

SOCI 101 – Introduction to Sociology

Course Syllabus – Spring 2023

Accompanying website at:



blackboard.morrisville.edu

Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

Office Location: 205 Crawford Hall

Office Hours: Mon & Weds: 1pm - 2pm;

Tues, Thurs: 10am-11am [or by

Fri: No office hour appointment]

e-mail: reymers@morrisville.edu

website: 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.

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.

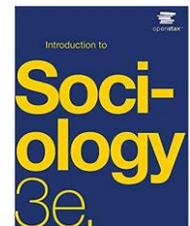
Required Books and Resources:

You are responsible for accessing the following resources:



“Textbook”: OpenStax College, Introduction to Sociology 3e. *OpenStax College*. 2021.

Available at <https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e>



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 \$24. *Doing the required readings listed on the course schedule will tremendously enhance your understanding of the topic of the weekly class sessions.*



Online media (weekly homework): Available on the course Blackboard page (address at top of page). *These readings/videos can be found through the course Blackboard page and will be required to supplement weekly chapter topics. You will be responsible for answering questions about the online media assignments every week.*

Evaluation



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.



Plickers Quizzes (weekly participatory evaluation) (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.



Two-Page Reports (2PR) (three 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 using Blackboard. Answers should **not** be attachments and should have the proper **subject heading** of the week. 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 must be present to take the exam. You will have the entire class period to take the exams. If you MISS an exam without contacting me within one-week to schedule a make-up exam, you will receive a 0 for that exam.

Grade Distribution:

10% of grade: Attendance and Participation (recorded daily)
20% of grade: Plickers Quizzes
20% of grade: Two-Page Reports (2PRs) (point-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.

Title IX

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination in education. It reads: “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.” These protections are not just for students; faculty and staff also are covered by the protections of Title IX. The types of activities that invoke Title IX protections include gender discrimination, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and/or stalking. VAWA – Violence Against Women Act is a federal law first passed in 1994 most recently reauthorized in 2013. It outlines procedures for handling, investigating reports and has educational requirements for campuses. The Title IX coordinator for SUNY Morrisville can be reached at 315.684.6997.

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. 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).
- **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) 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.*
- **Important Rule About Copying:** It can be 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 compare wording between assignments. 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 are statistically too close to another student(s), both/all students involved will face a plagiarism penalty.

COVID-19 Coronavirus

If you have questions about the College's COVID policies with respect to attendance, testing, and forbearance, please refer to the College's website address: <https://www.morrisville.edu/coronavirus>

Late, Make-up Assignment, and Extra Credit Policies

Exams: Make-up exams will not be given, unless you make arrangements with me within one-week of the exam to make it up. Please make every effort to **make the exam up within one-week**. If you miss an exam without making such arrangements to make it up, you will receive NO CREDIT for that particular exam.

Plickers Quizzes: Plickers quizzes **can be made up during my office hours** (see above) within one week after the quiz is given in class.

Online Media: Online media activities submitted after the due date will have 10% of the grade reduced for each week it is late. 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.

Two-Page Reports (2PR): 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. Written assignments submitted after the one-week late period will be given half-credit.

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 **Blackboard Site** and **Grades Page** 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. 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 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.

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 Blackboard to find out what changes are made.

Week 1. What is Sociology?

Jan 24: Acquire textbook and review website

Jan 26: Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.0](#), [1.1](#)

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

Week 2. The Origins and History of Sociology

Jan 31: Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.2](#), [1.3](#)

Feb 2: Read *Textbook*, Section [1.4](#)

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

Week 3. What is Social Science?

Feb 7: Read *Textbook*, Sections [2.0](#), [2.1](#)

Feb 9: Read *Textbook*, Sections [2.2](#), [2.3](#)

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

Week 4. Cultural Sociology

Feb 14: Read *Textbook*, Section [3.0](#), [3.1](#), [3.2](#)

Feb 16: Read *Textbook*, Section [3.3](#), [3.4](#)

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

Week 5. Report and Exam week

Feb 21: Review for exam

Two-Page Report 2PR#1 due Tuesday Feb 21st

* **Feb 23: Exam 1 – ATTENDANCE REQUIRED!**

Week 6. Social Structures & Theories

Feb 28: Read *Textbook*, Sections [4.0](#), [4.1](#)

Mar 2: Read *Textbook*, Section [4.2](#), [4.3](#)

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

Week 7. Socialization

Mar 7: Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.0](#), [5.1](#), [5.2](#)

Mar 9: Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.3](#), [5.4](#)

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Online Media Homework: FRIDAYS 5PM

2P Reports: FEB 21, MAR 28, May 2

Exams: FEB 23, MAR 30, MAY 9

Spring Break: March 13 - 17

Week 8. Social Groups and Organization

Mar 21: Read *Textbook*, Sections [6.0](#), [6.1](#)

Mar 23: Read *Textbook*, Section [6.2](#), [6.3](#)

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

Week 9. Report and Exam week

Mar 28: Review for Exam

Two-Page Report 2PR#2 due Tuesday Mar 28th

* **Mar 30: Exam 2– ATTENDANCE REQUIRED!**

Week 10. Deviance and Criminology

Apr 4: Read *Textbook*, Section [7.0](#), [7.1](#)

Apr 6: Read *Textbook*, Section [7.2](#), [7.3](#)

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

Week 11. American Social Inequality

Apr 11: Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.0](#), [9.1](#), [9.2](#)

Apr 13: Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.3](#), [9.4](#)

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

Week 12. Global Inequality

Apr 18: Read *Textbook*, Sections [10.0](#), [10.1](#)

Apr 20: Read *Textbook*, Section [10.2](#), [10.3](#)

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

Week 13. Population and Urbanization

Apr 25: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.0](#), [20.1](#)

Apr 27: Read *Textbook*, Sections [20.2](#)

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

Week 14. Society and Environment

May 2: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.3](#)

May 4: Review for final exam

Two-Page Report 2PR#2 due Tuesday Mar 28th

Final Plickers Quiz on Wednesday
Optional Bonus Online Media #B2 due Fri by 5pm

Week 15. May 9: Final Exam (time TBA)