

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2025

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: Fridays 10:30 to 11:30 am, or 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:

Introduction to Sociology – 3rd Canadian Edition

Open Textbook, BCcampus Open Education

Available at: <https://opentextbc.ca/introductiontosociology3rdedition/>

DELIVERY MODE(S): In-Person

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:

- **Define and apply** key sociological concepts and theories.
- **Use** the sociological imagination to **analyze** real-world issues.
- **Evaluate** how social institutions shape individuals and society.

- **Reflect** on your own experiences using sociological thinking.
- **Communicate** sociological insights through writing, discussion, and visual media.
- **Compare and apply** major sociological perspectives to social issues.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a 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:

Item	Weight	Description
Quizzes (6 total)	10%	Short quizzes to check understanding of key concepts and readings.
Participation & Discussions	10%	Engagement in class activities, group work, and discussions.
Reflection Papers (2 total)	20%	Two short (2–3 pages, double-spaced) reflections applying sociological concepts.
Film Assignment	10%	A short-written reflection connecting a selected film to sociological concepts. A list will be provided. Alternative options available upon request.
Midterm Exam	20%	An in-person written exam (multiple-choice and one short answer) covering material from Weeks 1–6

Final Exam

30%

A comprehensive in-person exam (multiple-choice, three short answers, and one essay) scheduled during the final exam period

Total

100%

Note: Rubrics will be provided for all assignments on myClass.

GRADING CRITERIA

Please note that most institutions 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:

Week/Dates	Topic	Readings / Assignments
Week 1 (Sep 4)	Sociological Imagination – What is Sociology?	Ch. 1; Syllabus quiz (ungraded)
Week 2 (Sep 9, 11)	Theory and Research Methods	Continue Ch. 1 & Ch. 2; Quiz 1 Sept 11
Week 3 (Sep 16, 18)	Culture & Socialization	Ch. 3, 5

Week 4 (Sep 23, 25)	Social Structure, Groups & Organizations	Ch. 4, 6; Quiz 2 Sept 25
Week 5 (Sep 30, Oct 2)	Sep 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no class); Oct 2 – Deviance, Crime & Social Control	Ch. 8; Quiz 3 Oct 2
Week 6 (Oct 7, 9)	Continue with Crime; Social Inequality I	Continue Ch. 8; Ch. 9–10; Reflection Paper #1 due Oct 10; Quiz 4 Oct 9
Week 7 (Oct 14, 16)	Oct 14 – Thanksgiving Tuesday (no class); Oct 16 – Midterm Exam (Weeks 1–6)	Covers Weeks 1–6
Week 8 (Oct 21, 23)	Social Inequality II (Gender and Race)	Ch. 11–12; Quiz 5 Oct 23
Week 9 (Oct 28, 30)	Institutions: Family & Religion	Ch. 14–15
Week 10 (Nov 4, 6)	Media & Popular Culture	Ch. 16; Film assignment due Nov 7; Quiz 6 Nov 6
Week 11 (Nov 11, 13)	Nov 11 – Remembrance Day (no class); Nov 13 – Fall Break (no class)	–
Week 12 (Nov 18, 20)	Social Change & Urbanization	Ch. 18, 20
Week 13 (Nov 25, 27)	Education (in-class lectures, no readings)	Lecture-based, no assigned readings Optional Bonus Quiz: Education
Week 14 (Dec 2, 4)	Applied Sociology Workshops	Reflection Paper #2 due Dec 5

Week 15 (Dec 9, 11)	Review & Wrap-Up	–
Final Exam Period (Dec 12–19)	Comprehensive in-person exam (scheduled by the registrar). Covers all chapters, lecture notes, videos, and class discussions	Covers all course material

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 <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

**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?"
 - 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 – A2) 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!
- **Use of AI-Generated Content:**

You are expected to complete all course work using your own knowledge and effort. Submitting content generated by AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, or similar) without explicit permission is considered a form of academic misconduct. All submitted work should reflect your understanding and engagement with the course material. If you're unsure whether a tool is appropriate to use, please check with me first. AI tools may be used for brainstorming or grammar checking only if the final submission reflects your original thought and analysis. You must clearly note any use of AI assistance in your assignment.