

Introduction to Sociology

SOCY 1133

Spring 2022

Sec 201 – MWF 10:00 am-10:50am – PY, Rm 100

Sec 202 - MWF 11:00am – 11:50am - Classroom: Dillard, Rm 328

Professor: Dr. Jennifer Pace

Office: O’Donohoe 131 (PY Building)

Email: Jennifer.Pace@msutexas.edu

**Note: I will return emails within
48 hours, excluding weekends*

Office Hours: Mon & Wed: 12:00-2:00PM

Fri: 12:00-1:00PM
& by appointment

Required Text:

Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life. By David M. Newman. 2020 (13th Edition).

**All additional readings will be available on our D2L course website.*

Course Description & Goals:

Sociology is the branch of the social sciences that is concerned specifically with the systematic study of human society (including social institutions, culture, behavior, and interaction). Understanding how the social world is constructed is one of the most important aspects of sociological study. Most humans take for granted much of the processes involved in the construction of their society, including its organization, ideology and technology. “Introduction to Sociology” is a survey course on the field of sociology, and its basic principles, concepts, theories and methods of sociological research. You will be introduced to the field by focusing on several important sociological topics, including but not limited to socialization, culture, deviance, families, inequality, gender, race and ethnic relations, and social class.

Evaluation:

Grading for this course will be determined by the following breakdown:

Exams (x3)	75%
Projects (x3)	15%
<u>Quizzes</u>	<u>10%</u>
TOTAL	100%

1) Exams (75%) There will be three exams in this class (see schedule for dates). Exam material will be drawn from lectures, readings, and other course content. Exams consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. **Exams are taken in class and require scantron sheets.**

--Exam Make-Up Policy: Missed exams can only be made up for full points with *documentation of an extenuating circumstance* (see below for details). You must notify me either prior to the exam (if you know you will be absent) or within 24 hours after the missed exam (if you had an emergency).

2) Projects (15%) There will be three projects in this class (see schedule for dates). The projects include: 1) Research Project, 2) Culture Project, and 3) Current Events Project. Instructions for the three projects will be discussed in class. **Projects are submitted on our D2L course website.**

3) Quizzes (10%) There will be 10 weekly reading quizzes in this class (see schedule for dates). Each week, **you will take a reading quiz on our D2L course site.** The quizzes allow for two attempts and are open book. The quizzes will be available until Tuesday at 11:59 PM each week. The quizzes will close promptly at 11:59 PM on Tuesdays, so if you do not take it before then, you will not receive points for the quiz. The quizzes will cover the reading/chapter for that week and will include approximately 10 multiple choice questions. You will have 10 minutes to complete the quiz.

*You have **2 free drops** for reading quizzes. This means that only 8 quiz scores will count toward your grade. There are no “make-ups” for reading quizzes. If you are sick, need to travel, forget to take the quiz on time, just want to skip one, etc., then you can use one of your two drops.

4) Discussion Board Posts on D2L (Attendance) Attendance is an important and required component of this course. Due to the current health crisis, we are focusing our attendance tracking online, through our D2L course site.

By Friday at 11:59 PM each week, you are required to **post to our weekly D2L Discussion Board.** The weekly discussion board will direct you on what course content from the week you should post about (including chapter readings, films, etc.). Your posts should include one original comment (one paragraph) and one response comment (one paragraph) to one of your classmates. This will help capture your attendance virtually, which can help build in some flexibility just in case you need to stay home for health reasons. This is an important aspect of the course. You may skip 2 discussion board posts during the semester. **For every missed post past your 2nd, your overall grade will be docked one percentage point.**

*****Important Information Regarding Grades & Course Policies*****

--*Note on lateness:* Coming to class late is disruptive – you should avoid arriving late and disrupting class after we have started for the day. If you arrive late and disrupt our class, points will be deducted from your overall grade. If you arrive late and disrupt our class, you may be asked to sit in a seat near the door to minimize disruption of the class.

For excessive lateness, you may be asked to leave for the day. If you repeatedly find yourself unable to arrive to class on time, then the timing of this class clearly does not work for your schedule – you are encouraged to consider dropping the course and rescheduling it at a different time that works better for you.

--*Note on excessive absences:* If you simply stop coming to class, you can be **dropped**. Students may be dropped for excessive absences (6+) at the professor's discretion. In accordance with MSU Texas policy, students will be issued one warning prior to being dropped from the class. If you are not able to attend class regularly and on time, then this class is not a good fit for you.

--*Note on syllabus and policies:* This syllabus serves as the notice of course policies, including those listed above. Students are responsible for reading this syllabus and understanding these policies. Students are always welcome to attend office hours for clarification of course policies. Having not read this syllabus and/or post-hoc declarations of misunderstanding course policies will not be considered justification(s) for not following these policies and will not be considered justification(s) in arguing for a higher grade.

OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

Extenuating Circumstances:

Emergencies and other extenuating circumstances happen. If you experience an extenuating circumstance and you want to submit a request for a special allowance (missing an exam, etc.), you must provide documentation and ATTEND OFFICE HOURS to discuss. Emailing a request and/or documentation without attending office hours to discuss will not be considered an approved request for special allowance. You are REQUIRED to provide documentation and discuss your request IN OFFICE HOURS. If you are unable to attend in person, you may request a Zoom appointment. See MSU Texas [Student handbook – Class Attendance Policy](#)

Documentation for University/Texas State Regulated Extenuating Circumstance:

- 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
- Religious observance or Holy Day(s) (ask professor about documentation)

Documentation for Extenuating Circumstance given at the discretion of the faculty member:

- A written note from a physician or MSU infirmary (including for COVID-19 related circumstances)

- A written note from the MSU Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (including for COVID-19 related circumstances)
- A written note from a physician for a family member/loved one's illness (as professor about possible alternative documentation)
- Official documentation of required jury or court appearance
- Death of a family member/loved one (ask professor about documentation)

Notes on Other Special Circumstances:

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.

COVID-19:

If you are concerned that you may test positive for or may have been exposed to COVID-19, follow the instructions outlined on the MSU Texas website: <https://msutexas.edu/coronavirus/> If you have been directed to quarantine, you will need to provide documentation from the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR). Be sure to follow the medical guidelines and contact OSRR for assistance with contacting your professors and managing your classes. The OSRR will send an email to your professors notifying them of your situation. University policy states that individual faculty have the option to make allowances for absences of this nature at their discretion. This is up to individual faculty and you will need to discuss with your professor.

For this class, if you have a cumulation of more than 6 absences (including COVID or otherwise related), you may be advised to drop the class and/or may be dropped by the professor, at the professor's discretion. You will be contacted by the professor and given a warning before this occurs. Six absences equal two entire weeks of the course. This is only a 15-week course. Two weeks of missed content negatively impacts quality education. Being dropped from the class under these circumstances is not a punishment. When missing this much class, even for extenuating circumstances, it is best to prioritize quality education and have students retake the class in the future.

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 university-sponsored activities. Faculty members who organize such activities should assist their students in contacting and informing relevant faculty of the planned activity. Excused absences for such activities may be given at the discretion of the faculty member whose class is missed.”*

Students may submit requests for consideration of special allowance for academically-related activities by ATTENDING OFFICE HOURS (not via email). Such requests must be made prior to the event. Keep in mind, requests are not automatically granted. Requests will be granted at professor's discretion.

Grading Scale:

Letter	Percentage	Description
A	90-100	Exceptional: Exceeds all required elements of the assignment, and the quality of the work is considerably greater than what is required.
B	80-89	Good: Meets all required elements of the assignment, and the quality of the work is better than what is required.
C	70-79	Average: Meets all required elements of an assignment, no more, no less. Quality of assignment is satisfactory for college level work.
D	60-69	Below average: Does not meet all the required elements of the assignment, and/or the quality is below satisfactory.
F	59 and below	Failing: Almost none of the requirements of the assignment are met and/or the quality of the assignment is unacceptable.

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.

Religious Observance: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. If you have a religious observance conflict, you will need to provide written proof of the conflict and I will work with you on an individual basis to address the issue. It is your responsibility to review the syllabus, note any possible conflicts, and discuss alternatives with me at the beginning of the semester.

Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. All students of Midwestern State University are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, lying, bribery, threatening behavior, and aid of academic dishonesty. Those found to be in violation of the MSU Texas Student Honor Creed will be reported to the university and are subject to being dropped from the class with an F.

Classroom Behavior:

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus as necessary

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavior standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. If you do not adhere to such conduct standards, you will be asked to leave for the day and may be dropped from the class/reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. If you do not leave on your own accord, MSU Texas police department will escort you out, you will be dropped from the class/reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for disciplinary action.

Course Policies and Grades:

Students may discuss course policies and grades with the professor at any time during the semester. Students are in their right to dislike or disagree with a course policy or with a grade, with the understanding the professor has final ruling over the policies of their course and grades given within that course. Once final grades are submitted at the end of the semester, students who wish to discuss a grade may contact the professor at the start of the next semester and attend office hours. Discussions regarding student-contested grades will conclude at the discretion of the professor. (To clarify: If you are contesting a grade you received, the professor will listen to and consider your concerns and will make a ruling. At that point, the discussion will cease, and the student will refrain from further arguing with the professor.)

Other Course Policies:

1. No laptops or cell phones are allowed in lecture. If you have a disability or special circumstance that requires you to use a laptop, please see me to discuss accommodations.
2. There are no "make-ups" or "early turn-ins" for in-class work/assignments/quizzes.
3. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. You should first review the syllabus and then contact a classmate to ask for notes, etc. You should not email your professor to ask "what did I miss?" If you have questions after viewing the material you acquire from another student in class, feel free to attend office hours.
4. In this class, as in many sociology classes, our discussion will often focus on controversial issues that may arouse intense feelings and disagreement. While enthusiastic discussion of these issues is encouraged and disagreements may occur, inappropriate/disrespectful conduct will not be tolerated. As professor for this course, I reserve the right to ask you to leave if your comments and/or actions are deemed to be inappropriate and/or are contributing to a classroom environment that is disruptive. If you do not leave on your own accord, MSU Texas police department will escort you out, you will be dropped from the class, and you will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for disciplinary action.
5. Please do not get up and leave class, or start packing up to leave, before our time is up. **Please avoid being late to class.** It is distracting to the entire class. If you must leave early or come late, let me know ahead of time. Disrupting class by being late/leaving early will

have a negative impact on your grade. If you are late to class, you may be asked to leave for the day.

6. Students should refer to the MSU Texas Student Handbook for additional information about university policies, procedures, and/or for additional questions/concerns. If, for any reason, you have been asked to leave the class for the day and do not do so on your own accord, the following will occur: MSU Texas police department will escort you out, you will be dropped from the class, and you will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for disciplinary action.

Students who violate these policies are subject to being dropped with an F for the class at the faculty member's discretion

Peer Contact Information (your first source for missed material)

Name _____ Email/Number: _____

Name _____ Email/Number: _____

Name _____ Email/Number: _____

COURSE SCHEDULE

- ❖ **Reading(s) for the week are due by the first day of class for the week (Monday)**
- ❖ Readings marked with * can be found on our D2L course website.
- ❖ “Chapter” readings are found in your textbook.
- ❖ *Note: Readings and scheduled items are subject to change.*
- ❖ **Weekly Reading Quizzes (on D2L) are due by Tuesday at 11:59 PM**

Day	Topic	Readings (Due by beginning of class time)	Events/Items Due
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UNIT 1: Foundations of Sociology

Week 1: 1/10-1/14	Course Introduction & Sociological Imagination	Chapter 1	N/A
Week 2: 1/17-1/21	Seeing & Thinking Sociologically --Monday: <i>MLK Jr Day</i> --Wednesday: <i>Remote Activity (No In-Person Class)</i>	Chapter 2	<i>Read Quiz #1 (due Tue)</i>
Week 3: 1/24-1/28	The Social Construction of Knowledge	Chapter 3	<i>Read Quiz #2 (due Tue)</i> Project #1: Data & Research (Due Wed on D2L)
Week 4: 1/31-2/04	Culture & History	Chapter 4	<i>Read Quiz #3 (due Tue)</i> *Film: <i>Merchants of Cool</i>
Week 5: 2/7-2/11	Culture & History	*D2L – Rodriguez	Exam #1 (Friday in class)

UNIT 2: The Self in Society

Week 6: 2/14-2/18	Socialization	Chapter 5	<i>Read Quiz #4 (due Tue)</i> *Film: <i>Secrets of the Wild Child</i>
Week 7: 2/21-2/25	Socialization/The Presentation of Self	Chapter 6	<i>Read Quiz #5 (due Tue)</i>
Week 8: 2/28-3/04	The Presentation of Self	*D2L - Cain	*Film: <i>People Like Us</i>
Week 9: 3/07-3/11	Intimacy & Families	Chapter 7	<i>Read Quiz #6 (due Tue)</i> Project #2: Culture (Due Wed on D2L)

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus as necessary

Week 10: 3/14-3/18	SPRING BREAK	N/A	N/A
Week 11: 3/21-3/25	Intimacy & Families	*D2L - Coontz	Exam #2 (Friday in class)

UNIT 3: Identities & Inequalities

Week 12: 3/28-4/01	Social Deviance	Chapter 8	<i>Read Quiz #7 (due Tue)</i>
Week 13: 4/04-4/08	Social Class	Chapter 10	<i>Read Quiz #8 (due Tue)</i> Film: Race–The Power of Illusion
Week 14: 4/11-4/15	Race & Ethnicity <i>--Friday: Holiday Break</i>	Chapter 11	<i>Read Quiz 9 (due Tue)</i>
Week 15: 4/18-4/22	Sex & Gender	Chapter 12	<i>Read Quiz #10 (due Tue)</i> Film: Miss Representation
Week 16: 4/25-4/29	Sex & Gender	*D2L - McIntosh	Exam #3 (Friday in class)

5/02-5/06	Finals Week	N/A	Project #3: Current Events (Due Wed 5/4 on D2L)
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****We do not have a final exam for this class. Your third project (Current Events) is due finals week.***