

# Syllabus

Fall 2021

## SOCI 101 – Introduction to Sociology



### 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.

### Student Learning 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*. 2017. 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 Blackboard page. 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 rented or purchased from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) for about \$30. *Doing the required readings listed on the course schedule will tremendously enhance your understanding of the topic of the weekly class sessions.*



**Online media (electronic reserve articles).** Available on the course Blackboard page (address at top of page). *These readings can be found on the course Blackboard page and will be required to supplement weekly topics.*

# 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 throughout this course, usually weekly. 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 Blackboard page 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 Blackboard (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. 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 = <b>A</b> = 4.0	90 to 92 = <b>A-</b> = 3.6787 to 89 = <b>B+</b> = 3.33
83 to 86 = <b>B</b> = 3.0	80 to 82 = <b>B-</b> = 2.6777 to 79 = <b>C+</b> = 2.33
73 to 76 = <b>C</b> = 2.0	70 to 72 = <b>C-</b> = 1.6768 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:**

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 wearing masks. Missing any more than *two classes* may impede your progress and result in a lower grade. **Attendance is taken daily and recorded.** The absences allowed are for athletic events, serious and contagious illness or injury (for COVID-19 related illness, see the more detailed policy below), 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 documentation of the reason for your absence, including date, evidence and explanation of

the absence, *in writing* (**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 additional bonus is given if you are present at the class sessions immediately before and after the mid-semester break(s). See further COVID-related attendance policies below.

- **Classroom Norms:** Norms are the product of culture; they happen when people get together in groups and decide on mutually agreeable behavior and expectations. Let's create the classroom norms together as the course proceeds. They should be attuned and appropriate to meeting the course outcomes and creating a secure, vital, and imaginative learning environment. I will be asking you throughout the semester not only about what you think the norms of the classroom should be, but also how to enforce them.
- **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 view screen) will earn you an 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 during class (with the exception of *emergencies or prearranged circumstances only*) will be marked as absent for the day. Note, it is your responsibility to notify me if you come in late, otherwise you may be marked absent.
- **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 Blackboard site immediately for instructions on assignments, due dates, or other important and timely information.
- **Academic Honesty and the Plagiarism Policy:** 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.*

### F2F Syllabus Statement COVID, Fall 2021

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.

## ***Late, Make-up Assignment, and Extra Credit Policies***

**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.

**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 Blackboard site 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 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).

**Golden Points:** See the course Blackboard site for more information about how to accumulate extra points.

## ***Office of Accessibility Services***

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 the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) as soon as possible. To receive any academic accommodation, you must be appropriately registered with OAS. The OAS 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 OAS. 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.

## ***Academic Assistance***

The Tutoring Center is a resource available to all students who would like assistance with their courses. Both peer and professional tutors are available Sundays through Fridays by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Help is provided for most subjects taught at the College. The Tutoring Center also provides online tutoring for about ten subjects through NightOWL, which occurs 7:00 PM to midnight Sundays through Thursdays. In addition to assisting students with course content, the Tutoring Center staff can assist students with general study skills such as note-taking, test-taking, time management, and critical thinking. The Tutoring Center also organizes Student Success Seminars, workshops exploring these and other topics that are useful regardless of one's courses or major. The Tutoring Center is located in the back left corner on the first floor of Butcher Library. For additional information, please visit the Tutoring Center's webpages at <https://www.morrisville.edu/contact/offices/tutoring-center> and/or email Stephanie Lawhorne, Director of the Tutoring Center, at [LawhorSL@morrisville.edu](mailto:LawhorSL@morrisville.edu).

## ***Starfish***

This course participates in the Starfish Early Alert System (accessible through Blackboard), 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.

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

Questions? e-mail [reymers@morrisville.edu](mailto:reymers@morrisville.edu)

**Week 1. The Origins of Sociology**

**Prior to Aug 23:** Acquire textbook and review website

**Aug 23:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.0](#), [1.1](#)

**Aug 25:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.2](#), [1.3](#), [1.4](#)

*Online Media #1 on The Sociological Imagination*  
due Fri by 5pm

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

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

**Sept 1:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [2.2](#), [2.3](#)

*Plickers Quiz on Wednesday*  
*Online Media #2* due Fri by 5pm

**Week 3. What is Social Science?**

**Sept 6: Labor Day (no work!)**

**Sept 8:** Read *Careers in Sociology* (on course website)

*Plickers Quiz on Wednesday*  
*Online Media #3* due Fri by 5pm

**Week 4. Cultural Sociology**

**Sept 13:** Read *Textbook*, Section [3.0](#), [3.1](#), [3.2](#)

**Sept 15:** Read *Textbook*, Section [3.3](#), [3.4](#)

*Plickers Quiz on Wednesday*  
*Online Media #4* due Fri by 5pm

**Week 5. Exam week**

**Sept 20:** Review for exam

*One-Page Report 1* due Monday Sept 20<sup>th</sup>

**\* Sept 22: Exam 1 – ATTENDANCE REQUIRED!**

**Week 6. Social Structures & Theories**

**Sept 27:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [4.0](#), [4.1](#)

**Sept 29:** Read *Textbook*, Section [4.2](#), [4.3](#)

*Plickers Quiz on Wednesday*  
*Online Media #5* due Fri by 5pm

**Week 7. Socialization**

**Oct 4:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.0](#), [5.1](#), [5.2](#)

**Oct 6:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.3](#), [5.4](#)

*Plickers Quiz on Wednesday*  
*Online Media #6* due Fri by 5pm

**Fall Break I: Oct 11, 12**

**Week 9. Social Groups and Organization, cont.**

**Oct 18:** Read *Textbook*, Section [6.2](#)

*Plickers Quiz on Wednesday*  
*Online Media #7* due Fri by 5pm

**Oct 20:** Read *Textbook*, Section [6.3](#)

**Week 10. Exam week**

**Oct 25:** Review for Exam

*One-Page Report 2* due Monday Oct 25<sup>th</sup>

**\* Oct 27: Exam 2 – ATTENDANCE REQUIRED!**

**Week 11. Deviance and Criminology**

**Oct 18:** Read *Textbook*, Section [7.0](#), [7.1](#)

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

*Plickers Quiz on Wednesday*  
*Online Media #8* due Fri by 5pm

**Week 12. Social Class and Inequality**

**Nov 8:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.0](#), [9.1](#), [9.2](#)

**Nov 10:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.3](#), [9.4](#)

*Plickers Quiz on Wednesday*  
*Online Media #9* due Fri by 5pm

**Week 13. Global Inequality**

**Nov 15:** Read *Textbook*, Sections [10.0](#), [10.1](#)

**Nov 17:** Read *Textbook*, Section [10.2](#), [10.3](#)

*Plickers Quiz on Wednesday*  
*Online Media #10* due Fri by 5pm

**Week 14.1 Population and Urbanization**

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

**Fall Break 2: Nov 24-26**

**Week 14.2 Society and Environment**

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

**Dec 1:** Review for final exam

*Final Plickers Quiz on Wednesday*  
*Optional Bonus Online Media #B1* due Fri by 5pm

**Week 15. Dec 6-10: Final Exam, TBA**