



SYLLABUS: Applied Sociology 2026
SOCL 4803 Section 201
Days: T 8:00-9:20
Place: PY 202

Instructor: Dr. Isaac Christiansen
Telephone: 940-397-4179
E-mail: isaac.christiansen@msutexas.edu
Office Location: 134 O'Donohoe
Office Hours: M and W 8:50-9:50 a.m.; 1:30-2:30 p.m. T 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Course Description

Applied sociology is an advanced required course for all sociology majors. This course provides you with supervised experience through internships in a setting in which sociology is either practiced or sociological principles and knowledge are applied. In this course you apply your knowledge of sociological principles and methods to a “real-world” setting. The internship experience, along with your required readings, is the basis for monthly class discussions (seminar).

Course Objectives

- To obtain experience through internships in community organizations and non-profit organizations.
- To gain “on-the-job” training experiences that will help students obtain employment in a variety of areas after graduation.
- To use the ability to perceive and define occupational needs and to generate tentative solutions for solving these issues by applying sociological skills, knowledge and methods, and through observation and direct involvement with respective stakeholders.
- Obtain knowledge of how community organizations and non-profits function: organizational structure, service models, and decision-making systems and mechanisms.
- Contribute to achievement of specific goals of said organizations.
- To use and fine-tune self-assessment abilities of specific skills through site supervision, seminar group discussion, presentations and journal writing.
- To learn the process of applying for and finding jobs.
- To learn job interviewing and negotiating job offers.
- To learn how to use sociology for social change

Required Texts

Brooks, K. 2021. *What Color is Your Parachute: Pave Your Path from Major to Meaningful Work*. Ten Speed Press. California. New York.

Other Readings (in class handouts):

Hodson, Randy and Teresa A. Sullivan. 2012. "Technology and Organization" Pp 161-181 in *The Social Organization of Work*. Wadsworth. Cengage Learning. Belmont.

Hodson, Randy and Teresa A. Sullivan. 2012. "Professions and Professionals" Pp 259-281 in *The Social Organization of Work*. Wadsworth. Cengage Learning. Belmont.

McDavid, James C. and Hawthorn, Laura R.L. 2006. "Understanding and Applying Program Logic Models" Pp. 39-71 in *Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement: An Introduction to Practice*. Sage Publications. London.

Course Policies**GRADING SCALE**

GRADING SOURCE	POINTS
Evaluation by on-site Supervisor	150
Weekly Journal of Sociological Applications	100
Résumé Assignment	30
Organizational Map	20
Organizational Logic Model	20
Sociological Concepts Paper	50
Attendance and Participation	30
Total Points	400

Grading Scale	FINAL GRADE
90%-100%	A
80%-89%	B
70%-79%	C
60—69%	D
59% or less	F

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	Due Dates
Jan 20	Introduction to Course and Syllabus- Select Your Work Site Background Checks.		Background Checks and Child Protection Training- (if needed)
Jan-27	Résumé: Stephanie Sullivan from Career Center	Brooks Chapter 6; Steel and Price Chapter 15	Begin Internships
Feb-3	Organizational Logic Models	Steele and Price Chapter 1 McDavid and Hawthorn Chapter 2	Résumé Assignment due 2/3
Feb-10	Applying Methods- (Researching homelessness)	Steele and Price chapter 2. Goldstone Introduction	Journal Check-Up
Feb-17	Culture and Social Structure Practical component builds on logic model	Steele and Price Chapter 3;	Organizational Logic Model Due 2/17
Feb-24	Groups – Discuss Sociological Observations about Group Functioning	Steele and Price Chapter 4	
Mar-3	Organizations	Hodson and Sullivan 7	Journal Check-Up
Mar-10	SPRING BREAK		
Mar 17	Education	Steele and Price Chapter 9	Organizational Map Due 3/17
Mar 24	Professions	Hodson and Sullivan Chapter 11.	
Mar 31	Thinking long term: career focus	Brooks 2; Steele and Price 16	
Apr 7	Thinking long term: How Sociology connects to work	Brooks 3; Steele and Price 15	Journal Check-up
Apr 14	Create Workplace	Brooks 4	
Apr 21	Finding work	Brooks 5	Submit Journals
Apr 28	Networking	Brooks 7	Internships end by 5/2

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	Due Dates
			Supervisor Evals Due
May 5	Reflection	Brooks 9	Concept Paper due.
May 12	Done		

NOTE: I reserve the right to alter the syllabus to better suit the needs of the class.

Course Requirements

1. Evaluation by on-site Supervisor: You will receive a rating and a letter grade for your performance at the internship site at the end of the semester. Minimum requirements are 50 hours over at least 10 weeks. Schedules and internship duties will be negotiated between you and your on-site-supervisor, with input from the coordinator as needed. All internships should be completed by Friday April 22nd.
2. Resume Assignment: You need to create a résumé that includes your contact information, education, previous work experience, highlights your key skills and denotes seriousness. Résumés should have clear subheadings. Make your value salient.
3. Organizational Logic Model: Create a logic model that identifies the inputs, outputs and desired outcome(s) of the organization's work. In one or two paragraphs describe the logic model. Briefly discuss any critical endogenous or exogenous factors to the organization that may either impede or facilitate the achievement of the organization's desired outcomes. You can think about these in terms of dependent variables or even the organization's mission. You should think of this sociologically in terms of the organization's ability to achieve its goals (agency) within a context of social, political, economic constraints (structure).
4. Organization Map/Chart: Create a map or chart of the organization by position within its social context. For the context identify what is the highest authority in your organization and to whom they report or to whom are they accountable? Who are the clients of the organization? Illustrate the division of labor within the organization in chart format as best as you can.
5. Journal: For your time on-the-job, you will keep a weekly journal of activities. Report your hours on the job, describe your activities, and include your observations related to the topics discussed in the class. Bring in your sociology that you have accumulated over your course of study in MSU on Journal check-up days. Include in your journal sociological observations related to organizational structure. For example, how equitable is the organization internally? Is the organization making a meaningful difference in the lives of others? What are the type of issues faced by clients? Take note of any other macro, micro and/or meso-sociological factors that affect your organization, their clients or the ability to achieve organizational goals. Can the organization ultimately resolve the issue or is it ongoing and/or ameliorative? Take notes on things

that you have learned over the years that may help you on your career path. Much of your notes will also be a log of your activities. Always try to frame your activities as to where they fit into the broader picture.

6. Sociological Concepts Paper: Students will write a 5 to 7 page paper demonstrating the connection and application of sociological concepts, theory, and/or methods to important aspects of their internship experience. This may deal with issues of work and structural organization, seeing how and where their particular experience or organization fits within the broader socio-economic picture, applying sociological concepts to understanding the population with whom the students worked, or explaining how using sociological tools, concepts and research helped them to achieve relevant goals in their internship.
7. Attendance: Class will meet weekly. Interns are expected to attend all meetings; attendance is one component of your grade. Each week two students will lead the discussion and other students will participate as well based on their reflection papers. Quizzes will be administered over the required readings every week; in addition, each intern will be expected to report on their internship activities. Since we meet once a week on Tuesdays you are allowed to miss only one week before points will be deducted (except for illness) from your attendance grade. There will be 6 points deducted for each absence.

How do you avoid plagiarism? Avoiding the problem is simple and is achieved by combining two main strategies. The first strategy is to quote with quotation marks and the correct citation including the authors name, year published and page number. For block quotes, the quotation marks are replaced by using a separate indentation style, spacing, and smaller font. The key purpose of quoting is it separates your words from someone else's. Paraphrasing (putting the concept into your own words and not using quotation marks) and including the correct citation material. These is how you **MUST** interact with original sources. The rest of the writing in your paper should be your ideas, reflecting on, and interacting with, the cited evidence that you have provided.

Course Policies

Class Participation and attendance:

The attendance and participation of students is vital for a positive and rewarding learning experience for everyone. Your presence is expected and students will be evaluated on their sharing of thoughts and class contribution. You will miss vital information if you are not present and alert in class. In the end it is your grade and your responsibility to know the information in the exams and to incorporate the information from class in your assignments. Individuals that miss class and/or are not engaged during class, tend to hand in poorer work, and do more poorly in exams. **If you are sick, please send me an email and do not come to class. During COVID we must be conscious about public health.** You are allotted one absence (excluding illness) this course (as we meet only once a week), after that each absence results in a 6-point

deduction from the attendance points. Six absences or more may result in being dropped from the course.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will have up to 5 points deducted per day late. The penalty may be lower or waived under extreme circumstances.

However, with the exception of severe illness, after a week has gone by or more than half of the points have been eroded due to tardiness, **grading begins at half credit**. This often results in a virtual zero, once discounts for errors, grammar and other criteria are taken into account. Again, you will need to communicate with me via email: isaac.christiansen@msutexas.edu

No assignments may be handed in during finals week, except under the most extreme of circumstances. Do not sabotage your grade by handing in late work!

Missed exam policy: No missed exams will be allowed to be retaken without instructor approval based on *evidence* (doctor's note, university letter) that indicates the person missed the test due to a legitimate emergency, illness and/or school function. **As this course only has one exam and any make-up exam must be made prior- save for health issues or serious emergencies.** No exam may be made up after the week prior to final exams.

Learning Environment Please keep in mind that everyone has a different learning style and we need to collectively keep distractions to a minimum. ***PLEASE STAY OFF YOUR CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS.*** I will respect you and I also expect you do give your fellow classmates and me that same respect. If you are disruptive in class you will first be given a warning, the second time it occurs, you will be asked to leave.

Show up on time and do not leave early.

Cell phones and electronic devices: **Not permitted during class time.** Turn off or silence your cellular telephones before coming to class. Sending text messages is distracting and is strictly prohibited. Laptop use is generally prohibited during class time. No use of iPods or other listening devices will be tolerated. Please focus on the task at hand. **If you are more than 15 minutes late you will be counted absent. If you are on your cell phone during class, texting you may also be counted as absent.**

Syllabus modifications: The professor reserves the right to make adjustments or improvements to the syllabus during the semester. You will be notified of all changes.

Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty:

At no time will any form of cheating or plagiarism of any kind be allowed. Students are attending the university to learn and cannot do so if they do not complete their own work. Academic dishonesty is a serious ethical violation and will not be tolerated. I expect that these

standards will be met, and I will hold students to them.

Plagiarism is according to the New Oxford Dictionary is “the practice of taking someone else’s work and passing it off as your own”. This means in academic practice copying someone else’s work and ideas, without quoting and citing as appropriate.

Potential consequences of plagiarism or academic dishonesty include failing the article review, assignment, exam and/or quiz at a minimum. Other consequences include failing or being dropped from the entire course and the filing of the Academic Misconduct Form that will remain on your college records.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

If a student has an established disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADAAA) and would like to request accommodation, that student should please contact me as soon as possible. Any student requesting accommodations should first contact Disability Support Services at 940-397-4140 in room 168 Clark Student Center to document and coordinate reasonable accommodations if they have not already done so.

Campus Concealed Carry

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University’s webpage at <https://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.