<p>Due date <b>Monday, November 20</b> (No later than 11:59pm CST)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Application Assignment #2</b></li> <li>• <b>Quiz #7</b> (Dixon Chapter 10)</li> <li>• <b>Quiz #8</b> (Required videos)</li> </ul>
<b>Module 7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Dixon Chapter 9</li> <li>• Read Dixon Chapter 11</li> </ul> <p>In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Dixon Chapter 9, Chapter 11 PPTs</li> <li>• <a href="#">Ethnography Tales to Tell</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Seduction of Gangs-Pains and Pleasures of Ethnographic Research</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Telling a Complete Story with Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research</a> (Video)</li> </ul>	<p>Due date <b>Monday, December 4</b> (No later than 11:59pm CST)</p> <p>Due date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quiz #9</b> (Dixon Chapter 9)</li> <li>• <b>Exam 2</b> (Dixon Chapters 4, 7-8)</li> </ul>
<b>Module 8</b>	<p>In the D2L course shell, students should read/view the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Sociologists on Sociology</a> (Video)</li> <li>• Exam Review</li> </ul>	<p>Due date <b>Monday, December 11</b> (No later than 11:59pm CST)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Exam 3</b> (Dixon Chapters 9-11)</li> </ul>