

Course Syllabus

Fall 2023

SOCI 101 – Introduction to Sociology – ONLINE EDITION



ONLINE “CLASSROOM”

<https://brightspace.morrisville.edu>



Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

Office Location: 205 Crawford Hall

Office Hours: Mon, Weds: 1pm - 2pm

Tues, 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 theories, concepts, and ideas shared within the discipline 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.

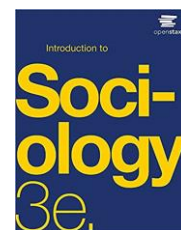
Required Books and Resources:

You are responsible for accessing the following resources:



“Textbook”: OpenStax College, Introduction to Sociology 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 Brightspace 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 between \$21-27. *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 Brightspace page (address at top of page). *These readings/videos can be found through the course Brightspace 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



Brightspace Discussion Board Participation (recorded weekly): **20% 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://brightspace.morrisville.edu> and click on your course (SOCI 101). The “Discussion Board” button can be found in the table of contents or the Coursework links; click one of those links and then **click on the title of the Discussion** to which you want to add a comment or reply, then add your comment in the lower text box. You will not be able to see other students’ comments until after you submit yours.



2PRs (Two-Page Reports) (writing opportunities): **20% of final grade**

Writing exercises on sociological topics will be assigned during the course (check the Brightspace “2PR” link). 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 20-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 Brightspace. You will be required to complete unit-based online quizzes every week of the semester. Quizzes will be accessible through the Brightspace 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 **Brightspace page** and you must send your individual responses to questions regarding the assignment using Brightspace. Answers should **not** be attachments and should have the proper **subject heading** of the week. Online media are due Sunday at midnight (see the course schedule), but you can turn them in for half-credit within five weeks of the assignment being posted. They will be graded on a pass/fail (1/0) basis, and you are likely not to receive feedback to your assignment. One missing or failed online media grade may be dropped at the end of the semester.



Exams (three tests spread out through the semester): **20% 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 Brightspace.

Grade Distribution:

20% of grade: Brightspace Discussion Board Participation (recorded weekly)

20% of grade: Online Chapter Quizzes

20% of grade: 2PRs (2-Page Reports, 20-point graded assignments)

20% of grade: Online Media (weekly response assignment; graded pass/fail)

20% 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.

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 Brightspace 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.
- **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 (re-opening the exam portal online) will NOT be given, unless you contact me (email is preferred) in advance of the end of the exam. If you miss an exam or quiz without contacting me, you will receive NO CREDIT for that particular exam or quiz (in the case of emergency situations, please do contact me after). Be prepared to complete the Chapter Quizzes during the week BEFORE the due date (Thursday at 9pm). A 10% penalty will be incurred for each week a chapter quiz is turned in late.

Online Media: Be prepared to complete the Online Media activities during the week BEFORE the due date (Friday at midnight). In the event they are sent late, you will earn only a half-point for that week's assignment. No assignments can be turned in more than 5 weeks late.

2PRs (Two-Page Reports): 2PR reports will be due as scheduled, but may be turned in after the due date with a penalty of ONE LETTER GRADE (or 10 points on a 100 point scale) for each week it is late (unless otherwise indicated by the professor in the assignment). No written assignments will be accepted for course credit after five weeks late.

Discussion Board: Your contributions to the course activity board should take place during the week that the Discussion assignment is given (by the following Sunday at midnight). Late Discussion Board contributions (five weeks max) must be approved by the professor and will receive 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 Brightspace 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.

Note that this schedule is *tentative and subject to change* – check Brightspace to see changes made in *red*. Questions? e-mail reymers@morrisville.edu

Week 1. Introduction to Sociology

Aug 28: Review Brightspace website
Aug 29: Acquire textbook and read Table of Contents
Aug 30: Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.0](#), [1.1](#), [1.2](#)
Online Media #1 due by end of Sunday **Sept 3** (see Brightspace)
 Take **Chapter Quiz** between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm
 Add your intro to the **Discussion Board** by end of week

Week 2. The Origins and History of Sociology

Sept 4: Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.2](#)
Sept 5: Read *Textbook*, Section [1.3](#)
Sept 6: Read *Textbook*, Section [1.4](#)
 Take **Chapter Quiz** between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm
Online Media #2 due Sunday (end of week)
 Add to **Discussion Board** by Sunday (end of week)

Week 3. What is Social Science?

Sept 11: Read *Textbook*, Sections [2.0](#), [2.1](#)
Sept 12: Read *Textbook*, Section [2.2](#)
Sept 13: Read *Textbook*, Section [2.3](#)
 Take **Chapter Quiz** between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm
Online Media #3 due Sunday (end of week)
 Add to **Discussion Board** by Sunday (end of week)

Week 4. Cultural Sociology

Sept 18: Read *Textbook*, Sections [3.0](#), [3.1](#)
Sept 19: Read *Textbook*, Sections [3.2](#), [3.3](#)
Sept 20: Read *Textbook*, Section [3.4](#)
 Take **Chapter Quiz** between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm
Online Media #4 due Sunday (end of week)
 Add to **Discussion Board** by Sunday (end of week)

Week 5. Two-Page Report and Exam week

Sept 25: Review *Textbook*, Chapters [1](#) & [2](#)
Two-Page Report: 2PR #1 due Monday Sept 25th
Sept 26: Review *Textbook*, Chapter [3](#)
Sept 27-29: **Exam 1** (available on Brightspace)

Week 6. Social Structures & Theories

Oct 2: Read *Textbook*, Sections [4.0](#)
Oct 3: Read *Textbook*, Section [4.1](#)
Oct 4: Read *Textbook*, Section [4.2](#)
 Take **Chapter Quiz** between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm
Online Media #5 due Sunday (end of week)
 Add to **Discussion Board** by Sunday (end of week)

Week 7. Half Week: Social Theories, cont.

Oct 9-10 **Fall Break 1**
Oct 11: Read *Textbook*, Section [4.3](#)
Online Media #6 due Friday by end of day

Week 8. Socialization

Oct 16: Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.0](#), [5.1](#)
Oct 17: Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.2](#), [5.3](#)
Oct 18: Read *Textbook*, Section [5.4](#)
 Take **Chapter Quiz** between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm
Online Media #7 due Sunday (end of week)
 Add to **Discussion Board** by Sunday (end of week)

Week 9. Social Groups and Organization

Oct 25: Read *Textbook*, Sections [6.0](#), [6.1](#)
Oct 26: Read *Textbook*, Section [6.2](#)
Oct 27: Read *Textbook*, Section [6.3](#)
 Take **Chapter Quiz** between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm
Online Media #8 due Sunday (end of week)
 Add to **Discussion Board** by Sunday (end of week)

Week 10. Two-Page Report and Exam week

Oct 30: Review *Textbook*, Chapters [4](#) & [5](#)
Two-Page Report: 2PR #2 due Monday Oct 30
Oct 31: Review *Textbook*, Chapter [6](#)
Nov 1-Nov 3: **Exam 2** (available on Brightspace)

Week 11. Deviance and Criminology

Nov 6: Read *Textbook*, Section [7.0](#)
Nov 7: Read *Textbook*, Section [7.1](#)
Nov 8: Read *Textbook*, Sections [7.2](#), [7.3](#)
 Take **Chapter Quiz** between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm
Online Media #9 due Sunday (end of week)
 Add to **Discussion Board** by Sunday (end of week)

Week 12. Social Class and Inequality

Nov 13: Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.0](#), [9.1](#)
Nov 14: Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.2](#), [9.3](#)
Nov 15: Read *Textbook*, Section [9.4](#)
 Take **Chapter Quiz** between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm
Online Media #10 due Sunday (end of week)
 Add to **Discussion Board** by Sunday (end of week)

Week 13.A. Half Week: Global Inequality

Nov 20: Read *Textbook*, Sections [10.0](#)
Nov 22-24 **Fall Break 2**

Week 13.B. Global Inequality

Nov 26: Read *Textbook*, Section [10.1](#)
Nov 27: Read *Textbook*, Section [10.2](#)
Nov 28: Read *Textbook*, Section [10.3](#)
 Take **Chapter Quiz** between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm
Online Media #B1 due Sunday (end of week)
 Add to **Discussion Board** by Sunday (end of week)

Week 14. Society and the Environment

Dec 4: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.0](#)
Dec 5: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.1](#)
Dec 6: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.2](#), [20.3](#)
Dec 7-10: Review for Final Exam
 Take **Chapter Quiz** between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm
Online Media #B2 due Sunday (end of week)
 Add to **Discussion Board** by Sunday (end of week)

Week 15. Final Exam Week

Dec. 11-13: Take Final Exam (see Brightspace)

IMPORTANT GRADING DATES:

Weekly: Chapter Quizzes due Thursdays by 9pm
Online Media due Sunday by midnight
Discussion Board posts due by end of week

Exams will be in week 5 (Sept 27-29) and week 10 (Nov 1-3)

Two-Page Reports are due on Sept 25th and Oct 30th.