

Syllabus

Fall 2021

SOCI 101 – Introduction to Sociology – ONLINE EDITION

Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.



Blackboard Website

<https://blackboard.morrisville.edu>



Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

Office Location: 205 Crawford Hall

Office Hours: Mon: 11am - 12pm;

Tues, Weds, Thurs: 10am-11am

Fri: No office hour

or by appointment

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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 course;
- represent your understanding of the meaning of the sociological perspectives presented in the course.

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. 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 \$30. *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 Blackboard (address at top of page).

Links to and questions about these readings and videos can be found on Blackboard and will be required media designed to supplement weekly topics addressed in the textbook.



Grades



Blackboard Discussion Board Participation (recorded weekly) **10% of final grade**

For this asynchronous online course, I will offer discussion prompts online that will allow you to chime in on sociological issues and topics and ask questions of me and the other students in the class. This discussion group participation will count as your "attendance and participation" grade for the course.

Posting to the Discussion Board: Go to <http://blackboard.morrisville.edu> and click on your course (SOCI 101). The "Discussions" can be found using the links on the left side of the Blackboard page; click that link and then **click on the title of the Discussion** to which you want to add a comment or reply. You'll see a page of posts with the other student's names; **to add to it, click on "Create Thread"** at the upper left side of the discussion page.



OPRs (One-Page Reports) (writing opportunities) **20% of final grade**

Writing exercises on sociological topics will be assigned during the course (check the course website "OPR" link and Blackboard). The assignment guidelines are designed to enhance research and writing skills and show your understanding of the themes of sociology that we are covering in the course. They will be graded on a point basis. See the "Late Paper" policy section below regarding late submissions.



Online Chapter Quizzes (taken between Tuesday 9am and Thurs 9pm every week) **20% of final grade**

Weekly chapter quizzes will be given on Blackboard. You will be required to complete unit-based online quizzes every week of the semester. Quizzes will be accessible through the Blackboard course page and should be taken between Tuesday 9am and Thursday 9pm.



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**

One more exams will be given during the course, and then a comprehensive final exam will be given at the end - 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. The exam will be multiple choice and short answer and will be administered through Blackboard.

Grade Distribution:

10% of grade: Blackboard Discussion Board Participation (recorded weekly)

20% of grade: Online Chapter Quizzes

20% of grade: OPRs (One-Page 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-** = 3.67 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

60 to 67 = **D** = 1.0 59 and below = **F** = 0.0

Note: Grading systems for every professor are unique.

On asking about grades:

I DO NOT USE THE NORMAL BLACKBOARD GRADE BOOK.

All your grades for this course will be available on the Blackboard menu, by clicking the "My Grades" link and signing in with a password I will get from you early in the semester. Please refer to this page before emailing me with questions about specific grades on assignments and exams.

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 must have regular access to your Morrisville e-mail account, the Morrisville Blackboard page online, and the course web site*** (see top of syllabus), 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 course. Participation will involve doing activities and exercises related to weekly topics. Your report on these sociological experiences will help define your involvement in the 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, doxing, or otherwise treating other students or the professor in disrespectful ways are examples of *unacceptable* class behavior. The class conversation online should take the form of civilized, logical argument or pose 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 specifically 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 or longer (for which a grade penalty will be incurred). If you want a higher grade, recognize these guidelines and be thoughtful of others.
- **Internet Outage Policy:**
In the event of an internet outage during the course (particularly while taking a quiz or exam) that affects your ability to succeed in the course, you should contact the professor as soon as possible. If internet accessibility becomes a regular problem, the professor reserves the right to grade the student accordingly (*ut videre apta*).
- **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.*

IMPORTANT RULE ABOUT COPYING: In an online setting, it's tempting to "work together" with one or more other students to answer questions and complete assignments and exams. Please know that I have a keen eye and memory, and I have comparison software that can scan your assignment and compare the wording to other students'. IF THERE IS AN EXACT MATCH, BOTH/ALL STUDENTS INVOLVED WILL FAIL THE ASSIGNMENT (in the case of a first infraction; see plagiarism consequences, above). In the case of exams and quizzes, if answers to all questions match exactly or statistically too close to another student(s), both/all students involved will face a penalty.

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 done, unless you make arrangements with me more than *24 hours (1 full day)* in advance of the end of the exam. If you miss an exam or quiz without making arrangements to make it up, you will receive NO CREDIT for that particular exam or quiz (In the case of medical emergencies, please contact me).

Online Media: You cannot make up *any* online media activities after the due date (typically Friday 5pm). There are no exceptions to this rule. Online media questions 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.

OPRs (Written Reports): OPR 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 by the professor. No written assignments will be accepted for course credit after the one-week late period.

Discussion Board: Your contributions to the course discussion board should take place during the week that the discussion assignment is given (by the following Sunday at midnight). Late discussion board contributions will be subject to approval by the professor and given half-credit if accepted.

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

SUNY Morrisville 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 Accessibility Services (AS) as soon as possible (asctesting@morrisville.edu, 315.684.6349). To receive any academic accommodation, you must be appropriately registered with Accessibility Services. AS 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 let me know 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, instructor, and AS. Even if you do not have a documentable disability, remember that other support services, including the Tutoring Center and the professor's office hours, are available to help all students.

Starfish

This course participates in the Starfish Early Alert System (accessible through Blackboard and by email), which is an early intervention system designed to enable academic success, student persistence, and graduation. When an instructor observes student behaviors or concerns that may impede academic success, the instructor may raise an alert flag that 1) notifies the student of the concern, 2) requests an individual contact to discuss the issue, and 3) in most cases, refers the student to the academic advisor. If you receive an email notification of an early alert, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss the issue. The purpose of the contact is to determine the severity of the issue, accurately assess its potential impact on your academic success, and to plan actions to prevent negative consequences and enable academic success. For more information about harnessing your success, contact your academic advisor.

F2F Syllabus Statement COVID, Fall 2021 (Office of the Provost)

SUNY Morrisville has implemented COVID-19 health and safety protocols based on recommendations by local, state, and national public authorities. All students are required to read and sign the student COVID-19 Policy Statement, attesting that they understand and will follow all policies and procedures. Policies are subject to change by altered circumstances or guidance from public health authorities.

Instructional Spaces (classrooms, labs, etc.):

- At this time, everyone is required to wear masks in the classroom regardless of vaccination status. Masks must remain in place and properly worn (over the nose and mouth) throughout the class. Limited exceptions to wearing masks include when performing activities for a class/lab where wearing a mask could lead to greater hazard to the student (examples include but are not limited to: operating equipment, using machinery or tools, around open flame, and when riding horses).
- Instructors can deny entry into the classroom if students are not wearing a face covering. Masks must remain in place and properly worn (over the nose and mouth) throughout the class.
- A student who comes to class without a mask will be asked to put one on, or to leave to get one.
- Students who cannot wear facial coverings for legitimate reasons must receive an approved accommodation from the Accessibility Office.
- Failure to follow these guidelines may result in student disciplinary sanctions.

COVID Attendance Policy:

- Students must not attend in-person classes if they have COVID-19, or are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Unvaccinated students must not attend in-person class if they have been in close contact with others who have tested positive.
- Students who miss class due to the above conditions will not be penalized for their absences, but must complete required work. Faculty should work with students to provide feasible coursework accommodations to make up missing work when an absence is due to illness or quarantine. For example, this may include hosting smaller group experiences to allow for social distancing. Options should be consistent and reach the same learning outcomes as the face-to-face experience.
- Students who appear to be reasonably sick during classes or activities may be required to leave the class. Failure to comply with any college health, safety requirements, or directives relating to COVID-19 may result in disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct, which may result in suspension or expulsion from the college.
- If a student is removed from campus due to a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, faculty are not required to provide student course work accommodations. OR Students that are removed from campus for noncompliance of COVID related precautions shall not have a remote option available to complete any assignment, or for classroom activities.
- Based on SUNY Morrisville being a hands-on applied learning institution, upon approval of any COVID vaccine by the FDA, remote options will not be automatically available for face-to-face classes, including the face-to-face portion of hybrid class (there will be a 14-day grace period to become compliant with FDA mandates). **Those students that have registered in a hyflex or online class (synchronous or asynchronous), and have not received the vaccine, may continue those classes remotely.**

If you are unable to attend class for COVID-related reasons, take the following steps:

- If possible, notify your instructor in advance of the absence or inability to participate.
- Participate in class activities online and submit assignments electronically, when possible.
- Contact instructors if illness will require late submission or other modifications to deadlines.
- If remaining in a class and fulfilling the necessary requirements becomes impossible due to illness or other COVID-related circumstance, contact the instructor to discuss options.

*The instructor will trust the student's word when you say you are ill, and in turn, expect that the student will report the reason for their absences truthfully.

*Any instructor additions to the above statement must be discussed with Division Chairs and Deans before being added to syllabi.

Week 1. The Origins of Sociology

Aug 23: Acquire textbook and review website by Weds.

Aug 24: Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.0](#), [1.1](#), [1.2](#)

Aug 25: Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.3](#), [1.4](#)

Online Media #1 due Fri Aug 27 by 5pm (see **Blackboard**)

Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm

Add Introduction to Discussion Board by Sunday

Week 2. What is Social Science?

Aug 30: Read *Textbook*, Sections [2.0](#), [2.1](#)

Aug 31: Read *Textbook*, Section [2.2](#)

Sept 1: Read *Textbook*, Section [2.3](#)

Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm

Online Media #2 due Fri Sept 3 by 5pm

Add to Discussion Board by Sunday

Week 3. Cultural Sociology

Sept 6: Read *Textbook*, Section [3.0](#), [3.1](#)

Sept 7: Read *Textbook*, Section [3.2](#), [3.3](#)

Sept 8: Read *Textbook*, Section [3.4](#)

Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm

Online Media #3 due Fri Sept 10 by 5pm

Add to Discussion Board by Sunday

Week 4. Social Structures & Theories

Sept 13: Read *Textbook*, Sections [4.0](#), [4.1](#)

Sept 14: Read *Textbook*, Section [4.2](#)

Sept 15: Read *Textbook*, Section [4.3](#)

Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm

Online Media #4 due Fri Sept 17 by 5pm

Add to Discussion Board by Sunday

Week 5. Exam week

Sept 20: Review *Textbook*, Chapters [1](#) & [2](#)

One-Page Report: OPR #1 due Monday Sept 20th

Sept 21: Review *Textbook*, Chapters [3](#) & [4](#)

Sept 22-24: Exam 1 (available on Blackboard)

Week 6. Socialization

Sept 27: Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.0](#), [5.1](#)

Sept 28: Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.2](#), [5.3](#)

Sept 29: Read *Textbook*, Section [5.4](#)

Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm

Online Media #5 due Fri Oct 1 by 5pm

Add to Discussion Board by Sunday

Week 7. Social Groups and Organization

Oct 4: Read *Textbook*, Section [6.0](#)

Oct 5: Read *Textbook*, Section [6.1](#)

Oct 6: Read *Textbook*, Section [6.2](#), [6.3](#)

Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm

Online Media #6 due Fri Oct 8 by 5pm

Add to Discussion Board by Sunday

FALL BREAK 1: Oct 11, 12

Week 8. Social Groups and Organization, cont.

Oct 13-14: Review Chapter 6, textbook

Week 9. Deviance and Criminology

Oct 18: Read *Textbook*, Section [7.0](#)

Oct 19: Read *Textbook*, Section [7.1](#)

Oct 20: Read *Textbook*, Sections [7.2](#), [7.3](#)

Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm

Online Media #7 due Fri Oct 22 by 5pm

Add to Discussion Board by Sunday

Week 10. Exam week

Oct 25: Review *Textbook*, Chapters [5](#) & [6](#)

One-Page Report: OPR #2 due Monday Oct 25th

Oct 26: Review *Textbook*, Chapter [7](#)

Oct 27-29: Exam 2 (available on Blackboard)

Week 11. Social Class and Inequality

Nov 1: Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.0](#), [9.1](#)

Nov 2: Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.2](#), [9.3](#)

Nov 3: Read *Textbook*, Section [9.4](#)

Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm

Online Media #8 due Fri Nov 5 by 5pm

Add to Discussion Board by Sunday

Week 12. Global Inequality

Nov 8: Read *Textbook*, Sections [10.0](#), [10.1](#)

Nov 9: Read *Textbook*, Section [10.2](#)

Nov 10: Read *Textbook*, Section [10.3](#)

Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm

Online Media #9 due Fri Nov 12 by 5pm

Add to Discussion Board by Sunday

Week 13. Government and Politics

Nov 15: Read *Textbook*, Sections [17.0](#), [17.1](#)

Nov 16: Read *Textbook*, Sections [17.2](#), [17.3](#)

Nov 17: Read *Textbook*, Section [17.4](#)

Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm

Online Media #10 due Fri Nov 19 by 5pm

Add to Discussion Board by Sunday

Week 14.1 Human Population

Nov 22: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.0](#), [20.1](#)

One-Page Report: OPR #3 due Monday Nov 22nd

FALL BREAK 2: Nov 24-26

Week 14.2 Society and the Environment

Nov 29, 30: Read *Textbook*, Sections [20.2](#), [20.3](#)

Dec 2-Dec 5: Review *Textbook*, all assigned chapters

Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm

Online Media #B1 due Fri Dec 3 by 5pm

Week 15. Final Exam (on Blackboard; dates tbd)