

Introduction to Sociology
SOCY 1133-101
Fall 2021 | MWF 10:00am – 10:50am
Classroom: Prothro-Yeager, Rm 100

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

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: Sociology is the branch of the social sciences that is concerned specifically with the systematic study of human society (including social behavior, interaction and life). To understand how the social world, in which we are all members, is constructed is one of the most important reasons for 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, the social construction of knowledge, inequality, race and ethnic relations, and poverty.

Evaluation:

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

Exams (x3)	75%
Projects (x3)	15%
Weekly Reading Quizzes	10%
TOTAL	100%

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/activities. Exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions.

Exam Make-Up Policy: Missed exams can only be made up *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). *Note: If you know that you have a conflict with an exam date, or otherwise anticipate missing an exam, it is your responsibility to set up an appointment at the beginning of the semester to discuss with me.*

Projects (25%) 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 later in the semester. Late projects will be penalized 10 points for every day turned in past the due date (up to three days, at which point they will not be accepted). Projects should be turned in **on our D2L course website**.

Reading Quizzes (10%): There will be 12 weekly reading quizzes in this class (see schedule for dates). Each week, you will take a reading quiz **on our D2L course site**. The quiz will be available until **Tuesday at 11:59 PM** each week. The quiz 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 ~10 multiple choice questions. You will have 10 minutes to complete the quiz.

Your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped – meaning, only 10 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.

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

By **Thursday at 11:59 PM** each week, you are required to **post to our D2L Discussion Board 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. **For every missed post past your second, your final grade will be docked one percentage point.**

Note: If you simply stop coming to class, you can be **dropped**. I may **drop** a student for excessive absences (6+) at my discretion.

Extenuating Circumstances:

Emergencies and other extenuating circumstances happen. If you experience an extenuating circumstance, you must produce documentation to “excuse” your absence from class.

Documentation includes:

- A written note from a physician or MSU infirmary
- A written note from a physician for a family member’s illness
- Written evidence of attending a *mandatory* university function (band, choir, sports, etc.)
- Written evidence of death of a family member (ask professor about documentation)
- Official documentation of mandatory military obligation
- Official documentation of required jury or court appearance
- Religious observance (ask professor about documentation)
- *COVID-19 had created new challenges for many. If you experience a circumstance that you believe is extenuating that is not outlined above, contact me to discuss the situation.*

OTHER IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION

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.

Classroom Behavior:

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.

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.
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 ask for during 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, inappropriate/disrespectful comments will not be tolerated. As the instructor, I reserve the right to ask you to leave if I find your comments and/or actions are contributing to a classroom environment where not all individuals feel respected/safe.
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 both me and the other students. 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. For repeated tardiness, you may be asked to leave for the day.

(Students who violate these rules 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 are due on D2L by Tuesday at 11:59 PM each week**

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

Week 1: 8/23-8/27	Course Introduction; Sociological Imagination	Chapter 1	Read Quiz #1 (due Fri)
Week 2: 8/30-9/03	Seeing & Thinking Sociologically	Chapter 2	Read Quiz #2 (due Tue)
Week 3: 9/07-9/10	The Social Construction of Knowledge (No Class Monday)	Chapter 3	Read Quiz #3 (due Tue) Project #1: Data & Research (Due Friday on D2L)
Week 4: 9/13-9/17	Culture & History	Chapter 4	Read Quiz #4 (due Tue) *Film: Merchants of Cool
Week 5: 9/20-9/24	Culture & History	*D2L – Rodriquez	Exam #1 (Friday)

UNIT 2: The Self in Society

Week 6: 9/27-10/01	Socialization	Chapter 5	Read Quiz #5 (due Tue) *Film: Secret of the Wild Child
Week 7: 10/04-10/08	Socialization/The Presentation of Self	Chapter 6	Read Quiz #6 (due Tue) Project #2: Culture (Due Wednesday on D2L)
Week 8: 10/11-10/15	The Presentation of Self	*D2L - Cain	Read Quiz #7 (due Tue) *Film: People Like Us

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus as necessary

Week 9: 10/18-10/22	Intimacy & Families	Chapter 7	<i>Read Quiz #8 (due Tue)</i>
Week 10: 10/25-10/29	Intimacy & Families	*D2L - Coontz	Exam #2 (Friday)

UNIT 3: Identities & Inequalities

Week 11: 11/01-11/05	Social Deviance	Chapter 8	<i>Read Quiz #9 (due Tue)</i>
Week 12: 11/08-11/12	Social Class	Chapter 10	<i>Read Quiz #10 (due Tue)</i> Project #3: Current Events (Due Friday on D2L)
Week 13: 11/15-11/19	Race & Ethnicity	Chapter 11	<i>Read Quiz #11 (due Tue)</i> Film: Race–The Power of Illusion
Week 14: 11/22-11/23	Sex & Gender <i>(Fall Break: No Class on Wednesday & Friday)</i>	Chapter 12	<i>Read Quiz #12 (due Tue)</i>
Week 15: 11/29-12/03	Sex & Gender	*D2L - McIntosh	Exam #3 (Friday)

****We do not have a final exam for this class. There is nothing due during finals week.***