

# Course Syllabus

Spring 2024

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: 11am-12pm**

**Tues & Thurs: 10–11am**

**Fri: No office hourQ**

*or by appointment*

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

**website:** [sociology.morrisville.edu](http://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.*

## 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.

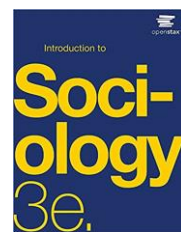
## Required Books and Resources:

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 \$27-33. *Doing the required readings listed on the course schedule will tremendously enhance your understanding of the topic of the weekly class sessions and will prove necessary to obtain a passing grade..*

- 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. It shows you are paying attention to the course ideas.

*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.



## **Two-Page Reports (2PRs)** (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. See the “Late Quizzes” policy section below regarding late submissions.



## **Online Media Homework** (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. See the “Late Assignments” policy section below regarding late submissions.



## **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. See the “Late Exams” policy section below regarding late submissions.

## **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.*

### **Knowing Your Grades:**

**I DO NOT USE THE BRIGHTSPACE GRADE BOOK.** All your grades for this course will be available on a separate link on the Brightspace contents page called “NEW GRADES.” By clicking on the link at the and signing in with a password I will get from you early in the semester, you will be able to see all your grades. Please refer to this page before emailing me with questions about specific grades.

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

**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 exam or quiz (in the case of emergency situations, please do contact me when able). 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 Homework:** Be prepared to complete the Online Media activities during the week BEFORE the due date (Sunday 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).

## 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 RULES ABOUT COPYING and AI:** 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. For my AI policy this semester, see the Brightspace page; generally, the same rules apply as above (exact copies from AI, as established by AI checkers, will be penalized, but using AI for ideas and grammar (such as Grammarly) is generally okay.

## Students with Learning and/or Physical Challenges (ASC)

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 Accessibility Services Center (ASC) as soon as possible ([asc testing@morrisville.edu](mailto:asc testing@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 ASC. 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.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:reymers@morrisville.edu)

**Week 1. Introduction to Sociology**

Jan 22: Review Brightspace website  
 Jan 23: Acquire textbook and read Table of Contents  
 Jan 24: Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.0](#), [1.1](#), [1.2](#)  
*Online Media #1* due by end of Sunday Jan 28 (see Brightspace)  
 Take **Chapter Quiz** between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm  
 Add your Introduction to the **Discussion Board** by end of week

**Week 2. The Origins and History of Sociology**

Jan 29: Read *Textbook*, Sections [1.2](#)  
 Jan 30: Read *Textbook*, Section [1.3](#)  
 Jan 31: 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”?**

Feb 5: Read *Textbook*, Sections [2.0](#), [2.1](#)  
 Feb 6: Read *Textbook*, Section [2.2](#)  
 Feb 7: 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**

Feb 12: Read *Textbook*, Sections [3.0](#), [3.1](#)  
 Feb 13: Read *Textbook*, Sections [3.2](#), [3.3](#)  
 Feb 14: 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**

Feb 19: Review *Textbook*, Chapters [1](#) & [2](#)  
*Two-Page Report: 2PR #1 due Monday Feb 19<sup>th</sup>*  
 Feb 20: Review *Textbook*, Chapter [3](#)  
 FEB 21-23: Exam 1 (available on Brightspace)

**Week 6. Social Structures & Theories**

Feb 26: Read *Textbook*, Sections [4.0](#)  
 Feb 27: Read *Textbook*, Section [4.1](#)  
 Feb 28: Read *Textbook*, Section [4.2](#), [4.3](#)  
 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. Socialization**

Mar 4: Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.0](#), [5.1](#)  
 Mar 5: Read *Textbook*, Sections [5.2](#), [5.3](#)  
 Mar 6: Read *Textbook*, Section [5.4](#)  
 Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm  
*Online Media #6* due Sunday (end of week)  
 Add to Discussion Board by Sunday (end of week)  
 \*\*\* Mar 11-15 SPRING BREAK \*\*\*

**Week 8. Social Groups and Organization**

Mar 18: Read *Textbook*, Sections [6.0](#), [6.1](#)  
 Mar 19: Read *Textbook*, Section [6.2](#)  
 Mar 20: Read *Textbook*, Section [6.3](#)  
 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. Deviance and Criminology**

Mar 25: Read *Textbook*, Section [7.0](#)  
 Mar 26: Read *Textbook*, Section [7.1](#)  
 Mar 27: Read *Textbook*, Sections [7.2](#), [7.3](#)  
 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**

Apr 1: Review *Textbook*, Chapters [4](#) & [5](#)  
*Two-Page Report: 2PR #2 due Monday Apr 1<sup>st</sup> (no fooling)*  
 Apr 2: Review *Textbook*, Chapter [6](#)  
 APR 3-5: EXAM 2 (available on Brightspace)

**Week 11. Social Class and Inequality**

Apr 8: Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.0](#), [9.1](#)  
 Apr 9: Read *Textbook*, Sections [9.2](#), [9.3](#)  
 Apr 10: Read *Textbook*, Section [9.4](#)  
 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. Global Inequality**

Apr 15: Read *Textbook*, Section [10.0](#), [10.1](#)  
 Apr 16: Read *Textbook*, Section [10.2](#)  
 Apr 17: Read *Textbook*, Section [10.3](#)  
 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. Population and Demography**

Apr 22: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.0](#)  
 Apr 23: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.1](#)  
 Apr 24: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.2](#)  
 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**

Apr 29: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.2](#)  
 Apr 30: Read *Textbook*, Section [20.3](#)  
 May 1-5: Review for Final Exam  
 Take Chapter Quiz between Tues 9am and Thurs 9pm  
*Online Media #B2* due ASunday (end of week)  
 Add to Discussion Board by Sunday (end of week)

**Week 15. Final Exam Week**

May 6-8: 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 Sunday by midnight*

**Exams** will be in Week 5 (Feb 21-23) and week 10 (Apr 3-5).

**Two-Page Reports** are due on Feb 19<sup>th</sup> and Apr 1<sup>st</sup>.