MEET YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Marybeth C. Stalp, Ph.D., 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.

OVERVIEW

This is an introductory-level course in sociology which examines select social problems in US society from a critical perspective. The course has three main objectives:

1. To introduce students to factual information about some of the important far reaching social problems facing US society.
2. To introduce students to the sociological perspective, and in particular, a sociological interpretation of how social problems are socially constructed and framed, as are the solutions posed to said social problems.
3. To provide some analytical skills for examining the role that both social theories and social politics play in our efforts to understand and address the social problems facing global society.

A sociological approach to understanding and analyzing social problems does not presume any particular ideological orientation, and it emphasizes a realistic and structural view of society, one that is not influence unduly by mainstream societal views. This course will not attempt to teach you what or how to think about any particular social problem, but it will familiarize you with some of the basic intellectual and analytical skills that sociologists use to understand social life.

Textbooks:

ISBN 10: 0-205-78808-4
*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: http://www.panthersupply.com/

Additionally, you can contact the Guided Independent Study office at 319-273-2121 or 800-648-3864.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This course will be delivered over the World Wide Web, utilizing web pages, and a learning management system (eLearning). This course is divided into 6 units with an exam at the end of each unit. At the end of each chapter you will take a quiz that consists of true/false and multiple choice questions and a short essay question.

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.

After taking each quiz, move onto the next chapter. Once complete with Unit 1 (for example), then take the related Exam (e.g., Exam 1).

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. Need help? See the eLearning Tutorials for instructions on how to submit an assignment that is in a quiz format.

Exams:

There are 6 proctored exams in this course. Exams are closed book and no notes may be used. There is a two hour time limit for taking each exam. Please note that the sixth and final exam will be cumulative, and contain information about the entire course.

Course Outline:

**UNIT 1 - POLITICAL ECONOMY AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS**
Assignment 1 - Chapter 1: The Sociological Approach to Social Problems, Quiz One
Assignment 2 - Chapter 2: Wealth and Power: The Bias of the System, Quiz Two
Exam 1

**UNIT 2 - PROBLEMS OF PEOPLE, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND LOCATION**
Assignment 3 - Chapter 3: World Population and Global Inequality, Quiz Three
Assignment 4 - Chapter 4: Threats to the Environment, Quiz Four
Assignment 5 - Chapter 5: Demographic Changes in the United States: The Browning and Graying of Society, Quiz Five
Assignment 6 - Chapter 6: Problems of Place: Urban, Suburban, and Rural, Quiz Six
Exam 2

**UNIT 3 - PROBLEMS OF INEQUALITY**
Assignment 7 - Chapter 7: Poverty, Quiz Seven
Assignment 8 - Chapter 8: Racial and Ethnic Inequality, Quiz Eight
Assignment 9 - Chapter 9: Gender Inequality, Quiz Nine
Assignment 10 - Chapter 10: Sexual Orientation, Quiz Ten
Assignment 11 - Chapter 11: Disability and Ableism, Quiz Eleven
UNIT 4 - SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND INDIVIDUAL DEVIANCE
Assignment 12 - Chapter 12: Crime and Justice, Quiz Twelve
Assignment 13 - Chapter 13: Drugs, Quiz Thirteen
Exam 4

UNIT 5 - INSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS
Assignment 14 - Chapter 14: The Economy and Work, Quiz Fourteen
Assignment 15 - Chapter 15: Families, Quiz Fifteen
Assignment 16 - Chapter 16: Education, Quiz Sixteen
Assignment 17 - Chapter 17: The Health Care System, Quiz Seventeen
Assignment 18 - Chapter 18: National Security in the Twenty-First Century, Quiz Eighteen
Exam 5

UNIT 6 SOLUTIONS
Assignment 19 - Chapter 19: Progressive Plan to Solve Social Problems, Quiz Nineteen
Exam 6 (cumulative, covering Chapters 1-19)

Academic Honesty:

Please review the university’s policy on Academic Honesty if you are unfamiliar with it (Sec. 3.01 Academic Ethics/Discipline of UNI’s Policies and Procedures available on the university’s web page). In this course, such behavior, intentional or not, will earn you an F for the course and may be cause for my recommendation of your suspension from the university. In short, academics are very touchy about such things. We work hard on our research, our writing and other endeavors. Theft of ideas is as serious, if not more serious, than theft of physical property.

GRADING

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

Grading Scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 Quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Exams</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Grading Scale:

- A 93-100
- A- 90-92
- B+ 87-89
- B 83-86
- B- 80-82
- C+ 77-79
- C 73-76
- C- 70-72
- D+ 67-69
- D 63-66
- D- 60-62
- F 59 & below