

Introduction to Sociology
SOCY 1133-102
Fall 2019 – MWF 11:00am-12:20pm

Professor: Dr. Jennifer Pace

Office: O’Donohoe 131

Office Hours: MW 12:00-2:00pm
& T 9:30-10:30am

Email: Jennifer.Pace@msutexas.edu
**Note: I will return emails within 48 hrs, excluding weekends.*

Classroom: Dillard Room 338

Required Text: *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life. By David M. Newman. 2019 (12th 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.

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)

Student Learning Outcomes:

- An understanding of the three main sociological perspectives;
- An understanding of several important sociological theories;
- The ability to apply these perspectives and theories to contemporary social issues and problems;
- Insight into the critical link between social structures, social forces and individual circumstances;
- Insight into how you shape society and how society shapes you.

Evaluation:

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

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Exam 4	20%
<u>Projects</u>	<u>20%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Exams (80%): There will be four exams in this class. Exam material will be drawn from lectures, readings, and other course content/activities. Exams will mostly consist of multiple choice questions and may include a few short answer 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 (15%) 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. Projects should be handed in hard copy, in class.

A Note on Participation and Attendance: Participation in classroom activities/discussions is mandatory. Your satisfactory participation will be based on your presence in class, engagement in class discussions/exercises, and contribution to group discussions. If you miss class and/or do not participate in class discussions, it will be extremely difficult to earn a successful grade in this portion of the course. *If you miss class do not email me to ask what you missed.* You will need to make a contact in the class and borrow their notes. If you have questions after viewing their material, feel free to ask for clarification during office hours.

You'll find a high correlation between attendance and your grades. A portion of each exam will focus on course material (lecture, films) that is not in the book. In addition, in-class participation exercises can only be submitted if you are in class that day. Therefore, good attendance is a necessity. ***I may drop a student for excessive absences (3+), at my discretion. Absences will affect your grade.***

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 excuse from a physician, or MSU infirmary
- Written evidence of attending a *mandatory* university function (band, choir, sports, etc.)
- A written excuse from a physician for a dependent child's illness
- Proof of death in immediate family (check in with 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 the 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 immediately so we can 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. For in-class notes, please contact one of your classmates (see "class contacts" at the end of this syllabus). 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 and debate of these issues is wholeheartedly encouraged, insensitive or inappropriate 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 (myself included) feel respected and safe.
6. Please do not get up and leave class, or start packing up to leave, before our time is up. Please avoid consistent lateness 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. Repeatedly disrupting class by being late/leaving early will have a negative impact on your in-class participation grade. For repeated tardiness, you may also be asked to leave class for the day.
7. I do not post lecture slides online. However, they are available for review in office hours.

(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 **Monday** at the beginning of class.
- ❖ 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	Principles of Sociology		
Week 1: 8/26-8/30	Course Introduction; Sociological Imagination	Chapter 1	
Week 2: 9/2-9/6	Seeing & Thinking Sociologically	Chapter 2	
Week 3: 9/9-9/13	The Social Construction of Knowledge	Chapter 3	<i>Film: TBA</i>
Week 4: 9/16-9/20	The Social Construction of Knowledge	*D2L—Conrad & Barker	Unit #1 Exam (Friday)

UNIT #2	Culture & Socialization		
Week 5: 9/23-9/27	Culture & History	Chapter 4	<i>Film: TBA</i>
Week 6: 9/30-10/4	Culture & History	*D2L – Rodriquez	Project #1: Culture (Friday)
Week 7: 10/7-10/11	Socialization	Chapter 5	<i>Film: TBA</i>
Week 8: 10/14-10/18	Socialization	*D2L – Pascoe	Unit #2 Exam (Friday)

UNIT #3	Self & Society		
Week 9: 10/21-10/25	The Presentation of Self	Chapter 6	
Week 10: 10/28-11/1	The Presentation of Self	*D2L – Cain	<i>Film: People Like Us</i>
Week 11: 11/4-11/8	Intimacy & Families	Chapter 7	Project #2: Research (Friday)
Week 12: 11/11-11/15	Social Deviance	Chapter 8	Unit #3 Exam (Friday)

UNIT #4	Identities & Inequalities		
Week 13: 11/18-11/22	Social Class	Chapter 10	
Week 14: 11/25-11/29	Race & Ethnicity; FALL BREAK (No Class on Friday)	Chapter 11	<i>Film: Race-The Power of Illusion</i>
Week 15: 12/2-12/6	Sex & Gender	Chapter 12 &D2L – McIntosh	Project #3: Current Events (Friday)

**Unit #4 Exam will be given during finals week. Date/Time TBA.*