

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences
COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

SO1000 (EC): 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 10:00-11:00 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): EC – **Asynchronous Online:** No scheduled lectures or meetings. All instruction and interaction occurs online via MyClass. Students are expected to engage weekly and meet assignment deadlines.

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 (8 total)	20%	Short, timed quizzes to check understanding of key concepts and readings. Open book, designed to keep you engaged and on track with each module.
Discussion Forums (4 total)	20%	Post one response and one peer reply. Graded pass/fail based on engagement and appropriate length.
Reflection Papers (3 total)	30%	Three 3–4-page, double-spaced reflections connecting course concepts to your experiences, current events, or media (including an optional film/video reflection). Papers must use APA style.
Final Exam	30%	A comprehensive take-home exam submitted online. The exam covers all course materials: readings, videos, discussions, and activities.
Total	100%	

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:

Module	Theme & Description	Readings	Assignments & Activities
1	<i>Sociological Imagination & Research</i> – Examines connections between personal experiences and wider society	Syllabus Ch. 1–2	Syllabus quiz (ungraded) Intro discussion forum; Module 1 Quiz
2	<i>Culture & Socialization</i> – Examines how norms and values shape social life	Ch. 3 & 5	Discussion forum 1; Module 2 Quiz; Reflection Paper #1
3	<i>Social Structure, Groups & Organizations</i> – Examines how people learn roles and interact with others	Ch. 4 & 6	Module 3 Quiz
4	<i>Deviance, Crime & Social Control</i> – Examines how societies define and respond to deviance	Ch. 8	Discussion forum 2; Reflection Paper #2; Module 4 Quiz
5	<i>Social Inequality</i> – Examines institutions and hierarchies that create inequality	Ch. 9–12	Module 5 Quiz
6	<i>Institutions: Family & Religion</i> – Examines institutions that shape social life and values	Ch. 14–15	Discussion forum 3; Module 6 Quiz
7	<i>Media and Popular Culture</i> – Examines how media shapes society and popular culture through power, identity, and meaning	Ch. 16	Module 7 Quiz
8	<i>Social Change & Urbanization</i> – Examines how cities grow and transform, and how collective action and social movements drive change	Ch. 18 & 20	Discussion forum 4; Reflection Paper #3; Module 8 Quiz; take-home, submitted online

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 <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 - EC) 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.