

SOCI 101 – Introduction to Sociology

Course Syllabus – Fall 2023



More information available at:
<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.

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

- Online media (weekly homework):** Available on the course Brightspace page (web address above).

These videos and readings can be found through the course’s 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.

- A course notebook.** *While you read, watch, or listen to your assignments, and in class, you should take notes on the most interesting and meaningful aspects of what you read/hear. This will help you recall information when you need to answer questions on assignments, quizzes and exams. It can also be a place where you raise questions to be asked in class.*

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 **Brightspace page** and you must send your individual responses to questions regarding the assignment using Brightspace. 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) (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- = 3.67	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
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 Brightspace 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 arrange 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 probably 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 receive half-credit if turned in within five weeks of it being assigned. Inability to access the Brightspace 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.

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 credit more than five weeks late.

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 **Brightspace 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 Brightspace), 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 find out what changes are made.

Week 1: Aug 28-Sept 1. What is Sociology?

For Class 1: Acquire textbook and review website

For Class 2: Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.0](#), [1.1](#)

Homework: On the **Brightspace** website, complete *Online Media #1 on The Sociological Imagination* by end of day Sunday.

Week 2: Sept 4-8. The Origins & History of Sociology

Class 1: Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.2](#), [1.3](#)

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

Plickers Quiz in class

Homework: *Online Media #2* due by end of day Sunday (see Brightspace)

Week 3: Sept 11-15. What is Social Science?

Class 1: Read *Textbook*, Sections [2.0](#), [2.1](#)

Class 2: Read *Textbook*, Sections [2.2](#), [2.3](#)

Plickers Quiz in class

Homework: *Online Media #3* due by end of day Sunday (see Brightspace)

Week 4: Sept 18-22. Cultural Sociology

Class 1: Read *Textbook*, Section [3.0](#), [3.1](#), [3.2](#)

Class 2: Read *Textbook*, Section [3.3](#), [3.4](#)

Plickers Quiz in class

Homework: *Online Media #4* due by end of day Sunday (see Brightspace)

Week 5. Sept 25-29. 2-Page Report and Exam week

Class 1: Review for exam

Two-Page Report 2PR#1 due

Class 2: **Exam 1 – ATTENDANCE REQUIRED!**

Week 6. Oct 2-6. Social Structure & Theories

Class 1: Read *Textbook*, Sections [4.0](#), [4.1](#)

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

Plickers Quiz in class

Homework: *Online Media #5* due by end of day Sunday

FALL BREAK 1: Oct. 9-10

Week 7. Oct 11-13. Half-Week: Social Theories

Class 1: Read *Textbook*, Sections [4.3](#)

Homework: *Online Media #6* due by end of day Sunday

Week 8. Oct 16-20. Socialization

Class 1: Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.0](#), [5.1](#), [5.2](#)

Class 2: Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.3](#), [5.4](#)

Plickers Quiz in class

Homework: *Online Media #7* due by end of day Sunday

IMPORTANT GRADING DATES:

Weekly: Quizzes in second class every week

Homework: do Readings Before day assigned and do Online Media due Sunday by midnight

2-Page Reports due week 5 (Sept 25, 26) and week 10 (Oct 30, 31)

Exams will be week 5 (Sept 27, 28) and week 10 (Nov 1, 2)

Week 9. Oct 23-27. Social Groups and Organization

Class 1: Read *Textbook*, Sections [6.0](#), [6.1](#)

Class 2: Read *Textbook*, Section [6.2](#), [6.3](#)

Plickers Quiz in class

Homework: *Online Media #8* due by end of day Sunday

Week 10. Oct 30-Nov 3. 2-Page Report and Exam week

Class 1: Review for Exam

Two-Page Report 2PR#2 due

Class 2: **Exam 2 – ATTENDANCE REQUIRED!**

Week 11. Nov 6-10. Deviance and Criminology

Class 1: Read *Textbook*, Section [7.0](#), [7.1](#)

Class 2: Read *Textbook*, Section [7.2](#), [7.3](#)

Plickers Quiz in class

Homework: *Online Media #9* due by end of day Sunday

Week 12. Nov 13-17. American Social Inequality

Class 1: Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.0](#), [9.1](#), [9.2](#)

Class 2: Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.3](#), [9.4](#)

Plickers Quiz in class

Homework: *Online Media #10* due by end of day Sunday

Week 13A. Nov 20-21. Half-Week: Global Inequality

Class 1: Read *Textbook*, Sections [10.0](#)

FALL BREAK 2: Nov 22-24

Week 13B. Nov 27-Dec 1. Half-Week: Global Inequality

Class 1: Read *Textbook*, Section [10.1](#), [10.2](#), [10.3](#)

Plickers Quiz in class

Homework: *Online Media #B1* due by end of day Sunday

Week 14. Dec 4-8. Population and Urbanization

Class 1: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.0](#), [20.1](#)

Class 2: Read *Textbook*, Sections [20.2](#), [20.3](#)

Plickers Quiz in class

Homework: *Online Media #B2* due by end of day Sunday

Week 15. Dec 11-15. Final Exam Week (time TBA)