

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2024

SO3630(A3): The Sociology of Work and Industry – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Michael Holland	PHONE:	780-539-2973
OFFICE:	C404	E-MAIL:	mholland@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Wednesdays 1-2 pm; Fridays 10-11 am, or by appointment		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: Sociological analysis of the changing nature, content and meaning of work; the diversity of industrial contexts and organizational forms, the underlying economic forces (including global) that shape work and work contexts; and the consequences for individuals and society from Canadian and comparative perspectives.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: Completed the following:

SO1000 - Introductory Sociology (3)

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Adams, T. L. (2022). *Working in Canada: A sociological exploration*. Oxford University Press.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus and Videoconference (VC).

Note: *Videoconference Student Requirements:* Technology (e.g., webcam, microphone, speakers), Class Participation (e.g., camera on during class, appropriate screen name)

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

- Understand the historical evolution of contemporary work structures
- Become familiar with diverse theoretical frameworks for investigating work

- Employ a sociological standpoint to comprehend the nature of work.
- Apply course content in the context of real-world work situations and everyday life instances

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 acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Assessment	Weight
Active Viewing Assignment (Film)	8 %
In-class Quizzes	12 %
Company Project (proposal, outline, presentation, and peer feedback)	30 %
Midterm	20 %
Final Exam	30 %
Total	100 %
Extra Credit – up to 10 pts	5 %

Active Viewing Assignment

We will watch a film this semester related to the topic of inequality. Students will engage in “active viewing,” meaning they will take notes during the film. The film will be shown in class, so students must be present during that time for credit unless you have access to the film at home (although, I highly recommend you attend for discussion purposes). Students will complete a quiz and discussion assignment due the next day.

Quizzes

Throughout the semester, there will be 5 multiple-choice quizzes completed in class based on the course material (lectures, discussions, videos, and readings). Students must be in class to write the quizzes. If missed, students must complete alternative assignments to earn credit. More details will be discussed.

Company Project

Students will submit a **written proposal (10 points), an outline (20 points), and prepare a presentation (60 points)** based on a made-up company. Note: if students work in groups the mark will be shared. The presentation may also be recorded upon request. Students must also provide feedback for their peers (**completion credit**). Rubrics for these assignments will be made available on myClass.

When possible, there will be time to work on these assignments during class time. More details will be discussed in class.

Midterm and Final Exam

Note: There are 2 options for the midterm and the final exam for the course.

Option A will be a closed-book exam written with the class that will consist of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer questions.

Option B will be an open-book exam that consists of essay answer questions. These questions must be submitted on myClass by the completion time.

There will be a brief review in class before the tests 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.

Extra Credit/Participation

Throughout the semester, there will be opportunities for students to participate in class discussions as volunteers for which credit will be earned. More information will be discussed early in class.

GRADING CRITERIA:

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

Grading Chart

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	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	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
Jan 9, 11	Introduction to the course Meet and Greet	Syllabus	

Jan 16, 18	What is work? Workshop for project (Jan 18)	Chapter 1	
Jan 23, 25	Theoretical Perspectives on Work	Chapter 2	In-class quiz 1
Jan 30, Feb 1	Historical Trends in Canadian Work	Chapter 3	Company project proposal due (Jan 30 at 11:59 pm)
Feb 6, 8	The Context of Work: Labour Markets and Organizations	Chapter 4	In-class quiz 2
Feb 13	Midterm review		
Feb 15	Midterm		
Feb 19- Feb 23	Family Day & Winter Break – No Classes		
Feb 27, 29	Film (active viewing assignment)		Company project outline due Feb 29 at 11:59 pm Film quiz and discussion activity due Mar 1 at 11:59 pm
Mar 5, 7	Occupations: Blue Collar, White Collar, Service and Professional Jobs	Chapter 5	In-class quiz 3
Mar 12, 14	Skill, Expertise, Knowledge and Education	Chapter 7	In-class quiz 4
Mar 19, 21	Health, Well-Being and Resistance	Chapter 8	
Mar 26, 28	Occupational Segregation	Chapter 9	Presentations start
Apr 2, 4	Discrimination and harassment	Chapter 10	In-class quiz 5
Apr 9,11	Working Across the Life Course Final exam Review/Course Wrap up	Chapter 11	Presentations finish Complete project due (TBA) Final exam (TBA)

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 8 – First day of classes

Jan 17 – Last day to add or drop courses with full refund

Feb 19 – Family Day

Feb 20-23 – Winter Break

March 29 – Good Friday, no classes

April 01 – Last day to withdraw from courses with a grade of “W”.

April 15 – Last day of classes

April 17-24 – Final Exam period

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

If at any point in the semester, you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your coursework, please do not hesitate to ask me for assistance. Please contact me by e-mail for an appointment. **Furthermore, it is your responsibility to track your grades: Please do not contact the professor for such information.**

Submission & Late Policies: It is very important to complete your assignments on time. Late assignments will be deducted 5% per day (including weekends). Incomplete tests and 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 **in advance of any due date**. Extension requests are granted only well in advance of assignment due dates and with valid reasons.

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:

This course will make extensive use of our course website (myClass) to support your learning. You are expected to keep current with the content of the site, and I advise you to log on often.

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’?”, ask yourself “How can I work to expand my knowledge, perspective, and outlook on the real world?”
- Classroom etiquette:
 - Please do not be late for class.
 - Avoid the use of cell phones except for course-related activities.
 - **Do not disrupt the class**, especially when talking about things non-sociology related
 - You will be given a warning and subsequent action will be taken if disruptive behaviour continues, including being asked to leave the class.
- Please only use your NWP e-mail account to contact me to avoid having your message blocked by SPAM filters.
- Always include “SO3630” (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 so regularly. For example, use a simple greeting, do not use slang or abbreviations, and always sign off with your name!