



SOC 2020: Cultural Literacy Syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Number & Name: SOC 2020: Cultural Literacy

Term/Year: Fall 2025

Day/Time: NA

Department Name: Social Sciences & Humanities, Sociology

TAG/OTM/OT36/CT2/CTAG Course #: (if applicable) OSS021 | TMSBS

Delivery Method: Online

Credit Hours: 3

Course Requirement(s): None

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Courtney Bliss

Instructor Credentials: MA, *Popular Culture Studies*, Bowling Green State University, 2017;
ABD PhD, *American Culture Studies*, Bowling Green State University, 2026

Email/Other Contact Info: blissc@mtc.edu

Telephone: N/A

Building/Office Number: N/A

Office Hours (for student support): by appointment

Emergency: Dial 9-911 from any office or courtesy phone on campus.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

SOC 2020 introduces students to the richness of cultural heritages that have shaped the United States in the 21st century. The course highlights the importance for students today of understanding social and historical relationships between their own culture and that of other groups of people, both within the U.S. and globally. Topics include the origins and effects of prejudice and discrimination, and the historical experiences of major cultural groups in the U.S. Students will have the opportunity to assess their own attitudes regarding the cultural richness the nation offers. Students will develop understanding and social skills that will contribute to their ability to interact in mutually beneficial ways with people of a wide variety of cultural backgrounds.

COURSE MATERIALS

All readings are available on Brightspace

MAJOR COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Course objectives (CO). Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- CO1:** Apply the three major theoretical paradigms in sociology (structural functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism) to topics in Cultural Literacy.
- CO2:** Discuss the science of human origins in Africa, and the fact that all humans today form a single species, *homo sapiens*.
- CO3:** Discuss how European global colonization during the early modern era (1492-1800) and modern era (1800-1945) has influenced relationships between cultures in today's world.
- CO4:** Demonstrate understanding of how white slaveholding during the early modern era (1441-1800) and modern era (1800-1881) has influenced relationships between cultures in today's world.
- CO5:** Discuss how early immigration and nativism in U.S. history (1700s-1920s) have influenced relationships between cultures in today's world.
- CO6:** Discuss how two forms of whitening have influenced relationships between cultures in today's world.
- CO7:** Demonstrate understanding of how Reconstruction and Apartheid in U.S. history (1865-1968) have influenced relationships between cultures in today's world.
- CO8:** Discuss how U.S. imperialism in Latin America and the Pacific (1846-1945) has influenced relationships between cultures in today's world.
- CO9:** Demonstrate understanding of how American globalism and Hispanic immigration (since 1945) have influenced relationships between cultures in today's world.

COURSE OUTLINE

Instruction Week	Course Objectives	Activities	Assessments
1	CO1	Course orientation Introducing Cultural Literacy Discussion 1	Reflection 1 Quiz 1
	CO2	Four Sociological Theories... Discussion 2	
2	CO3	European Global Colonization Discussion 3	Reflection 2 Quiz 2
	CO3	Decolonizing the World Discussion 4	
3	CO4	White Slaveholding Discussion 5	Reflection 3 Quiz 3
	CO4	The Legacy of Slavery Discussion 6	
4	CO5	Early Immigration and Nativism Discussion 7	Reflection 4 Quiz 4 Writing Assignment 1
	CO5 CO1	Nativism Today Discussion 8	
5	CO6	Whitening Discussion 9	Reflection 5 Quiz 5
	CO6	Resistance is Successful Discussion 10	
6	CO7	Reconstruction and Apartheid Discussion 11	Reflection 6 Quiz 6 Oral Presentation
	CO7	Barriers to Equality Discussion 12	
7	CO8	U.S. Imperialism Discussion 13	Reflection 7 Quiz 7
	CO8	The Impact of Imperialism Discussion 14	
8	CO9 CO1	Americanization and Globalization Discussion 15	Reflection 8 Writing Assignment 2

EVALUATION & GRADING PROCEDURES



GRADING PROCEDURES

Grading Scale:

A: 100-90 B: 89-80 C: 79-70 D: 69-60 F: 59-0

Final Grade Criteria:

Discussion Boards	150 pts total	Writing Assignments	200 pts total
Reflections	160 pts total	Oral Presentation	50 pts
Quizzes	80 pts total		

Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class and are responsible for all presented material. The student is responsible for attending every class and for the material presented. If a student will not be attending a class, he or she is responsible for contacting the instructor and making sure all assignments are completed, prior to the scheduled class. Some departments have special provisions regarding missed work and absences. Please contact your instructor for additional information. Refer to College Policy #520 of the MTC Policy Book (pg. 339). [Visit MTC Policies Book](#)

Online Class Attendance: In the online environment, attendance is documented through participation in discussion or reflection posts as well as submission of assignments in the corresponding week.

Discussion Boards (300 pts total)

Discussions are a way to share ideas, (re-)process the course material, and learn from your classmates. It is an essential part of this course, and your success—and to some extent the

success of others in class—can depend on your ability to contribute to these discussions in a meaningful way.

Reflections (160 points total)

Each week has a corresponding reflection paper to write. Each reflection will be due at the end of each week. Details for each reflection are posted in the assignments on Brightspace. Reflections are worth 20 points each.

Quizzes (80 points total)

Each week has a quiz on Brightspace that goes over the “textbook” readings for the week. Quizzes are 10 points each.

Writing Assignments (200 points total)

There are two writing assignments to complete during the semester. Writing Assignment 1 addresses the first four weeks, while Writing Assignment 2 addresses the second four weeks. Details are posted in the assignment on Brightspace. Each assignment is worth 100 points.

Oral Presentation (50 pts)

You will give a virtual presentation on a racial or ethnic group of your choice. The presentation should highlight the relationships of the group with at least one additional racial or ethnic group. Details are posted in the assignment on Brightspace. Presentations will be shared with the rest of the class so they can learn more about your chosen topic.

Financial Aid Reporting: Marion Technical College is required by federal law to verify the enrollment of students who participate in Federal Title IV student aid programs (Federal grants and student loans) and/or who receive educational benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is the responsibility of the College to identify students who do not attend or who stop attending in any course for which they are registered and paid. Non-attendance is reported by each instructor and can result in a student being administratively dropped from the class section.

Please contact the Financial Aid Office for information regarding the impact of course withdrawals or failing for non-attendance on financial aid eligibility. The Financial Aid Office is located in the L1NK One Stop (Bryson Hall 183) at can be reached at 740-386-4113 or financial-aid@mtc.edu.

MAKE-UP & LATE POLICY

Late assignments may be accepted at the instructor's discretion. Make-up exams are only allowed for excused absences as determined by the instructor and may differ from original exams. Notification prior to the scheduled exam is required.

Students who need to make up an exam may be asked to schedule an appointment in the Testing Center. [Schedule an appointment in the Testing Center online](#). If you need assistance, contact the Testing Center at 740-389-4636 ext. 1193 or testing@mtc.edu.

Students with testing related accommodations cannot schedule through the site above. Please submit your testing request through the Disability Services student portal. [Visit Disability Services](#).

COMMUNICATION DEVICE USAGE

Personal devices must be off or on vibrate during classes/labs unless explicitly allowed.

Devices must be turned off during exams. Usage during exams will result in a grade of zero.

CREDIT HOUR DEFINITION

Marion Technical College subscribes to the federal definition of the "credit hour" endorsed by the Higher Learning Commission that typically requires students to work at out-of-class assignments a minimum of twice the amount of time as the amount of formalized instruction.

Minimum Homework Hours Per Week for 3 Credit Course (16-Week Term)	
Delivery Format	Homework Per Week
Traditional	6 hours
Blended	6.75 – 8.25 hours
Online	9 hours

COLLEGE GRADUATE COMPETENCIES

Assessment begins with a clear understanding of what students are expected to learn. College Graduate Competencies (CGCs) are common to all areas of study and apply to all students. The individual sub-skills defined in each CGC are taught, reinforced, and/or periodically measured in various courses throughout the curriculum. The six CBC statements are as follows:

- Communication: Communicate effectively in writing and orally.
- Mathematics: Use mathematics to solve problems.
- Problem-Solving: Apply analysis, creativity, and synthesis to make informed decisions.
- Professionalism: Demonstrate work habits, interpersonal/teamwork skills, and professionalism.
- Technology: Use technology tools efficiently.
- Intercultural Knowledge and Values: Respect and acknowledge individual and institutional differences.

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

All students will need a PC computer or laptop that meet the following specifications based on program of study.

Engineering and IT Specs	Other Programs Specs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intel i7 Processor or better • 16 GB RAM • 256 GB SSD • 15.6" Screen • Windows OS • Internet & Webcam <p><i>*Engineering ONLY: Dedicated Video Card for Solidworks*</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • i5/Ryzen 5 Processor • 8 GB RAM (minimum) • 256 GB SSD • 15.6" Screen • Windows OS • Internet & Webcam <p><i>Note: Tablets, iPads, MacBooks, and Chromebooks do not meet software requirements.</i></p>

Microsoft Office 365: Marion Technical College utilizes Microsoft Office 365. Students get free access to [Microsoft Office 365](#) ProPlus. For more information and to download Office, [visit the Help Desk](#).

Laptop Loaner Program: MTC provides loaner laptops to students up to 60 days if they need to wait until they receive their financial aid refund to purchase a new computer or if their existing computer breaks down. Quantities are limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. [Visit Loaner Laptop Request Form](#)

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are expected to engage in honest scholarly practice and complete their own coursework. Examples of dishonest practice or academic misconduct include but are not limited to:

- Copying or plagiarism without proper citation
- Cheating on tests or assignments
- Falsifying lab or practicum records
- Unauthorized use of AI without disclosure or citation
- Disclose any use of AI tools.
- Use AI ethically and as a learning aid.
- Understand and verify AI-assisted content.
- Provide proper citation for AI tools.
- Faculty may set additional AI usage rules.
- Violations may result in academic penalties.

All assignments may be checked using Turnitin

For more information, [visit MTC Student Handbook](#). The Academic Misconduct policy (AP521) can be found in the MTC Policy Book (page 520).

BELONGING & INTERCULTURAL KNOWLEDGE AND VALUES

MTC does not discriminate based on age, race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or any protected category. See the online Student Complaint Form to report issues. [Visit Student Complaint Form](#)

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES

If an eligible student with a disability (learning, emotional, physical, health, or cognitive) or a temporarily disabling condition wishes to request accommodations for their courses and exams at Marion Technical College, they should contact Disability Services (DS) as early as possible to discuss reasonable accommodations for their access needs. Accommodations for disabilities are determined on a case-by-case basis through an interactive process between MTC Disability Services and the inquiring student. Documentation of the disability may be requested to help determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations.

Contact Disability Services in BR176 or email DS@mtc.edu to create an accommodation plan. Visit Disability Services. [Visit Disability Services](#).

RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Students may request up to 3 absences per term for religious observances within 14 days of course start. Contact woughterl@mtc.edu.

TITLE IX COMPLIANCE

Per Federal law, no student shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. This includes sexual harassment, sexual violence, or sex-based discrimination (including pregnancy, childbirth, and parenting status). To report sexual harassment or discrimination, [visit Title IX Complaint Form](#) or contact the following individuals:

- **Title IX Coordinator:** Cretia Johnson, Director of HR | johnsonc@mtc.edu | 740-386-4195
- **Title IX Pregnancy/Parenting Concerns:** Chelsea Glezen, Director of Disability Services | email ds@mtc.edu | 740-386-4222

BASIC NEEDS

MTC recognizes that students often face challenges outside of the classroom which impact their academic success. Any student who is experiencing food insecurity (limited/lack of food), housing insecurity or homelessness, transportation issues, limited access to childcare, or any other concern is encouraged to reach out to the MTC Student Resource Navigator (SRN) in the Connections Center (Bryson Hall 143). The SRN can be reached at SRN@mtc.edu or call/text 567-908-7564.

The Marion Campus Food Pantry is available to all students, regardless of income, to address food insecurity and hunger. You must present a photo ID.

- Alber Student Center | [Visit OSU Counseling & Wellness Services for Hours](#)
- Connections Center (Bryson Hall 143) | [Visit Connections Center for Hours](#)

For more information on the food pantry or information about other services, contact the Connections Center at connectionscenter@mtc.edu or 740-725-4014.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Advising

Bryson Hall, BR 176 740-386-4200
advising@mtc.edu [Visit Advising](#)

Tutoring

Bryson Hall, BR 193 740-389-4636 ext. 1193
tutoring@mtc.edu [Visit Tutoring](#)

Testing Center

Bryson Hall, BR 193 740-389-4636 ext. 1193
testing@mtc.edu [Visit Testing](#)

Mental Health & Wellness

mentalwellness@mtc.edu [Visit Health & Safety](#)

Mike Stuckey: BR 178 740-386-4171

Carlyn Bower: BR 143 740-725-6200

Student Assistance Program

833-955-3384

www.guidanceresources.com School ID: MTC Student

Student Resource Navigator

Bryson Hall, BR 143 567-908-7564 (call or text)
SRN@mtc.edu

Computer Lab & Help Desk

Bryson Hall, BR 191 740-389-4636 ext. 288
helpdesk@mtc.edu [Visit Computer Lab](#)

Library

Library/Classroom Building 740-725-6254
marionlibrary@osu.edu [Visit Library](#)

Deanna Bachtell: bachtell.1@osu.edu

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- Medical/Security Emergencies: 911
- Public Safety (Non-Emergency): 740-725-6300
- Fire Department: 740-387-5404
- Sheriff's Office: 740-382-8244
- Safety Escort: Contact Public Safety

- Active Shooter Awareness: [Visit Surviving an Active Shooter Video](#)
- Evacuation Maps & Flip Charts: Posted throughout campus - [Visit Campus Security](#)
- MTC Health and Safety: [Visit MTC Health and Safety](#)