

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences
COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

SO1000 (C3): 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 10:00 to 11:00 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 short

answer) covering material from Weeks 1–5

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 – Jan 6,8	Sociological Imagination – What is Sociology?	Ch. 1; Syllabus quiz (ungraded)

Week 2 – Jan 13,15	Theory and Research Methods	Continue Ch. 1 & Ch. 2
Week 3 – Jan 20, 22	Culture	Ch. 3; Quiz 1
Week 4 – Jan 27, 29	Socialization	Ch. 5; Quiz 2
Week 5 – Feb 3, 5	Deviance, Crime & Social Control	Ch. 8 Reflection Paper #1 Due
Week 6 – Feb 10, 12	Review and midterm on Fed 12	Covers Weeks 1–5
Week 7 – Feb 16; 17–21	Family Day and Winter Break (No Classes)	
Week 8 – Feb 24, 26	Gender & Society	Ch. 11; Quiz 3
Week 9 – Mar 3, 5	Race & Ethnicity	Ch. 12; Quiz 4
Week 10 – Mar 10, 12	Institutions: Family & Religion	Ch. 14–15
Week 11 – Mar 17, 19	Media & Popular Culture	Ch. 16; Film assignment due; Quiz 5
Week 12 – Mar 24, 26	Government & Politics	Ch. 17
Week 13 – Mar 31, Apr 2	Social Change & Urbanization	Ch. 18, 20, Quiz 6
Week 14 – Apr 7, 9	Education (lecture only; no readings); Final Exam review (Apr 9)	Optional Bonus Quiz: Education Reflection Paper #2 Due
Final Exam Period scheduled by the Registrar)	Comprehensive in-person exam (scheduled by the registrar). Covers all chapters, lecture notes, videos, and class discussions	

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 email messages, it is 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 <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Attendance:

Because many activities take place during class time, regular attendance is important. Missed in-class work cannot be made up. If you need to leave class early, please let me know before class begins whenever possible. Repeated early departures without notice may affect your participation grade. Emergencies are, of course, understood.

Devices:

Phones and laptops should be put away during lectures and discussions, unless we are using them for a class activity (polls, worksheets, readings, etc.) or there is an emergency. I often use menti.com for in-class engagement. Off-task device use may impact your participation grade and can be distracting for those around you.

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, and I ask that you afford me and your classmates 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 email account to contact me to avoid having your message blocked by spam filters.
- Always include "SO1000" (with your section – C3) in the subject line, or I may not receive your message.
- Finally, please practice writing emails formally. For example, use a simple greeting, avoid 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 understanding and effort. Submitting work that is primarily generated by AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Gemini, or similar tools) without permission is considered a form of academic misconduct. Your assignments must reflect your own thinking, interpretation, and engagement with the course material. AI tools may be used in limited ways, such as for brainstorming, outlining, or basic grammar checking, but not for generating full answers or analysis. If you use AI in any way, you must clearly acknowledge how it was used in your submission. If you are unsure whether a tool is appropriate, please check with me first.