

Introduction to Sociology SOC 1000 (980:001) Syllabus

MEET THE INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Marybeth Stalp, Associate Professor of Sociology

I am an Associate Professor of Sociology and work in the Sociology, Anthropology & Criminology Department, at the University of Northern Iowa. I have been at UNI since Fall 2003.

I received my Bachelor of Arts from Regis University in Denver, CO in 1993, where I completed a triple major of English Literature, Communication Arts, and Sociology. I then earned my Master of Arts in Sociology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1996. I next moved to the University of Georgia where I completed a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies in 1998, and a Ph.D. in Sociology in December 2001. After teaching at both the University of Georgia and Piedmont College, I worked as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Western State College in Gunnison, CO for one year before moving to UNI. I currently serve as the co-editor of the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, housed at the University of Northern Iowa.

I have authored 14 peer reviewed journal articles, as well as the book *Quilting: The Fabric of Everyday Life* (Berg Press, 2007). My research interests center on the intersection of gender, culture, and leisure in contemporary society. Current research includes an examination of contemporary US women's quilting activities as a gendered form of cultural production, with specific attention to family tensions emerging as midlife women develop leisure interests. A second project centers on the emergence of Red Hat Society Chapters, with focus on the leisure aspects of midlife women, positive spin on aging, and the social benefits of belonging to such an organization. A third project centers on how women and men artists in NC and IA negotiate the creative process with the larger economy. Finally, I have a long term interest in the overlap between public and private in the lives of national First Ladies--that is, how the private lives of First Ladies are carried out in public.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The objective of this course is to provide you with a general survey of the field of sociology, and will provide you with a discipline-specific way in which to think about, view, and understand the social world and your place in it. Therefore, the readings, assignments and exams focus on understanding the basic social processes in society and how you can apply them to everyday events, both small and large, both personal and political. You will read 22 chapters in the book, *Sociology, a Down-to-Earth Approach*, by James Henslin. You will complete one assignment for each chapter, and take five exams.

Textbook:

Sociology, A Down-to-Earth Approach, 10th edition, by James M. Henslin. 2011.
Boston, MA: Prentice Hall.

*Be sure that you purchase the correct edition of the textbook. The bookstore affiliated with the University of Northern Iowa, [University Book & Supply](#), should have information about the text.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This course will be delivered over the World Wide Web, utilizing web pages and a learning management system (**eLearning**). The course is organized into five units, which are outlined below. The five units involve 22 Assignments with 5 Exams. All written assignments will be submitted via **eLearning**. Please refer to the Assignments for specific instructions. Your examinations will be proctored.

Assignments:

You will read each Chapter as listed below, and take the quiz. Each quiz consists of a number of true/false and multiple choice questions, and a short essay. Critical thinking and writing skills are necessary to perform well on the essay, so be certain to

use correct grammar and spelling during the writing process. **Need help?** See the [eLearning Tutorials](#) for instructions on how to submit an assignment that is in a quiz format.

I recommend highly that you take each quiz and wait for feedback, especially on the essay writing, as this will be a way to learn how to improve your work throughout the course. After taking each quiz, move onto the next chapter. Once complete with Part I (for example), then take the related Exam (e.g., Exam 1).

Exams:

There are 5 proctored exams in this course. Exams are closed book and no notes may be used. Please note that the fifth and final exam will be cumulative, and contain information about the entire course.

Course Outline:

I have organized the course into five units, which are outlined below:

Unit 1

Assignment 1 - Chapter 1: The Sociological Perspective
Assignment 2 - Chapter 2: Culture
Assignment 3 - Chapter 3: Socialization
Assignment 4 - Chapter 4: Social Structure and Social Interaction
Assignment 5 - Chapter 5: How Sociologists Do Research
Exam 1: Chapters 1-5

Unit 2

Assignment 6 - Chapter 6: Societies to Social Networks
Assignment 7 - Chapter 7: Bureaucracy and Formal Organizations
Assignment 8 - Chapter 8: Deviance and Social Control
Assignment 9 - Chapter 9: Global Stratification
Exam 2: Chapters 6-9

Unit 3

Assignment 10 - Chapter 10: Social Class in the United States
Assignment 11 - Chapter 11: Sex and Gender
Assignment 12 - Chapter 12: Race and Ethnicity
Assignment 13 - Chapter 13: The Elderly
Exam 3: Chapters 10-13

Unit 4

Assignment 14 - Chapter 14: The Economy
Assignment 15 - Chapter 15: Politics
Assignment 16 - Chapter 16: Marriage and Family
Assignment 17 - Chapter 17: Education
Exam 4: Chapters 14-17

Unit 5

Assignment 18 - Chapter 18: Religion
Assignment 19 - Chapter 19: Medicine and Health
Assignment 20 - Chapter 20: Population and Urbanization
Assignment 21 - Chapter 21: Collective Behavior and Social Movements
Assignment 22 - Chapter 22: Social Change and the Environment
Exam 5: Chapters 18-22

GRADING

Please note that UNI Guided Independent Study requires that you complete all assignments and exams to receive a grade in the course.

Point System:

22 Assignments	50 points each, 1100 points	25%
5 Exams	100 points each, 500 points	75%

Total

1600 points

100%