

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2023

SO1000 (A3/C3): INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15

Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 8 territory, the traditional homeland and gathering place for many diverse Indigenous peoples. We are honoured to be on the ancestral lands of the Cree, Dene/Beaver, and Métis, whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work, learn, and live on this land.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Michael Holland **PHONE:** 780-539-2973
OFFICE: C-404 **E-MAIL:** mholland@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the theory, methods, and substance of sociology. How societies and individuals are shaped and modified by culture, socialization, deviance, stratification, group processes, industrialization, and social movements will be covered.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None.

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Cumming, S. (2020). *Sociology Unlocked*. Oxford University Press.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus (Attend On-Campus, In-Person). Lectures, class discussion, written tests, written projects.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will:

- Be shown how to apply the theories and methodologies of sociology as a science, and how it relates to people's individual lives
- Be introduced to essential sociological concepts, perspectives, and historical foundations
- Be provided with strong foundational knowledge in preparation for further studies in sociology
- Be familiarized with the key sociological concepts, theories, and debates in present society.
- Encouraged to develop essential skills in critical thinking, writing, referencing, and research.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of the course, students will:

- Know how to think sociologically
- Gain a basic understanding of how to critically evaluate conventional wisdom using a “sociological imagination”
- Develop an ability to explain social patterns, trends, problems, and collective behaviour from a sociological perspective.
- Understand the major sociological perspectives and the methods sociologists use to perform their work.
- Differentiate between macro and micro-level analyses and the purpose of such types of analyses
- Recognize and apply the appropriate sociological terms, concepts, and definitions
- Apply and incorporate relevant sociological explanations of social issues and institutions

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page

<http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be accepted for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability and transferable grades.**

EVALUATIONS:

Assessment	Total Point Value	Weight
10 Reading Quizzes (10 pts each *10) + 1 bonus	100 pts	10 %
Unit Application Assignments (*4; 20 pts each)	80 pts	35 %
1 Midterm	60 pts	25 %
Final Exam	100 pts	30 %
Total	340 pts	100 %

Chapter Weekly Quizzes

Beginning week 3, you will complete chapter quizzes on our course webpage (MyClass). There will be 10 questions (multiple choice), and one bonus quiz. These quizzes serve to encourage you to consistently read the chapters and to test your knowledge as we move forward in the course.

Beginning the third week of the class (See below), **quizzes will open on Monday at midnight and close the following Sunday at 11:59 PM.** It is your responsibility to ensure that you complete these quizzes on time. No exceptions will be made for lateness.

Unit Application Assignments

At the end of each unit, students will complete **4 short individual assignments** based on the content for each unit (1-2 pages, double-spaced). Each application assigned will be graded based quality of application of content, demonstration of understanding, and ability to critically engage

with the content discussed in the unit. No citations or outside sources are necessary for these assignments. More specific instructions for these assignments will be given in class on the date on which they are assigned. **Students have 1 week to finish the assignments, which are to be submitted on myClass before the start of class (see below for schedule of these times).** Students must complete all 4 assignments for complete marks. Students may work individually or with a partner but will share the grade.

Midterm and Final Exam

The midterm and Final Exam will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions with choice. There will be a brief review in class before the midterm and final exam respectively. These will test your knowledge and application of concepts, theories, and perspectives on the course material (textbook chapters, classroom lectures, discussions, and video clips). The final exam is cumulative but with an emphasis on ‘big picture ideas’ covered throughout the semester.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	0-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Unit and Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
1: Foundations of Sociology			
Week 1	Introduction to course Meet and Greet	Course Syllabus	Course Syllabus Quiz (ungraded)
Week 2	Thinking Sociologically	Chapter 1	
Week 3	Sociological theories	Chapter 2	RQ 1
Week 4	Sociological methods	Chapter 2	RQ 2 UAA1
2: Culture and Socialization			
Week 5	Midterm review and midterm		
Week 6	Culture, Deviance, and Crime	Chapter 3 & 10	RQ 3
Week 7	Socialization and Social Interaction	Chapter 4 & 5	RQ 4
Week 8	Families	Chapter 8	RQ 5 UAA2
3: Institutions and Organizations			
Week 9	Health and Illness	Chapter 12	RQ 6
Week 10	Education	Lareau (1987). Social class differences in family-school relationships	RQ 7
Week 11	Media	No Readings	*RQ 8 Quiz based on lecture only UAA3
4: Stratification and Inequality			

Week 12	Class Inequality	Chapter 6	RQ 9
Week 13	Race, Ethnicity	Chapter 7	RQ 10
Week 14	Gender	Chapter 9	Bonus quiz
Week 15	Course wrap up; Final Exam review		UAA4 Final Exams are Scheduled by the Registrar's Office

RQ=Reading Quiz; UAA = Unit Application Assignment

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

Jan 4 – classes start
Feb 20-Feb 24 –Family Day-Reading Week, No classes
Apr 7– Good Friday, No classes
Apr 12 – Last day of classes
Apr 14 – Exam Start
Apr 24 – Last day of Final exams

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Ultimately, you are responsible for your learning and performance in this course.

PLEASE NOTE:

To be fair to everyone in this course, **I will not alter the evaluation**, so any missed testing or assignments will not be accommodated.

If at any point in the semester you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your course work, please do not hesitate to ask me for assistance. Please contact me by e-mail for an appointment.

Students must submit original work in this course. Work that was submitted previously in other courses will not be accepted and will receive a 0%. All work must be submitted electronically on MyClass by the due dates listed below.

Please note: It is simply unfair to alter the course evaluation for any individual. Therefore, under any conditions, there will be no alternative tests or assignments if you miss or do poorly on a requirement.

- **Furthermore, it is your responsibility to track your own grades: Please do not contact the professor for such information.**

Submission & Late Policies:

- Equally important to learn and apply professional communication skills, such as writing proper e-mail messages, it is very important to learn to meet deadlines. Complete your assignments on time!
- Late assignments received will be deducted 5% for every late day (including weekends!).
- Incomplete assignments will receive a grade of 0 unless you have a valid reason supported with appropriate documentation (i.e., a medical note from an M.D.) and you discuss it with me **well in advance of any due date**.
- Note: extensions will be given only when students notify the instructor prior to the deadline and present valid evidence excusing lateness.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the Northwestern Polytechnic Calendar at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/programs/calendar/> or the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy which can be found at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Additional Information:

Professional Conduct:

- Please be aware that I respect that everyone's time is valuable, please afford me the same courtesy.
- Instead of preoccupying your mind with questions such as, "how do I get an 'A'?" Instead, ask yourself, "how can I work to expand my knowledge, perspective, and outlook on the real world?"
- Please only use your **NWP e-mail account** to avoid having your message blocked by SPAM filters.
- Always include "SO1000" (with your section) in the subject line (or I may never even receive your message).
- Finally, in our academic environment, please practice writing e-mails *formally*, as you will need to do regularly upon graduation. For example, use a simple greeting, do not use slang or abbreviations, and always sign off with your name!