

**DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences**

**COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2026**

**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.

|                      |                                               |                |                        |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| <b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>   | Dr. Michael Holland                           | <b>PHONE:</b>  | 780-539-2973           |
| <b>OFFICE:</b>       | C404                                          | <b>E-MAIL:</b> | mholland@nwpolytech.ca |
| <b>OFFICE HOURS:</b> | Mondays, 10:00-11:00 a.m., 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. Grande Prairie Campus, Room D308; Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30–9:50 a.m

**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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In-Class Quizzes (6; best 5)      | 10%         | Six short in-class quizzes assess understanding and application. Formats may include multiple-choice and other question types. The best five grades count.                                                                                                                                 |
| In-Class Sociology Activities     | 15%         | Brief individual and group activities may include discussion, written work, and visual responses. Each is graded out of 2: 2 for complete and meaningful engagement, 1 for partial engagement, and 0 for incomplete or missing work. Twelve activities will be offered; the best 10 count. |
| In-Class Written Applications (2) | 15%         | Two short individual in-class tasks apply sociological concepts to scenarios and social issues (7.5% each).                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Test 1                            | 20%         | An in-person multiple-choice test covering Chapters 1–3, 5, and 8, along with related lectures and activities.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Test 2                            | 20%         | An in-person multiple-choice test covering Chapters 9, 11–12, 14–15, and selected sections from Chapters 16–18, along with related lectures and activities.                                                                                                                                |
| Final Exam                        | 20%         | A comprehensive in-person multiple-choice exam covering all course material, scheduled during the final exam period.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>100%</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

Note: Rubrics will be provided for the in-class written applications and other applicable work on myClass. In-class quizzes, written applications, and some activities will normally be completed and submitted electronically through myClass. Students who do not have access to a suitable device or experience technical difficulties may complete an equivalent paper



version without penalty. AI tools are not permitted during quizzes, tests, examinations, or in-class written applications unless the assessment instructions explicitly state otherwise.

## 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<br>Sept. 2                         | Welcome and Course Introduction     | Welcome, introductions, and syllabus overview; no lecture or reading |
| Week 2<br>Sept. 9<br>(No class Sept. 7)   | Sociological Imagination and Theory | Chapter 1; Activity 1: Sept. 9                                       |
| Week 3<br>Sept. 14 & 16                   | Research and Culture                | Chapters 2-3; Activity 2: Sept. 14; Quiz 1 (in class): Sept. 16      |
| Week 4<br>Sept. 21 & 23                   | Socialization                       | Chapter 5; Activities 3-4: Sept. 21 & 23                             |
| Week 5<br>Sept. 28<br>(No class Sept. 30) | Deviance, Crime, and Social Control | Chapter 8; Activity 5 and Quiz 2 (in class): Sept. 28                |

|                                         |                                              |                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 6<br>Oct. 5 & 7                    | Written Application and<br>Test Review       | Written Application #1<br>(completed in class):<br>Oct. 5; Activity 6 and<br>Test 1 practice/review:<br>Oct. 7 |
| Week 7<br>Oct. 14<br>(No class Oct. 12) | <b>Test 1</b>                                | (Chapters 1-3, 5, and 8;<br>lectures and activities)                                                           |
| Week 8<br>Oct. 19 & 21                  | Social Inequality and<br>Class               | Chapter 9; Activities 7-<br>8: Oct. 19 & 21                                                                    |
| Week 9<br>Oct. 26 & 28                  | Race and Ethnicity                           | Chapter 11; Activity 9:<br>Oct. 26; Quiz 3 (in class):<br>Oct. 28                                              |
| Week 10<br>Nov. 2 & 4                   | Gender, Sex, and<br>Sexuality                | Chapter 12; Activity 10:<br>Nov. 2; Written<br>Application #2<br>(completed in class):<br>Nov. 4               |
| Week 11<br>Nov. 9-13                    | <b>Fall Break - NO CLASSES</b><br>No classes |                                                                                                                |
| Week 12<br>Nov. 16 & 18                 | Institutions: Family and<br>Religion         | Chapters 14-15; Activity<br>11: Nov. 16; Quiz 4 (in<br>class): Nov. 18                                         |
| Week 13<br>Nov. 23 & 25                 | Media, Power, and<br>Social Change           | Chapters 16-18; Activity<br>12: Nov. 23; Quiz 5 (in<br>class): Nov. 25                                         |
| Week 14<br>Nov. 30 & Dec. 2             | <b>Test 2</b>                                | Practice and review:<br>Nov. 30; Test 2: Dec. 2.<br>Chapters 9, 11-12, 14-15,<br>and 16-18                     |
| Week 15<br>Dec. 7 & 9                   | Education and Course<br>Wrap-Up              | Education (lecture<br>materials); Quiz 6<br>(cumulative, in class):<br>Dec. 7; final exam<br>review: Dec. 9    |
| Final Exam Period<br>Dec. 12-19         | <b>Comprehensive Final<br/>Exam</b>          | In-person multiple-<br>choice exam scheduled<br>by the Registrar                                               |



## IMPORTANT DATES:

|            |                                                        |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Sept. 2    | First day of classes                                   |
| Sept. 7    | Labour Day - no classes                                |
| Sept. 30   | National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - no classes |
| Oct. 12    | Thanksgiving - no classes                              |
| Nov. 9-13  | Fall Break - no classes                                |
| Nov. 27    | Last day to withdraw                                   |
| Dec. 9     | Last day of classes                                    |
| Dec. 12-19 | 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:

- Professional communication and meeting deadlines are important skills. Complete your assignments on time!
- Because graded work is completed during class, late submissions are not normally accepted. Missed assessments are addressed under the attendance policy below.
- Incomplete in-class work may receive a grade of 0 unless an approved accommodation or documented exceptional circumstance applies. Please contact me as soon as possible if a serious situation affects your participation.
- If questions arise about the authorship or creation of submitted work, students may be asked to discuss or explain their work. Any academic integrity concerns will be addressed in accordance with NWP's Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy and Academic Misconduct Procedure.

## 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 quizzes, written applications, and many learning activities take place during class time, regular attendance is important. The lowest quiz and two lowest activity grades are excluded to provide flexibility for occasional absences. Missed in-class assessments ordinarily cannot be made up except in accordance with approved accommodations or documented exceptional circumstances. If you need to leave early, please let me know before class whenever possible.

## Devices:

To support attention and meaningful discussion, phones should remain put away during lectures and discussions unless they are required for a class activity or an emergency. Laptops and tablets may be used for course-related notes and materials but should be closed or set aside when requested. Devices may be used for Mentimeter, Google Forms, myClass quizzes, and other learning activities. Approved accommodations will always be respected. Students who do not meaningfully complete an in-class activity may receive an incomplete grade for that activity.

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 - A2) in the subject line to help me respond efficiently.
- 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:

Unless an assessment's instructions state otherwise, you are expected to complete course work using your own understanding and effort. AI tools such as ChatGPT or Gemini may be used only for limited support, including brainstorming, outlining, or basic grammar checking, not to generate full answers or analysis. Submitted work

must reflect your own thinking, interpretation, and engagement with course material. Any AI use must be clearly acknowledged. Submitting primarily AI-generated work without permission may be treated as academic misconduct. If you are unsure whether a use is permitted, ask me first.