

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2025

SO3630(A3): The Sociology of Work and Industry – 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: Sociological analysis of the changing nature, content and meaning of work; the diversity of industrial contexts and organizational forms, the underlying economic forces (including global) that shape work and work contexts; and the consequences for individuals and society from Canadian and comparative perspectives.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:

SO1000 - Introductory Sociology (3)

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Adams, T. L. (2022). *Working in Canada: A sociological exploration*. Oxford University Press. Additional readings will be made available for free on myClass.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus and Videoconference (VC).

Note: *Videoconference Student Requirements:* Technology (e.g., webcam, microphone, speakers), Class Participation (e.g., camera on during class, appropriate screen name)

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

- Understand the historical evolution of contemporary work structures

- Become familiar with diverse theoretical frameworks for investigating work
- Employ a sociological standpoint to comprehend the nature of work.
- Apply course content in the context of real-world work situations and everyday life instances

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 %
Active Viewing Assignment (Film)	8 %
Discussion posts	12 %
Company Project (proposal, outline, presentation, and peer feedback)	25 %
Midterm	20 %
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.** 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!

Active Viewing Assignment

We will watch a film this semester related to the topic of inequality. Students will engage in “active viewing,” meaning they will take notes during the film. The film will be shown in class, so students must be present during that time for credit unless you have access to the film at home (although, I highly recommend you attend for discussion purposes). Students will complete a quiz and discussion assignment due the next day. The film will be announced early in the course.

Discussion Posts

Beginning Jan 13, you will engage in weekly discussion posts designed to enhance your understanding of course materials and strengthen critical thinking skills. The class will be divided into two groups based on alphabetical order by last name: one half will respond to a question posed by the instructor, while the other half will reply to their classmates' posts. These roles will alternate each week.

Details about expectations, rubrics, and submission processes will be explained during the first few classes. Posts will be submitted through the myClass platform according to the outlined schedule.

Company Project

You will create a project based on a fictional company, including three main components:

- **Written Proposal (10 points):** Submit a brief description outlining your company concept, its goals, and key project focus areas.
- **Outline or Infographic (20 points):** Present your company's structure, strategies, or relevant sociological aspects through a detailed outline or visually engaging infographic.
- **Presentation (Oral or Recorded) (60 points):** Deliver a presentation summarizing your project. This can be done live or as a pre-recorded video. Additional options can be available, but must be approved by the instructor.

Important Notes:

- If working in groups, the grade will be shared equally among all group members.
- Peer feedback is required and will be awarded **completion credit**.
- Assignment rubrics and detailed instructions will be posted on **myClass**.
- **Class Time Support:** Whenever possible, class time will be allocated for project development. Additional details will be provided during class discussions.

Midterm and Final Exam

Note: There are 2 options for the midterm and the final exam for the course. You may choose your preferred format.

Option A will be a closed-book exam written with the class that will consist of multiple-choice, and short-answer questions.

Option B will be an open-book exam that consists of essay answer questions. These questions must be submitted on myClass by the completion time.

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 CRITERIA:

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

than C-.

Grading Chart

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:

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
Jan 6, 8	Introduction to the course Meet and Greet	Syllabus	
Jan 13, 15	What is work? <i>Workshop for project (Jan 15)</i>	Chapter 1	Discussion posts start
Jan 20, 22	Theoretical Perspectives on Work	Chapter 2	
Jan 27, Jan 29	Historical Trends in Canadian Work	Chapter 3	Company project proposal due Jan 29 at 11:59 pm
Feb 3, 5	The Context of Work: Labour Markets and Organizations	Chapter 4	
Feb 10	Midterm review		
Feb 12	Midterm		
Feb 18- Feb 21	Family Day & Winter Break – No Classes		
Feb 24, 26	Film (active viewing assignment)		Company project outline due Feb 26 at 11:59 pm Film quiz and discussion activity due Mar 3 at 11:59 pm

Mar 3, 5	Occupations: Blue Collar, White Collar, Service and Professional Jobs	Chapter 5	
Mar 10, 12	Skill, Expertise, Knowledge and Education	Chapter 7	
Mar 17, 19	Health, Well-Being and Resistance	Chapter 8	
Mar 24, 26	Occupational Segregation	Chapter 9	Presentations start
Mar 31, Apr 2	Discrimination and harassment	Chapter 10	
Apr 7, 9	Working Across the Life Course Final exam Review/Course Wrap up	Chapter 11	Presentations finish Final exam (TBA)

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.

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: It is very important to complete your assignments on time. Late assignments will be deducted 5% per day (including weekends). Incomplete 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 **in advance of any due date**. Extension requests are granted only well in advance of assignment due dates and with valid reasons.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the Northwestern Polytechnic Calendar at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/programs/calendar/> or the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy which can be found 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.
- Active participation in discussions and assignments is essential for success.
- 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 "SO3630" (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!