

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2024

SO1000(A2): Introductory Sociology – 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:	10 am – 11 am, Tuesdays and Thursdays		

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.

Additional reading is available for free on myClass.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus

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

- Demonstrate sociological thinking through discussion and writing
- 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 <https://transferalberta.alberta.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
Attendance/participation	5 %
Chapter Quizzes	12 %
Discussion forums	12 %
4 Infographic Assignments	21 %
Midterm	20 %
Final Exam	30 %
Total	100 %

Note: assignment instructions and rubrics will be made available on our myClass page.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance will be recorded for each class and is essential to your success. **Missing more than 10% of classes without a valid reason may disqualify you from taking the final exam.** Active participation is also important; even in a larger class, your contributions are valued. Strive to engage in discussions by sharing insights supported by readings, personal experiences, and critical thinking. Remember, even occasional thoughtful participation can make a significant impact! **Note: If you miss a class, you are required to watch the recorded lecture and submit a 3-page, single-spaced reflection on what you found interesting and what you learned from the lecture.**

Chapter Weekly Quizzes

Starting week 2, you'll tackle weekly quizzes on our course webpage (myClass). Each quiz has 10 questions (a mixture of multiple-choice, true-and-false, matching, etc.) and there are 12 quizzes total. They're designed to keep you up-to-date with readings and check your knowledge. Quizzes open

Monday at midnight and close the following Sunday at 11:59 PM. You'll have two attempts per quiz, and the system keeps your highest score. No late submissions will be accepted.

Discussion Forums

Each week, you'll post a sociological question based on course materials or current events. Your question should spark thoughtful discussion. Additionally, you will respond to a peer's question with a detailed and insightful reply. You must complete 8 in total for full credit. Instructions for how to complete these will be highlighted in class.

Infographic Assignments

For each of the four units in this course, you will create an infographic that summarizes and highlights the key concepts, theories, and interesting aspects covered. These infographics should be visually engaging, clear, and informative, serving as a concise overview of the unit. Your infographics should creatively capture the essence of the material, making complex ideas accessible and memorable. Detailed guidelines and expectations for each infographic will be provided as we progress through the course.

Midterm and Final Exam

Both exams will feature multiple-choice questions and short answer questions covering concepts and theories from the textbook, lectures, and discussions. I will provide brief reviews before each exam to help you prepare. The final exam will be cumulative, focusing on key ideas from the semester.

GRADING CRITERIA

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

Grading Chart for courses with Alpha Grading:

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

Class Date	Unit	Topic (s)	Readings	Assignments
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Sept 4, 6	1: Foundations of Sociology	Introduction to course Meet and Greet, thinking sociologically	Read Chapter 1 for Sept 6	
Sept 11, 13		Sociological theories	Chapter 2	Discussion post 1 due before class (Sept 13)
Sept 18, 20		Sociological methods	Chapter 2	Quiz 1 Due Sept 22, 11:59 pm Discussion post 1 due before class (Sept 20) Infographic assignment # 1 (Sept 20)
Sept 25, 27	2: Culture and socialization	Culture	Chapter 3	Quiz 2 Due Sept 29, 11:59 pm Discussion post 2 due before class (Sept 27)
Oct 2, 4		Socialization and Social Interaction	Chapters 4 & 5	Quiz 3 Due Oct 6, 11:59 pm Discussion post 3 due before class (Oct 4)
Oct 9, 11		Families Midterm Review (Oct 11)	Chapter 8	Quiz 4 Due Oct 13, 11:59 pm Discussion post 4 due before class (Oct 11) Infographic assignment # 2 (due Oct 11)
Oct 16, 18	Midterm (Oct 16)		None	

	3: Institutions	Media (Oct 18)		Quiz 5 Due Oct 20, 11:59 pm Discussion post 5 due before class (Oct 18)
Oct 23, 25		Deviance and Crime	Chapter 10	Quiz 6 Due Oct 27, 11:59 pm Discussion post 6 due before class (Oct 25)
Oct 30, Nov 1		Education	Lareau (1987). Social class differences in family-school relationships	Quiz 7 Due Nov 1, 11:59 pm Discussion post 7 due before class (Nov 1)
Nov 6, 8		Health and Illness	Chapter 12	Quiz 8 Due Nov 10, 11:59 pm Discussion post 8 due before class (Nov 8) Infographic assignment # 3 (due Nov 8)
Nov 12-15 Fall Break – No Classes				
Nov 20, 22	4: Inequalities	Social class Inequality	Chapter 6	Quiz 9 Due Nov 24, 11:59 pm Discussion post 9 due before class (Nov 22)
Nov 27, 29		Race, Ethnicity	Chapter 7	Quiz 10 Due Dec 1, 11:59 pm Discussion post 10 due before class (Nov 29)

Dec 4, 6		Gender (Dec 4) Final Review (Dec 6)	Chapter 8	Discussion post 11 due before class (Dec 4) Infographic assignment # 4 (Due Dec 6)
Final Exam (30%) - The registrar's office schedules the final exam				

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

- Sept 12 Last day to add courses or drop courses for a full refund (in most programs) & last day to pay Fall semester fees (except for students on an approved payment plan). Last day to opt out of the Student Health/Dental Plan
- Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation—No Classes
- Oct 14 Thanksgiving Day—No Classes
- Nov 11 Remembrance Day—No Classes
- Nov 12-15 Fall Break—No Classes
- Nov 27 Last day to withdraw from classes (most programs) with a “W”
- Nov 29 Deadline to apply for Winter courses
- Dec 10 Last day of classes for the Fall semester
- Dec 12 - 19 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:

- Missed 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 **well in advance of any due date**.
- Note: extensions will be given only when students notify the instructor before the deadline and present valid evidence excusing lateness.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available 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 "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 so regularly. For example, use a simple greeting, do not use slang or abbreviations, and always sign off with your name!