

**Introduction to Sociology**  
**SOCY 1133-104**  
Fall 2020 | MWF 10:00am – 10:50am  
Classroom: Dillard, Rm 329

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**Professor:** Dr. Jennifer Pace

**Office:** O'Donohoe 131 (PY Building)  
\*Office hours will be held via Zoom

**Office Hours:** Tues 9:30AM -12:30PM  
Weds 12:00-2:00PM

**Email:** [Jennifer.Pace@msutexas.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Pace@msutexas.edu)  
*\*Note: I will return emails within 48 hours, excluding weekends.*

**Required Text:** *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life. By David M. Newman. 2020 (13<sup>th</sup> Edition).*  
*\*All additional readings will be available on our D2L course website.*

**Virtual Office Hours:** Virtual office hours will be held virtually via Zoom. You can create an MSU Zoom account here: <https://msutexas-edu.zoom.us> **If you're planning to attend virtual office hours, you must email me to let me know** (include what time you plan to attend). You will then be emailed a link to our office hour meeting.

**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.

**Course Objectives:**

- Introduce you to sociological concepts and theories
- Help you to use these concepts and theories to better understand your own social experiences and events in the larger social world
- Provide you with an understanding of how sociologists conduct research
- This course will allow you to begin to "think" like a sociologist (sociological imagination)

## **Evaluation:**

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

Exam #1	25%
Exam #2	25%
Exam #3	25%
Projects (x3)	25%
TOTAL	100%

**Exams (75%):** There will be three exams in this class. 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 official 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, including: 1) Research Project, 2) Culture Project, and 3) Current Events Project. Prompts and 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). Projects should be turned in on our D2L course website.

**\*Discussion Board Posts (Participation):** Participation is an important component of this course. Due to the current health crisis, we are focusing our participation tracking online, through our D2L course site. *Participation will affect your grade. Every week, you are required to post to our D2L Discussion Board one original comment and one response comment to one of your classmates. For every missed post past your second, your final grade will be docked one percentage point.*

## **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)

## 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. For in-class notes, please contact one of your classmates. I do not post lecture slides online.
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.
5. As the instructor, I reserve the right to ask you to leave if I believe your comments and/or actions are contributing to a classroom environment where not all individuals feel respected and safe.
6. Please do not get up and leave class, or start packing up to leave, before our time is up. **Avoid being late to class.** It is distracting to both me and the other students. If you must leave early or come late, please let me know ahead of time. Disrupting class by being late/leaving early will have a negative impact on your grade. When you arrive late and disrupt our class, you will not be counted as in attendance for the day (which will negatively impact your final 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: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus as necessary\*\**

## 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.*

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

Week 1: 8/24-8/28	Course Introduction; Sociological Imagination	Chapter 1	
Week 2: 8/31-9/4	Seeing & Thinking Sociologically	Chapter 2	
Week 3: 9/7-9/11	The Social Construction of Knowledge ( <i>No Class on Monday 9/7</i> )	Chapter 3	<b>Project #1: Data &amp; Research (Due Friday on D2L)</b>
Week 4: 9/14-9/18	Culture & History	Chapter 4	<i>Film: Merchants of Cool</i>
Week 5: 9/21-9/25	Culture & History	*D2L – Rodriquez	<b>Exam #1 (Friday)</b>

### ***UNIT 2: The Self in Society***

Week 6: 9/28-10/2	Socialization	Chapter 5	<i>Film: Secret of the Wild Child</i>
Week 7: 10/5-10/9	Socialization/The Presentation of Self	Chapter 6	<b>Project #2: Culture (Due Friday on D2L)</b>
Week 8: 10/12-10/16	The Presentation of Self	*D2L - Cain	<i>Film: People Like Us</i>

Week 9: 10/19-10/23	Intimacy & Families	Chapter 7	
Week 10: 10/26-10/30	Intimacy & Families	*D2L - Coontz	<b>Unit #2 Exam (Friday)</b>

### ***UNIT 3: Identities & Inequalities***

Week 11: 11/2-11/6	Social Deviance	Chapter 8	
Week 12: 11/9-11/13	Social Class	Chapter 10	<b>Project #3: Current Events (Due Wed on D2L)</b>
Week 13: 11/16-11/20	Race & Ethnicity	Chapter 11	<i>Film: Race – The Power of Illusion</i>
Week 14: 11/23-11/27	Sex & Gender (FALL BREAK W-F)	*D2L - McIntosh	<i>Film: Miss Representation</i> (No in-person class this week. Watch on D2L)
Week 15: 11/30-12/4	Sex & Gender (FULLY ONLINE)	Chapter 12	<b>Unit #3 Exam (Friday @ 10:00 am on D2L)</b>

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