

# Syllabus

## Spring 2018

### SOCI 101 – Introduction to Sociology – ONLINE EDITION

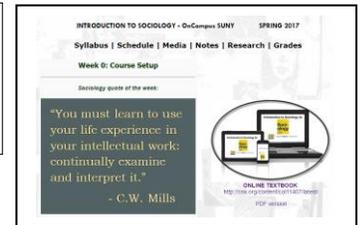
Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.



Course Websites



<http://www.morrisville.edu/sociology>  
<https://blackboard.morrisville.edu>



**Office Location:** Crawford Hall 205  
**Office Hours:** M: 11am – 11:50am  
T, W, Th: 10am – 10:50am  
or by appointment  
**e-mail:** [reymers@morrisville.edu](mailto:reymers@morrisville.edu)  
**web:** <http://sociology.morrisville.edu>

**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 can be purchased from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) for about \$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 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.*

# Grades



## **Participation (10% of final grade)**

Ten percent of your grade will be based on the level and degree of your participation online during the course. I will expect you to “touch base” and include a thoughtful paragraph or two of comments on the class discussion board AT LEAST once every week. See the *Class Policies* section of this syllabus for more information regarding participation. Participation can involve contributions in discussion, attending tutoring sessions, emailing me or seeing me during my office hours to discuss the ideas of the course, or other behaviors indicating your involvement in the course.



## **Online Quizzes (reading comprehension) (20% of final grade)**

You will be required to complete unit-based online quizzes during this online course. Roughly one quiz will be given in any week that we are studying content.



## **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.



## **Research Report (writing opportunity) (20% of final grade)**

Writing 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.



## **Exams (three tests spread out through the semester) (30% of final grade)**

Three exams will be given during the course, including 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. Since the exams are online, you are allowed to use notes and the text during the exams, but time will be limited, so you should definitely study ahead of time. You will typically be given approximately 2 hours to take the exams online.

### **Grade Distribution:**

10% of grade: Participation (recorded weekly)  
20% of grade: Weekly Quizzes  
20% of grade: Research Report (letter-graded assignment)  
20% of grade: Online Media (weekly response assignment; graded pass/fail)  
30% of grade: Exams (two unit exams and a cumulative final)  
100%

#### **General Percent / Letter / Grade Point Converter:**

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

*Note: Grade systems for every professor are unique.*

### **Asking about grades:**

Your grades will be available on the website grades page. Feel free to ask your professor in person about your grade in the course at any point during the semester. However, I may not respond directly to email messages inquiring about specific grades on semester exams, papers, or (particularly) the final exam. Use the course website to review your grades and please see me in person to inquire about grade disputes, especially final grades.

## **Class Policies:**

- **Participation:** Students should make every attempt to participate every week of the course. Non-participation will flag you for individual contact by the instructor. You should have regular access to your Morrisville e-mail address, the Morrisville Blackboard page online, and the course web site, as well as have regular (daily) access to a broadband internet connection. Proper use of each of these resources will be vital to your success in the online course.

- **Class Norms:** You are attending class in an online setting, but one required to resemble a college classroom designed specifically to help you seek knowledge. It is expected, just as in the face-to-face classroom, that you will be courteous and polite in your discussions and interactions. Trolling, phishing, spamming, hacking, or otherwise treating other students or the professor in disrespectful ways are examples of *unacceptable* classroom behavior. The class conversation online should take the form of civilized, logical argument or a relevant question, and should never show disdain for another participant's point of view, although you are welcome to define your own point of view. RESPECT for the online space of the class and its ideas and the exercise of SELF-CONTROL in posting is expected from ALL STUDENTS. If the norms of respect are not being observed (for example, if you continually post on the discussion board messages that deride and abuse another person's opinion) 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 online discussion board for a week (for which a grade penalty will be incurred). If you want a higher grade, recognize these guidelines and be thoughtful of others.
- **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 and quizzes:** I expect exams to be taken during the preassigned times arranged during the course. Make-up exams (opening the exam portal online) 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**

Morrisville State College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or think you may have a disability) and, as a result, need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this class, complete course requirements, or benefit from the College's programs or services, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) as soon as possible. To receive any academic accommodation, you must be appropriately registered with ODS. The ODS works with students confidentially and does not disclose any disability-related information without their permission. If you wish to use their test accommodations for an exam please speak with me the week before each exam. Doing this will help me accommodate you. All tests must be completed the same day and time the test is scheduled. Any other arrangements must be made by agreement between the student and the instructor. For further information about services for students with disabilities, please contact the ODS. Please talk to me as soon as you can about your individual learning needs and how this course can best accommodate them. If you do not have a documented disability, remember that other support services, including the Tutoring Center, are available to all students.

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](mailto:reymers@morrisville.edu)

**Week 1. *The Origins of Sociology***

**Jan 15:** Acquire textbook and review website by Weds.

**Jan 16:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.0](#), [1.1](#), [1.2](#)

**Jan 17:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.3](#), [1.4](#)

*Online Media #1* due Fri by 5pm

**Week 2. *What is Social Science?***

**Jan 22:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [2.0](#), [2.1](#)

**Jan 23:** Read *Textbook*, Section [2.2](#)

**Jan 24:** Read *Textbook*, Section [2.3](#)

*Quiz due by Thursday*

*Online Media #2* due Fri by 5pm

**Week 3. *Cultural Sociology***

**Jan 29:** Read *Textbook*, Section [3.0](#), [3.1](#)

**Jan 30:** Read *Textbook*, Section [3.2](#), [3.3](#)

**Jan 31:** Read *Textbook*, Section [3.4](#)

*Quiz due by Thursday*

*Online Media #3* due Fri by 5pm

**Week 4. *Social Structures & Theories***

**Feb 5:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [4.0](#), [4.1](#)

**Feb 6:** Read *Textbook*, Section [4.2](#)

**Feb 7:** Read *Textbook*, Section [4.3](#)

*Quiz due by Thursday*

*Online Media #4* due Fri by 5pm

**Week 5. *Exam week***

**Feb 12:** Review *Textbook*, Sections [4.2](#), [4.3](#)

**Feb 13:** 4-week review

**Feb 14-17:** Exam 1

**Week 6. *Socialization***

**Feb 19:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.0](#), [5.1](#)

**Feb 20:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.2](#), [5.3](#)

**Feb 21:** Read *Textbook*, Section [5.4](#)

*Quiz due by Thursday*

*Online Media #5* due Fri by 5pm

**Week 7. *Social Groups and Organization***

**Feb 26:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [6.0](#), [6.1](#)

**Feb 27:** Read *Textbook*, Section [6.2](#)

**Feb 28:** Read *Textbook*, Section [6.3](#)

*Quiz due by Thursday*

*Online Media #6* due Fri by 5pm

**Mar 5-9: SPRING BREAK**

**Week 8. *Deviance and Criminology***

**Mar 12:** Read *Textbook*, Section [7.0](#)

**Mar 13:** Read *Textbook*, Section [7.1](#)

**Mar 14:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [7.2](#), [7.3](#)

*Quiz due by Thursday*

*Online Media #7* due Fri by 5pm

**Week 9. *Exam week***

**Mar 19:** Review *Textbook*, Sections [7.2](#), [7.3](#)

**Mar 20:** 4-week review

**Mar 21-24:** Exam 2

**Week 10. *Social Class and Inequality***

**Mar 26:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.0](#), [9.1](#)

**Mar 27:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.2](#), [9.3](#)

**Mar 28:** Read *Textbook*, Section [9.4](#)

*Quiz due by Thursday*

*Online Media #8* due Fri by 5pm

**Week 11. *Global Inequality***

**Apr 2:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [10.0](#), [10.1](#)

**Apr 3:** Read *Textbook*, Section [10.2](#)

**Apr 4:** Read *Textbook*, Section [10.3](#)

*Quiz due by Thursday*

*Online Media #9* due Fri by 5pm

**Week 12. *Government and Politics***

**Apr 9:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [17.0](#), [17.1](#)

**Apr 10:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [17.2](#), [17.3](#)

**Apr 11:** Read *Textbook*, Section [17.4](#)

*Quiz due by Thursday*

*Online Media #10* due Fri by 5pm

**Week 13. *Population and Urbanization***

**Apr 16:** Read *Textbook*, Section [20.0](#)

**Apr 17:** Read *Textbook*, Section [20.1](#)

**Apr 18:** Read *Textbook*, Section [20.2](#)

*Quiz due by Thursday*

**Week 14. *Society and Environment***

**Apr 23:** Read *Textbook*, Section [20.3](#)

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

**Apr 25-29:** Course Review

**Week 15. Final Exam (dates tbd)**