

SYLLABUS
SOCL 1133-204
Introductory Sociology
Spring 2025
T/TH 8:00am-9:20am
Prothro-Yeager PY 100

Sociology is the “systematic study of human societies (Newman 2022).” According to the American Sociological Association (n.d.), “sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies and how people interact within these contexts (para 1).”

Professor: Amy Clark, Ph.D.

OFFICE: O’Donohoe 131

Mon. 9:55am-10:55am
Tues. 11:00 am-12:30pm
Wed. 9:55am-10:55am
Thurs. 11:00 am-12:30pm

The best way to meet with me is on campus during my office hours, which are listed above. You can email me to set up an appointment or drop by to see me. Otherwise, I can meet with you during my office hours electronically via Zoom. If you need to schedule a Zoom appointment, then please give me *as much advanced notice as possible*, and we can set up a time. You can also reach me via email or by the D2L message inbox. I answer emails **Monday through Friday within 48 hours**; this excludes weekends. *So, I don’t answer emails or D2L inbox messages over the weekend.* However, electronic communication is time stamped, and I will honor the date and time that you contact me.

EMAIL: amy.clark@msutexas.edu

REQUIRED TEXT: Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life (14 Edition)
by David M. Newman (2022). ISBN-13 978-1071849552

*The book is available on 2-hour reserve at the Moffett Library. Students may check it out on a first-come, first-serve basis. The book cannot be removed from the Library.

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Scantrons: 882-E Compatible Testing Forms. Please make sure your scantron is wrinkle free and in good condition. Do not crumple or bend the form.
- A regular no. 2 pencil and a pencil sharpener or extra sharpened pencils
- A composition book or a spiral notebook (if you plan to complete the extra credit)
- Microsoft Office 365 (free subscription through MSU) or other word processing software, which can be converted to a PDF.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Define and explain sociological concepts and theories

- Articulate the social, historical, political, and economic factors that influence events from a sociological perspective
- Describe the importance of sociological research
- Investigate social structures and influences and how people interact in small groups, organizations, and societies
- Utilize your sociological imagination to explore social forces, which have shaped your own social experiences, identity, and group memberships

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A general survey course introducing students to the field of sociology. Emphasis is on people as products of groups, social interaction, and social forces. Topics covered include marriage and family, deviance, social class, minority relations, and collective behavior with an effort toward helping students understand the social world and their roles in it.

ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING:

Exams: Worth 100 points each; 400 total

Exams are completed **in class** on their respective due dates, and they are completed **via scantron**. Students are required to bring a scantron and no. 2 pencil to each exam. (Please make sure that you **DO NOT FOLD** your scantron. Please keep it straight and wrinkle free.) Each exam will be 50 questions, which includes true/false and multiple-choice questions.

Students will have **60 minutes** to complete the questions. Students who arrive to class late on test day **must finish the exam by the time they are taken up by the instructor** and will not be provided extra time to finish the exam. (Please also view the policy on **Missed Exams**.) Test grades will not be curved, and no test grades will be dropped. The tests are **not** open book, and students **cannot use** notes. Students have an option to replace their lowest test grade with an optional exam at the end of the semester. (See policy on **Replacing Lowest Test Grades**.)

Special Notes on Accommodations for Tests:

- Students should notify me as soon as possible if they have accommodations for exams through DSS, and I must receive the DSS notification letter **before** the accommodation will be provided.
- Based on approved accommodations and testing needs, students can arrange to take a test on campus with an approved proctor in an alternate setting.
- If students are allotted extra time based on a reasonable accommodation, then they should *also plan ahead and communicate with me* so that they can start the test **at the same time** it is started in class.
 - If this cannot be done, then they will receive an **alternative version of the test**.

Reflection Papers: 50 points each; worth 200 points total

There are four reflections over the course of the semester, and they are required to be one page in length. Each reflection is worth 50 points. Detailed instructions are provided in D2L. Reflections will be checked for possible plagiarism and unauthorized AI usage via Turnitin. Though these are informal papers, students should check them for grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors. Reflection papers will be accepted late; please view the policy on **Late Work**.

Projects: Worth 300 points total

There will also be 3 projects over the semester, which equal 300 points (total). Each assignment will be graded with a detailed rubric, and students will have access to the assignment directions ahead of time in the D2L course shell. Projects will be submitted through an assignment link in the D2L course shell on their respective

due dates. The projects cover culture (100 points), current events (100 points), and the World Bank (100 points). If students need help completing their projects, they may utilize TASP support services in the Moffett Library. Students are required to cite sources in APA 7th edition format. Students should follow all assignment directions, and students should check them for grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors. Projects are usually between one to three pages in length and double spaced. Projects will be checked for possible plagiarism and unauthorized use of AI via Turnitin.

Quizzes

There are 10 quizzes worth 10 points each. Quizzes will be **completed in class and require a scantron**. Quizzes are **10 multiple choice or true false questions**. Starting at the beginning of class on the due date, students will be given **15 minutes** to complete each assessment. The instructor will take up the quizzes promptly once time is up, and students who walk in late **will NOT be given any extra time** to complete the assessment. Students are required to attend class *on time*. Quizzes cannot be completed “late.”

Graded Assessments

Graded Assessments	POINTS	Weighted Percentage of Final Grade by Category
Exams 1-4 (50 questions/100points each)	400	40%
Projects (3 at 100 points)	300	30%
Reflections (4@50 points each)	200	20%
Quizzes (10 @ 10 points each)	100	10%
Total Number of Points Available in the Course	1000	100%

Extra Credit

- The instructor will provide detailed information on the extra credit opportunity, and it worth a maximum of 20 points. The extra credit opportunity requires either a composition notebook or a spiral notebook.

Policy on Academic Dishonesty

- Students are NOT allowed to use ChatGPT or any other unauthorized AI in this class.
- Turnitin **will be utilized** to check for possible plagiarism on written assignments.
- Students suspected of cheating on exams, quizzes, or written assignments will be given a zero on the assessment and referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.
- Students should never submit another person’s work; this is cheating and will result in a zero and referral to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities

Policy on Missed Exams and Quizzes

- If students miss an exam or quiz due to a university approved excuse or an otherwise excused absence, they will be required to make up a **DIFFERENT VERSION** of the exam or quiz **AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER ON A DATE SPECIFIED BY THE INSTRUCTOR** in the Syllabus. Students will not be provided the same version of the quiz or exam that was administered in class.
- Exams **CANNOT BE MADE UP WITHOUT AN EXCUSED ABSENCE**. It is **absolutely the responsibility of the student** to make up exams in class on the specified date **AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER**, and exams must be made up **ON THIS DATE**. Otherwise, students will receive a zero.

- No exams can be made up for reasons associated with unexcused absences, and no tests or quizzes can be taken late for a reduction in points. Unexcused quizzes or tests will be scored as a zero. Students do have an option to replace the lowest test grade with an alternate exam on the make up date at the end of the semester. See policy on replacing the lowest test grade. No unexcused quiz grades can be replaced.

Option to Replace Lowest Test Grade

- Everyone has the option to **replace their lowest test grade** with an exam over chapters 13 and 14. This exam will be 50 questions (multiple choice and true/false) from the textbook. Students can take it on the makeup test day at the end of the semester, which is listed in the Syllabus. If this exam benefits the student, I will replace their lowest test grade with this grade-even if their lowest test grade is a zero-due to an unexcused exam.

Technical Difficulties

- If students experience a technical issue in D2L, students should reach out through the D2L help feature to [“report a problem.”](#)

Late work:

- Projects and reflections will be accepted late for a penalty UP TO 48 HOURS LATE in D2L with an unexcused absence according to the policy listed below. Therefore, students MUST PAY ATTENTION to the difference between **the due date and the last date that an assessment is available**. If students have any questions about this, then please ask me as soon as possible. (Please also view the policy on **missing tests**.)
 - **Unexcused projects and reflections may be submitted in D2L up to 48 hours late, but they will be penalized at the following rates:**
 - **< or equal to 24 hours late, 50 % reduction in the total point value of the assignment.** The deduction will be manually calculated by the instructor and applied in D2L once the assignment has been graded. The number of points deducted will depend on the point value of the assignment.
 - **> 24 hours late but < or equal to 48 hours late, will receive a 75 % reduction in the total point value of the assignment.**
 - **>48 hours late WILL NOT be accepted and will be marked as a ZERO in D2L.**

COURSE POINT TOTALS AND CORRESPONDING GRADING SCALE

Grades will be determined by the following scale:

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	900 or higher
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Course Policies

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

- Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. *In this class, any use of ChatGPT or other unauthorized AI is considered cheating and academic dishonesty.*

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.

Expectations about classroom etiquette and netiquette

- Coming to class is an essential part of a student's learning experience in this course. Students are expected to promptly attend class and actively participate. Students should engage in civil dialogue with others and keep a positive attitude and a growth mindset. Students should be willing to listen to others and not engage in any form of hostile communication or excessively disruptive behavior (see policies on course etiquette and netiquette).
- Respect, empathy, kindness, and compassion for others will be a cornerstone in this course. Sociologists discuss things that are inherently controversial. Some of our class discussions may be energized at times, and it may become apparent that not everyone agrees. Regardless, we are all part of a larger community at MSU Texas, and I expect that each of you will do your very best to respect one another. We are all here to learn and listen and grow. Please know that if you feel triggered, there are campus support services available.
- When interacting with me and each other, please keep MSU Texas' core value of respect in mind at all times. As a class, we will design a course contract, which is a document that contains "rules of the road" for how we will treat each other in this class. Signing the contract will be a requirement before continuing in the class. Rude, abusive behavior will not be tolerated either in person or online. Disruptive behavior will be referred to Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Online communications should display principles of netiquette and be civil in tone.

Use of cell phones and laptops in class

- There may be times where brining your phones and laptops are appropriate based on instructor direction. Otherwise, please refrain from using your phone or laptops during class, and keep them put away during lecture. In the event that you are experiencing a family or personal crisis, then please sit close to the door; you may go into the hall and check your messages or make a phone call if it is **absolutely an emergency**. Otherwise, please be mindful that unauthorized use of technology can be distracting. Class lectures **cannot be recorded** unless you have an accommodation from disability services. *I must have the appropriate documentation from the DSS office as soon as possible.*

Excessive absences

- In this class, **more than 6 unexcused absences are considered excessive**. Though I will not drop you for absences, **your letter grade is very likely to drop** if you do not regularly attend class. Attendance is recorded and reported to the Registrar. You are required to attend this class. Missing class for

unexcused reasons will adversely impact your ability to do well on your tests and quizzes. You will also miss critical instructions for your assignments, which will impact your ability to correctly complete them. So, missing several classes will negatively impact your overall grade in the class especially if they are unexcused.

- If something serious has happened, which prevents you from coming to class, then please *reach out to me as soon as is reasonably possible*.

Extenuating Circumstances, Emergencies, Illness, and Academic Activities:

Emergencies and other extenuating circumstances happen. The following count as emergencies and/or extenuating circumstances and should be evidenced by appropriate documentation:

- 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 (i.e., deployment, etc.)
- Religious observance or Holy Day(s)
- Medical appointments related to pregnancy, pregnancy related complications, delivering early, or being restricted from activity for a certain amount of time due to pregnancy
- An acute or chronic illness, which prevents you from coming to campus or coming to class on time
- A written note from a medical clinic
- A written note from the MSU Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities
- A written note from a physician for a family member/loved one's illness
- You experience issues related to Title IX including but not limited to assault, stalking, or domestic violence
- Official documentation of required jury or court appearance
- Death of a family member/loved one/close relative
- Documentation of a motor vehicle accident, domestic disturbance, theft of your property, etc., which prevented you from coming to class
- Unexpected homelessness, food insecurity, job displacement, or a loss of otherwise reliable transportation-*please let me know about this as soon as possible*
- If you suddenly became an unexpected caregiver of someone critically ill
- If you are a law enforcement, corrections officer, or first responder and are faced with a verifiable/documented work emergency, which prevented you from coming to class (i.e. a transport, accident, fire, or major trauma etc.)

Though the aforementioned list is thorough, if you have absences related to other extreme/extenuating circumstances beyond your control that are not listed above, then please let me know as soon as possible. I want you to be successful in this class, and I will make EVERY EFFORT to help you do so. **Please communicate with me as soon as something has gone wrong and before you begin missing several classes.** MSU Texas has a team of dedicated people ready to help you stay in school, and my desire is to support your continued education. The MSU Texas Student Handbook has additional information on certain types of absences and what you should do next. Some of these are listed below.

Pregnant and Parenting Students

To support the academic success of pregnant and parenting students and students with pregnancy related conditions, the University offers reasonable modifications based on the student's particular needs. Any student who is pregnant or parenting a child up to age 18 or has conditions related to pregnancy, may contact MSU's designated Pregnancy and Parenting Liaison to discuss support available through the University. The Liaison can be reached by emailing ruby.garrett@msutexas.edu or calling 940-397-4500. Should a student communicate with

me that they are pregnant or have a pregnancy related condition or may need additional resources related to pregnancy or parenting, I will communicate that student's information to the Title IX Coordinator, who will work with the student and others, as needed, to ensure equal access to the University's education program or activity.

A pregnant student, a parenting student, or a student with pregnancy related conditions may be provided with supportive measures, based on the student's individualized needs, analogous to those provided to a student with a temporary medical condition, and provided such supportive measures do not fundamentally alter the nature of an education program or activity. Such supportive measures may include, but are not limited to:

For pregnant students:

- (1) Providing breaks during class to express breast milk, breastfeed, or attend to health needs associated with pregnancy or related conditions, including eating, drinking, or using the restroom;
- (2) Excusing intermittent absences to attend medical appointments;
- (3) Providing access to online or homebound education, including the providing of access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures (to the extent such materials, recordings are made available to any student with an excused absence);
- (4) Facilitating changes in schedule or course sequence, including extensions of time for coursework and rescheduling of tests and examinations and/or providing opportunity to make up missed assignments/assessments (such time extensions shall be applied in the same manner as the University grants and provides ADA/504 accommodations for additional time);
- (5) Allowing a student to sit or stand, or carry or keep water nearby;
- (6) Offering counseling;
- (7) Facilitating changes in physical space or supplies (for example, access to a larger desk or a footrest);
- (8) Allowing the student to maintain a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals or unborn children;
- (9) Providing elevator access;
- (10) Facilitating a voluntary leave of absence from the University if the student is in good academic standing at the time the student takes a leave of absence, and facilitating a return to the student's degree or certificate program without being required to reapply for admission if the student remains in good academic standing; or
- (11) Making other necessary changes to policies, practices, or procedures.

For Parenting Students:

- (1) Facilitating priority registration to the extent the University provides early registration for any other group of students; or
- (2) Facilitating a voluntary leave of absence from the University if the student is in good academic standing at the time the student takes a leave of absence, and facilitating a return to the student's degree or certificate program without being required to reapply for admission.

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick

Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213
laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout_id=6

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit <https://msutexas.edu/titleix/>

Resources

- Helpdesk hours: 8 AM-10 PM, 7 days a week
- Online Problem Reporting System <https://msutexas.edu/distance/oprs.php>
- Helpdesk direct phone: 940-397-3000
- Log-In instructions <https://msutexas.edu/distance/login-instructions.php>
- D2L access link: <https://d2l.msutexas.edu/>
- Advice to new online students <https://msutexas.edu/distance/new-online-students.php>
- Student Resources <https://msutexas.edu/distance/student-resources.php>

COURSE CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

Quizzes, exams, and extra credit will be turned in during class on the due date listed in the Syllabus. Projects and reflections will be submitted in the D2L course shell on their respective due dates by 11:59pm CST. There is NO final exam in this class.

WEEK NUMBER	ITEMS TO READ/VIEW/DISCUSS	ITEMS DUE/ SUBMISSION FORMAT
Week 1: January 21-26	Syllabus, course calendar, and course policies	N/A
Week 2: January 27-February 2	Chapter 1 in Newman (2022	Thursday, January 30: Quiz #1 due in class

Week 3: February 3-9	Chapter 2 in Newman (2022)	Thursday, February 6: Quiz #2 due in class; Reflection #1 due by 11:59pm CST in D2L
Week 4: February 10-16	Chapter 3 in Newman (2022)	Thursday, February 13: Quiz #3 due in class
Week 5: February 17-23	N/A	Thursday, February 20: Exam #1 (Chapters 1-3) & optional extra credit due in class
Week 6: February 24-March 2	Chapter 4 in Newman (2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In class Video-TEDTalk: Life That Doesn't End With Death 	Thursday, February 27 Quiz #4 due in class; Project #1 due by 11:59pm CST in D2L
Week 7: March 3-March 9	Chapter 5 in Newman (2022)	Thursday, March 6: Quiz #5 due in class; Reflection #2 due by 11:59pm CST in D2L
Week 8: March 10-March 16 *SPRING BREAK	N/A	N/A
Week 9: March 17-23	Chapter 6 in Newman (2022)	Thursday, March 20: Exam 2 (Chapters 4-6) & optional extra credit due in class; Reflection #3 due by 11:59pm CST in D2L
Week 10: March 24-March 30	Chapter 7 in Newman (2022)	Thursday, March 27: Quiz #6 due in class; Project #2 due by 11:59pm CST in D2L
Week 11: March 31-April 6 *No CLASS April 3rd	Chapter 8 in Newman (2022)	Tuesday, April 1: Quiz #7 due in class Thursday, April 3: Project #3 due by 11:59pm CST in D2L
Week 12: April 7-April 13	Chapter 8 (continued) in Newman (2022)	Tuesday April 8: Quiz #8 due in class Thursday April 10: Exam 3 (Chapters 7-8) & optional extra credit due in class
Week 13: April 14-April 20 *Holiday break April 17-20	Chapter 10 in Newman (2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why Race, Gender, and Class Matter (Anderson & Hill Collins 2010)- provided in D2L 	N/A

	<p>In class videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tammy's Story and Tammy's Story Update (People Like Us) • Allegories on Race/Gardner's Tale (Dr. Camara Jones) 	
Week 14: April 21-April 27	Chapter 10 (Continued); Chapter 11 in Newman (2022)	Thursday, April 24: Quiz #9 due in class
Week 15: April 28-May4	Chapter 11 (Continued); Chapter 12 in Newman (2022)	Thursday, May 1: Quiz #10 due in class
Week 16: May 5-11	N/A	<p>Tuesday, May 6: Any and all make up exams/replacement exams must be completed in class (students who do not need to make up an <i>exam</i> are not required to attend this class period)</p> <p>Thursday, May 8: Exam #4 (Chapters 10-12) & optional extra credit due in class on May 8</p>
Week 17: May 12-18	No final exam	N/A