

Syllabus Spring 2017

SOCI 101 – Introduction to Sociology



Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

Office Location: Crawford Hall 205
Office Hours: M, R, F: 11am - 12pm
W: 1pm - 2pm
or by appointment
e-mail: reymers@morrisville.edu
web: <http://www.morrisville.edu/sociology>

Course Description: Introduction to sociological concepts, with description and analysis of the structure and dynamics of human society. Consideration of contemporary social institutional trends and of the reciprocal relationship between individuals and institutions. *3 credits (3 lecture hours), fall or spring semester. This course satisfies SUNY General Education requirements for Social Sciences and counts toward Liberal Arts credits for degree conferral.*

Course Outcomes:

The chief goal of this class is to teach you the sociological perspective, which involves understanding the connection between self and society. The outcomes of the course for you, the student, will allow you to:

- demonstrate knowledge of dates, events, and places relevant to the origins and history of sociology;
- define major concepts and ideas of sociology;
- write in your own words about the sociological ideas learned in the classroom;
- represent your understanding of the meaning of the sociological perspectives presented in class.

A few of the main concepts which the sociological perspective employs and which we will study in the class are *culture, norms, values, reflexivity, structure, conflict, symbols, deviance, community, status, role, social institutions, and globalization*. Expected outcomes of the course include, but are not limited to, obtaining demonstrable knowledge of the main concepts and issues that are covered, proving an ability to compare and contrast sociological perspectives and to apply sociological concepts to everyday life, improving skills of critical analysis of your relationship to society, and enhancing information literacy and writing skills. The extent to which these outcomes are obtained by each student will be measured using the evaluation criteria found in the “Grades” section below.

Required Books and Resources:

You are responsible for accessing the following resources:

-  **Textbook.** OpenStax College, Introduction to Sociology 2e. OpenStax College. 2015. Available at <http://cnx.org/content/col11762/latest/>.



This textbook is published online for FREE (\$0). In addition to getting the latest version of the book from the link above, it is also available in PDF format on the course website. Textbook content is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution License, meaning that you are free to use the materials contained in this work for any purpose as long as credit is given to the authors. A print copy of the book is can be purchased from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) for \$20. *Doing the required readings listed on the course schedule (roughly one chapter a week) will tremendously enhance your understanding of the topic of the weekly class sessions.*

-  **Online media (electronic reserve articles).** Available on the course website (address at top of page). *These readings can be found on the course website and will be required to supplement weekly topics.*
-  **Notebook, pen/pencil:** It is required of you to bring to class some paper and a pen to take notes.

Grades



Attendance and Participation (recorded daily) (10% of final grade)

You are allowed *two absences* available to you without penalty, but unused absences are credited toward your participation. See the *Class Policies* section of this syllabus for more information regarding attendance. Participation can involve contributions in class, attending tutoring sessions, seeing me during my office hours to discuss the course, or other behaviors indicating your involvement in the course.



Plickers Quizzes (participatory sociology) (15% of final grade)

You will be required to complete in-class quizzes during the time of this course. The quizzes will be administered to preassigned groups in class using *Plickers* smart-phone technology (explained in class). Group quizzes CANNOT be made up after the class if you are not in attendance – a 5% penalty will be taken off the average quiz grade for missed quizzes.



Research Reports (multiple writing opportunities) (15% of final grade)

Several writing exercises on sociological research topics will be assigned during the semester. The assignment guidelines are designed to enhance research skills and show your understanding of the themes of sociology that we are covering in the course. They will be graded on a letter basis. See the “Late Paper” policy section below regarding late submissions.



Online Media (weekly web-based homework assignments) (20% of final grade)

Most weeks, an online media assignment will be posted on the course website and you must send your individual responses to questions regarding the assignment directly to the professor **by email**. Emailed answers should **not** be attachments and should have the proper **subject heading** of the week. Questions regarding online media will be based on the supplemental information from the website (they are “open book” questions). Online media are due Friday at 5pm (see the course schedule), unless otherwise indicated. They CANNOT be made up after the due date; there are **no exceptions** to this rule. They will be graded on a pass/fail (1/0) basis, and you will likely not receive feedback to your email. Your lowest online media grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.



Exams (three tests spread out through the semester) (40% of final grade)

Three exams will be given during the course, and a comprehensive final exam - study weekly with the schedule provided, use the review notes and website materials, and be prepared to get the most out of this portion of your grade. You are NOT allowed to use any notes during the exams, except a translator. You will have the entire class period to take the exams.

Grade Distribution:

10% of grade: Attendance and Participation (recorded daily)
15% of grade: Plickers Quizzes
15% of grade: Research Reports (letter-graded assignments)
20% of grade: Online Media (weekly response assignment; graded pass/fail)
40% of grade: Exams (two unit exams and a cumulative final)

100%

General Percent / Letter / Grade Point Converter:

93 to 105 = A = 4.0	90 to 92 = A- = 3.67	87 to 89 = B+ = 3.33
83 to 86 = B = 3.0	80 to 82 = B- = 2.67	77 to 79 = C+ = 2.33
73 to 76 = C = 2.0	70 to 72 = C- = 1.67	68 to 69 = D+ = 1.33
63 to 67 = D = 1.0	62 and below = F = 0.0	

Note: Grade systems for every professor are unique.

Asking about grades:

Feel free to ask your professor in person about your grade in the course at any point during the semester. However, I will not respond to email messages inquiring about specific grades on semester exams, papers, or (particularly) the final exam. Please see me in person to inquire about grades, especially final grades.

Class Policies:

- **Attendance:** Students should make every attempt to attend all classes. **Missing any more than two classes** impedes your work and may result in a lower grade. **Attendance is taken daily and recorded.** The absences allowed are for athletic events, serious and contagious illness or injury, family emergencies, snow days, car accidents, etc. **There are no “excused” or “unexcused” absences.** It is expected that the absences allowed will satisfactorily cover the cases where absence is necessary. If they do not, please meet with the instructor during his office hours to explain your case. If you have too many absences and would like to have your case considered, please provide written documentation of the reason for your absence, including date, evidence and explanation of the absence, *in your own handwriting* (**not** by e-mail or verbal agreement). As an incentive for good attendance, for each of the absences you are allowed that go unused, you will earn an extra bonus point toward the final grade. There is also one bonus point available for those students who attend class on time on the Friday and Monday immediately before and after spring break.

- **Classroom Norms:** You are attending class in a college classroom designed specifically to help you seek knowledge. *Texting, playing games, and certainly calls from friends or family, eating, sleeping, reading outside material, working on other classes' assignments, using a laptop computer outside of class purposes, etc.,* are examples of *unacceptable* classroom behavior. Talking in class is ok – however, it should be public, relate directly to the class conversation, should take the form of civilized, logical argument or a relevant question, and should never preempt another speaker (one speaker at a time, please). RESPECT for the space of the classroom (this includes professor and fellow students) and the exercise of SELF-CONTROL is expected from ALL STUDENTS. If the norms of respect are not being observed (for example, if you continually talk to a friend to the point that it disturbs the students around you) the professor reserves the right to point it out and take disciplinary action(s) against the offender(s), including but not limited to asking you to leave the classroom or affecting your grade. If you want a higher grade, come to class and recognize these guidelines.
- **Tardiness Policy:** Arriving late disrupts the class, as does leaving early. Showing up LATE to class (after I have taken the attendance for the day, which I do on the classroom viewscreen) will earn you a L (late) in the gradebook. Every three instances of tardiness will result in one absence marked on the attendance sheet. People showing up VERY LATE (15 minutes or more), or leaving the classroom for an extended period during class (with the exception of *bona fide emergencies or prearranged circumstances only*) will be marked as absent for the day.
- **Plagiarism Rule:** Academic honesty promotes continued academic and occupational success. Maintenance of academic honesty and quality education is the responsibility of both faculty and students. Any written assignment (including all electronic media) submitted by a student must be *original authorship*. Representation of another's work as his or her own shall constitute plagiarism. See the student handbook for more information.

Plagiarism means theft of intellectual property, obtained from a print or electronic medium. A person has plagiarized if s/he quotes three or more words in sequence from a source and (1) doesn't use quotation marks ("The quick brown fox..."), or (2) doesn't identify the source (what is known as "citation"). A person has also plagiarized if s/he records or cites ideas, information, or other material from a source that is not identified, or if the individual paraphrases information from a source that is not acknowledged. The penalty for plagiarism could be failure on the assignment, failure in the course, or even expulsion from the college. *Ignorance of these rules is not an excuse for plagiarism.*

Late, Make-up Assignment, Extra Credit Policy

Exams: Make-up exams will not be given, unless you make arrangements with me more than *48 hours (2 days) in advance* of the exam. If you miss an exam without making arrangements to make it up, you will receive NO CREDIT for that particular exam.

Online Media: You cannot make up *any* online media activities after the due date. There are no exceptions to this rule. Online activities can be submitted at any time *before* the due date/time. Inability to access the website to complete the activity is NOT a valid excuse for missing an assignment. Be prepared to complete the activity prior to the due date.

Research Reports: Research reports will be due as scheduled, but may be turned in up to ONE WEEK after the due date with a penalty of ONE LETTER GRADE (or 10 points on a 100 point scale), unless otherwise indicated. No written assignments will be accepted for course credit after the one week late period.

Extra credit: I do not give extra credit assignments to individuals – any extra credit will be on a class-wide basis (and there is no guarantee of ANY extra credit assignments in any given semester).

Students with Learning and/or Physical Challenges

If you are a student with a documented disability, who wishes to use academic accommodations you should:

- (1) *Speak with me during the first two weeks of class.* This two-week time frame is to encourage students to arrange accommodations early in the semester. Students with disabilities may arrange accommodations at any point during the semester.
- (2) *Visit the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities* to arrange your test accommodations (by appointment, please). You will find the office on the second floor of the Library.
- (3) *Using Test Accommodations:* If you wish to use test accommodations for an exam please speak with me the class **before** each exam. Doing this will help me accommodate you. All tests must be completed the same day the test is scheduled. Any other arrangements must be made by agreement between the student, the instructor, and the Office of Disability Services.

Note that this schedule is **tentative and subject to change** – check the website to find out what changes are made.

<http://sociology.morrisville.edu/> > Intro to Sociology Questions? e-mail reymers@morrisville.edu

Week 1. *The Origins of Sociology*

Jan 16: Acquire textbook and review website by Weds.

Jan 18: Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.0](#), [1.1](#), [1.2](#)

Jan 20: Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.3](#), [1.4](#)

Online Media #1 due Fri by 5pm

Week 2. *What is Social Science?*

Jan 23: Read *Textbook*, Sections [2.0](#), [2.1](#)

Jan 25: Read *Textbook*, Section [2.2](#)

Jan 27: Read *Textbook*, Section [2.3](#)

Plickers Quiz on Friday

Online Media #2 due Fri by 5pm

Week 3. *Cultural Sociology*

Jan 30: Read *Textbook*, Section [3.0](#), [3.1](#)

Feb 1: Read *Textbook*, Section [3.2](#), [3.3](#)

Feb 3: Read *Textbook*, Section [3.4](#)

Plickers Quiz on Friday

Online Media #3 due Fri by 5pm

Week 4. *Social Structures & Theories*

Feb 6: Read *Textbook*, Sections [4.0](#), [4.1](#)

Feb 8: Read *Textbook*, Section [4.2](#)

Feb 10: Read *Textbook*, Section [4.3](#)

Plickers Quiz on Friday

Online Media #4 due Fri by 5pm

Research Report 1 due Feb 10

Week 5. *Exam week*

Feb 13: Review *Textbook*, Sections [4.2](#), [4.3](#)

Feb 15: 4-week review

* **Feb 17: Exam 1**

Week 6. *Socialization*

Feb 20: Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.0](#), [5.1](#)

Feb 22: Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.2](#), [5.3](#)

Feb 24: Read *Textbook*, Section [5.4](#)

Plickers Quiz on Friday

Online Media #5 due Fri by 5pm

Week 7. *Social Groups and Organization*

Feb 27: Read *Textbook*, Sections [6.0](#), [6.1](#)

Mar 1: Read *Textbook*, Section [6.2](#)

Mar 3: Read *Textbook*, Section [6.3](#)

Plickers Quiz on Friday

Online Media #6 due Fri by 5pm

Mar 6-10: SPRING BREAK

Week 8. *Deviance and Criminology*

Mar 13: Read *Textbook*, Section [7.0](#)

Mar 15: Read *Textbook*, Section [7.1](#)

Mar 17: Read *Textbook*, Section [7.2](#)

Plickers Quiz on Friday

Online Media #7 due Fri by 5pm

Research Report 2 due Mar 17

Week 9. *Exam week*

Mar 20: Read *Textbook*, Section [7.3](#)

Mar 22: 4-week review

* **Mar 24: Exam 2**

Week 10. *Social Class and Inequality*

Mar 27: Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.0](#), [9.1](#)

Mar 29: Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.2](#), [9.3](#)

Mar 31: Read *Textbook*, Section [9.4](#)

Plickers Quiz on Friday

Online Media #8 due Fri by 5pm

Week 11. *Global Inequality*

Apr 3: Read *Textbook*, Sections [10.0](#), [10.1](#)

Apr 5: Read *Textbook*, Section [10.2](#)

Apr 7: Read *Textbook*, Section [10.3](#)

Plickers Quiz on Friday

Online Media #9 due Fri by 5pm

Research Report 3 due Apr 7

Week 12. *Government and Politics*

Apr 10: Read *Textbook*, Sections [17.0](#), [17.1](#)

Apr 12: Read *Textbook*, Sections [17.2](#), [17.3](#)

Apr 14: Read *Textbook*, Section [17.4](#)

Plickers Quiz on Friday

Online Media #10 due Fri by 5pm

Week 13. *Population and Urbanization*

Apr 17: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.0](#)

Apr 19: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.1](#)

Apr 21: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.2](#)

Plickers Quiz on Friday

Week 14. *Society and Environment*

Apr 24: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.3](#)

Apr 26: Review *Textbook*, Section [20.3](#)

Apr 28: Course Review

Week 15. Final Exam, May 1