

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2025

SO1000(A3): 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:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30-11:30 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:

The following textbook will be used in this course and is available in the bookstore. Cumming, Sarah. 2024. *Sociology Unlocked* (second education). Oxford University Press.

Additional notes/readings will be available for free on myClass.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students in Introduction to Sociology should concentrate on how to:

1. Define Sociology
2. Comprehend the relationship between structure and agency
3. Understand the difference between common sense and sociological research
4. Outline the major theoretical perspectives in sociology
5. Describe the different features of culture

6. Understand the role of socialization
7. Outline the elements of social structure
8. Understand the different systems of stratification
9. Distinguish between sex and gender
10. Be able to explain the structure and functions of family
11. Recognize the defining features of minority, racial, and ethnic groups
12. Explain the difference between crime and deviance
13. Be able to explain the importance of demography in world issues
14. And be able to discuss how health and illness are influenced by income level, minority status, and gender.

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
Attendance and Participation	5 %
Reading Quizzes	15%
Reflection papers	25%
Midterm	25%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

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. There will be opportunities during class to engage in the material. I will discuss this early in the course. Remember, even occasional thoughtful participation can make a significant impact!

Reading 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 questions, etc.) and there are 10 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.

Reflection Papers

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 on the 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.

Please note: specific assignment due dates and times will be posted on myClass.

Midterm and Final Exam

The Midterm and Final Exam will consist of multiple choice, 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 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

GRADING CRITERIA:

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

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Unit and Week	Class Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
1: Foundations of Sociology				
Week 1	Jan 6, 10	Introduction to Course, Meet and Greet		
Week 2	Jan 13, 17	Sociological Theories	Chapters 1 & 2	Quiz 1 Due
Week 3	Jan 20, 24	Sociological Methods	Continue with Chapter 2	Reflection Paper 1 Due Quiz 2 Due
2: Culture and Socialization				
Week 4	Jan 27, 31	Culture	Chapter 3	Quiz 3 Due
Week 5	Feb 3, 7	Socialization and Social Interaction	Chapters 4 & 5	Quiz 4 Due
Week 6	Feb 10, 14	Families Midterm (Feb 14)	Chapter 8	Reflection Paper 2 Due Quiz 5 Due
3: Institutions and Organizations				
Feb 17 – 21. Winter Break/Reading Week – No Classes				
Week 7	Feb 24, 28	Deviance and Crime	Chapter 10	Quiz 6 Due
Week 8	March 3, 7	Education	Notes on myClass	No quiz
Week 9	March 10, 14	Media	Notes on myClass	No quiz
Week 10	March 17, 21	Health and Illness	Chapter 12	Quiz 7 Due Reflection Paper 3 Due
4: Stratification and Inequality				
Week 11	March 24, 28	Class Inequality	Chapter 6	Quiz 8 Due

Week 12	March 31, April 4	Race and Ethnicity	Chapter 9	Quiz 9 Due
Week 13	April 7, 11	Gender/ Final Exam Review	Chapter 7	Reflection Paper 4 Due Quiz 10 Due
Final Exam (30%) - The registrar's office schedules the final exam				

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

Jan 6 – Classes Start

Jan 15 – Last day to add/drop.

Feb 17 – Family Day

Feb 18 – 21 - Winter Break

March 31 – Last Day to Withdraw

April 11 - Last day of classes

April 14 – 23 - Final Exam Period

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

Your grades are posted to myClass, so please be sure you are tracking them there. If you believe there is an error, please let your instructor know.

Submission, Late Policies, & Issues of Intellectual Concern:

- 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.
- In cases where submitted work exhibits concerning patterns or raises questions for the instructor about its creation and the student's intellectual effort involved, students may be required to submit to an oral examination regarding the work at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to participate in the oral examination will result in an assigned grade of 0 for the assessment. If, following the oral examination, the instructor still has concerns about the work, the academic misconduct provisions of the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy (linked below) may be applied.

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!