

Syllabus

Spring 2021

SOCI 101 – Introduction to Sociology

 **Course Website**
blackboard.morrisville.edu

Blackboard
learn™

**Special
Coronavirus
Collector's
Edition!**

Meets online every Tuesday 10-11am by video on MS Teams

(you will be sent a link)

Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

Office Location: 205 Crawford Hall
(not present spring 2021)

Office Hours: I will be generally available by email on weekdays (M-F) during business hours (9am-5pm). Please do not expect an email back immediately outside of these hours.

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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 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 rented or purchased from 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 website (address at top of page).
These readings can be found on the course website and will be required to supplement weekly topics.

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 (SOC101). 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.

Asking about grades:

I DO NOT USE BLACKBOARD GRADE BOOK. All your grades for this course will be available on the course webpage, by clicking the "Grades" link at the top 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 As part of SUNY Morrisville's pledge to a diverse, equitable and inclusive campus, we seek to provide students with equal access to all courses - whether in person or virtual. If you require accommodations in this course, please reach out to the **Accessibility Services Center ("ASC")** at ASCTesting@morrisville.edu or call 315.684.6349. If you are a **Norwich Campus** student, please contact Pat Davis at davispm@morrisville.edu or call at 607.334.5144 ext. 5055. Your timely contact with the ASC is important (preferably early, before or immediately after the semester starts), to provide the staff and faculty ample time to address your academic needs. All students should consider scheduling a meeting with course instructors, in person or online, as these conversations may be throughout the semester toward meeting mutual academic goals.

Temporary Disability Syllabus Statement

Students recovering from an injury (NCAA-athletic or other), serious illness or medical procedure may wish to use temporary academic accommodations during their recovery. If you are pregnant, pregnancy-related conditions may qualify you for temporary reasonable accommodations. Please contact the Accessibility Services Center ("ASC") for further information.

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.

Week 1. *The Origins of Sociology*

Feb 8: Review Blackboard site and access the online textbook

Feb 9: Meet at 10am on MS Teams (see Blackboard)

Feb 9-11: Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.0](#), [1.1](#), [1.2](#), [1.3](#), [1.4](#)

Feb 11: Take Quiz 1 on Blackboard due by 9pm

Feb 12: Email Online Media 1 due by 5pm

Also, *each week after this* you should:

1. Take the Online Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm
2. Complete Online Media #1 due Fri by 5pm
3. Contribute to the **Discussion Board** by Sunday

Week 2. *What is Social Science?*

Feb 15: Read *Textbook*, Sections [2.0](#), [2.1](#), [2.2](#), [2.3](#)

Feb 16: Meet at 10am on MS Teams (see Blackboard)

Feb 17-19: Complete assignments:

- Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm*
- Online Media #2 due Fri by 5pm*
- Contribute to the Discussion Board by Sunday*

Week 3. *Cultural Sociology*

Feb 22: Read *Textbook*, Sections [3.0](#), [3.1](#), [3.2](#), [3.3](#), [3.4](#)

Feb 23: Meet at 10am on MS Teams

Feb 24-26: Complete assignments:

- Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm*
- Online Media #3 due Fri by 5pm*
- OPR 1 due end of day Friday**
- Contribute to the Discussion Board by Sunday*

Week 4. *Social Structures & Theories*

Mar 1: Read *Textbook*, Sections [4.0](#), [4.1](#), [4.2](#), [4.3](#)

Mar 2: Meet at 10am on MS Teams

Mar 3-5: Complete assignments:

- Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm*
- Online Media #4 due Fri by 5pm*
- Contribute to the Discussion Board by Sunday*

Week 5. *Exam week*

Mar 8: Review *Textbook*, Chapters [1](#), [2](#), [3](#) & [4](#)

Mar 9: Meet at 10am on MS Teams for exam review

Mar 10-11: Take Exam 1 (available on Blackboard)

Week 6. *Socialization*

Mar 15: Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.0](#), [5.1](#), [5.2](#), [5.3](#), [5.4](#)

Mar 16: Meet at 10am on MS Teams

Mar 17-19: Complete assignments:

- Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm*
- Online Media #5 due Fri by 5pm*
- Contribute to the Discussion Board by Sunday*

Week 7. *Social Groups and Organization*

Mar 22: Read *Textbook*, Section [6.0](#), [6.1](#), [6.2](#), [6.3](#)

Mar 23: Meet at 10am on MS Teams

Mar 24-26: Complete assignments:

- Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm*
- Online Media #6 due Fri by 5pm*
- Contribute to the Discussion Board by Sunday*

Week 8. *Deviance and Criminology*

Mar 29: Read *Textbook*, Section [7.0](#), [7.1](#), [7.2](#), [7.3](#)

Mar 30: Meet at 10am on MS Teams

Mar 31-Apr 2: Complete assignments:

- Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm*
- Online Media #7 due Fri by 5pm*
- OPR 2 due end of day Friday**
- Contribute to the Discussion Board by Sunday*

Week 9. *Exam week*

Apr 5: Review *Textbook*, Chapters [4](#), [5](#), [6](#) & [7](#)

Apr 6: Meet at 10am on MS Teams for exam review

Apr 7-8: Take Exam 2 (available on Blackboard)

Week 10. *American Social Class and Economic Inequality*

Apr 12: Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.0](#), [9.1](#), [9.2](#), [9.3](#), [9.4](#)

Apr 13: Meet at 10am on MS Teams

Apr 14-16: Complete assignments:

- Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm*
- Online Media #8 due Fri by 5pm*
- Contribute to the Discussion Board by Sunday*

Week 11. *Race and American Institutions*

Apr 19: Read *Textbook*, [11.0](#), [11.1](#), [11.2](#), [11.3](#), [11.4](#), [11.5](#)

Apr 20: Meet at 10am on MS Teams

Apr 21-23: Complete assignments:

- Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm*
- Online Media #9 due Fri by 5pm*
- Contribute to the Discussion Board by Sunday*

Week 12. *Political Institutions and American Society*

Apr 26: Read *Textbook*, Sections [17.0](#), [17.1](#), [17.2](#), [17.3](#), [17.4](#)

Apr 27: Meet at 10am on MS Teams

Apr 28-30: Complete assignments:

- Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm*
- Online Media #10 due Fri by 5pm*
- Contribute to the Discussion Board by Sunday*

Week 13. *Human Population & Urbanization*

May 3: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.0](#), [20.1](#), [20.2](#)

May 4: Meet at 10am on MS Teams

May 5-7: Complete assignments:

- Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm*
- OPTIONAL Online Media #B1 due Fri by 5pm*
- OPR 3 due end of day Friday**
- Contribute to the Discussion Board by Sunday*

Week 14. *Society and Environment*

May 10: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.3](#)

May 11: Meet at 10am on MS Teams - begin review for final exam

May 12-16: Review All Chapters for Final Exam

- Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm*
- OPTIONAL Online Media #B1 due Fri by 5pm*
- Contribute to the Discussion Board by Sunday*

Week 15: May 17-19 – Final Exam (see Blackboard for details)