

Syllabus Spring 2018

SOCI 101 – Introduction to Sociology



Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

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
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) (20% 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) (20% 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 are likely not to 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) (30% 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)
20% of grade: Plickers Quizzes
20% of grade: Research Reports (letter-graded assignments)
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 = A = 4.0	90 to 92 = A- = 3.6787	to 89 = B+ = 3.33
83 to 86 = B = 3.0	80 to 82 = B- = 2.6777	to 79 = C+ = 2.33
73 to 76 = C = 2.0	70 to 72 = C- = 1.6768	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. An added bonus is given if you are present at the classes immediately before and after the semester 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. **Weather Policy:** In the event of inclement weather, please pay attention to the college's Class Cancellations webpage to see if the class is cancelled. If class is cancelled due to weather, or for other reasons, see the course website immediately for instructions on assignments, due dates, or other important and timely information.
- **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.
- Group Plickers Quizzes:** Plickers quizzes cannot be made up more than one week after the quiz is given in class.
- 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 class 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

Week 1. *The Origins of Sociology*

Jan 15: Acquire textbook and review website by Weds.

Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.0](#), [1.1](#)

Jan 17: Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.2](#), [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 24: Read *Textbook*, Section [2.2](#), [2.3](#)

Plickers Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #2 due Fri by 5pm

Week 3. *Cultural Sociology*

Jan 29: Read *Textbook*, Section [3.0](#), [3.1](#), [3.2](#)

Jan 31: Read *Textbook*, Section [3.3](#), [3.4](#)

Plickers Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #3 due Fri by 5pm

Week 4. *Social Structures & Theories*

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

Feb 7: Read *Textbook*, Section [4.2](#), [4.3](#)

Plickers Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #4 due Fri by 5pm

Week 5. *Exam week*

Feb 12: Review for exam

Research Report 1 due Feb 12

* **Feb 14: Exam 1**

Week 6. *Socialization*

Feb 19: Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.0](#), [5.1](#), [5.2](#)

Feb 21: Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.3](#), [5.4](#)

Plickers Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #5 due Fri by 5pm

Week 7. *Social Groups and Organization*

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

Feb 28: Read *Textbook*, Section [6.2](#), [6.3](#)

Plickers Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #6 due Fri by 5pm

Mar 5-9 SPRING BREAK

Week 8. *Deviance and Criminology*

Mar 12: Read *Textbook*, Section [7.0](#), [7.1](#)

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

Plickers Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #7 due Fri by 5pm

Week 9. *Exam week*

Mar 19: Review for Exam

Research Report 2 due Mar 19

* **Mar 21: Exam 2**

Week 10. *Social Class and Inequality*

Mar 26: Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.0](#), [9.1](#), [9.2](#)

Mar 28: Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.3](#), [9.4](#)

Plickers Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #8 due Fri by 5pm

Week 11. *Global Inequality*

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

Apr 4: Read *Textbook*, Section [10.2](#), [10.3](#)

Plickers Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #9 due Fri by 5pm

Week 12. *Government and Politics*

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

Research Report 3 due Apr 10

Apr 11: Read *Textbook*, Sections [17.2](#), [17.3](#)

Plickers Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #10 due Fri by 5pm

Week 13. *Population and Urbanization*

Apr 16: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.0](#), [20.1](#)

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

Plickers Quiz on Wednesday

Week 14. *Society and Environment*

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

Apr 25: Review for final exam

Week 15. Final Exam, TBA