

COURSE OUTLINE - Fall 2026

SO2120(A2&VC): The Sociological Imagination - 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. Rashid Begg	PHONE:	780-539-2021
OFFICE:	C203	E-MAIL:	mbegg@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE	By Appointment		
VENUE: D308	TIME: Mon 13:00 & Fri 11:30		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: What is society? How do we study it? An introduction to sociological theorizing. Focuses on the development of society and the study of society as a systematic enterprise.

PREREQUISITE(S):

Complete the following:
SO1000 Introductory Sociology 3

COREQUISITE(S):

None

REQUIRED MATERIALS: Kivisto, Peter J. *Social Theory: Roots and Branches*. 2021. New York: Oxford University Press.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus & Synchronous

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Identify and describe the major theoretical paradigms in sociology, including structural functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, and postmodernism.
2. Recognize the historical and cultural contexts that shaped the development of sociological theories.
3. Analyze and evaluate the strengths and limitations of different sociological theories in explaining social phenomena.
4. Compare and contrast the perspectives of various sociological theorists on key issues, such as social inequality, power, and identity.
5. Apply sociological theories to real-world social issues and problems, such as poverty, racism, and climate change.
6. Identify and challenge dominant ideologies and power structures using sociological theories.
7. Identify and analyze the social structures, institutions, and relationships that shape individual and collective experiences.
8. Develop and apply critical thinking skills to evaluate the social implications of policies, programs, and social interventions.
9. Communicate complex sociological theories and concepts effectively in written and oral forms.
10. Engage in respectful and constructive dialogue with peers and instructors about sociological theories and their applications.

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.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:

Assessment	Total Point	Weight
Reflection papers (*5; 8 pts each)	40 pts	40%
Midterm	25 pts	25%
Final Exam	35 pts	35%
Total	100 pts	100%

Reflection Papers

At the end of each unit, students will complete 5 individual reflections based on the content for each unit (3-4 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 reflections. More specific instructions for these reflections will be given in class on the date on which they are assigned. Students have 2 weeks to finish the reflections, which are to be submitted on myClass before the start of class (see below for schedule of these times). Students must complete all 5 reflections for complete marks.

Midterm and Final Exam

The Midterm and Final Exam will consist of short essay 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 non-cumulative but with an emphasis on 'big picture ideas' covered throughout the semester.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most institutions 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:

Unit and Date	Class Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
CLASSICAL PERIOD 1800 - 1900				
Week 1	Sep 4	Introduction to Course, Meet and Greet. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels Ideas vs Material	Readings: (1) The German Ideology by Karl Marx (with Friedrich Engels) (2) The Civil War in France – Karl Marx	
Week 2	Sep 7 (non-class, Labour Day), Sep 11	Classical Sociological Theory Emile Durkheim, Biography, and writings	Readings: (3) On Mechanical and Organic Solidarity (4) What is a Social Fact? Emile Durkheim	
Week 3	Sep 14, 18	Max Weber, Biography, and writings	Readings: (5) The Spirit of Capitalism (6) The Sociology of Charismatic Authority	Reflection Paper 1 Due
Week 4	Sep 21, 25	Georg Simmel, Biography, and writings	Readings: (7) The Metropolis and Mental Life (8) The Stranger	
Week 5	Sep 28 & Oct 2	W.E.B. Dubois and Thorsten Veblen Biography, and writings	Readings: (9) Of Our Spiritual Strivings – Dubois (10) Conspicuous Consumption – Veblen	Reflection Paper 2 Due

Week 6	Oct 5, 9	Alexis de Tocqueville	Readings: (11) On Individualism by de Tocqueville and Midterm Exam	
CONTEMPORARY PERIOD 1901 - 2024				
Week 7	Oct 12 (non-class day, Thanksgiving), Oct 16	Contemporary Sociological Theories <i>Gender at the intersections</i>	Readings: (12) Subversive Bodily Acts by Judith Butler (13) Femininity and Masculinity by Raewyn Connell	
Week 8	Oct 19, 23	<i>Globalization and Global Inequality</i>	Readings: (14) Mapping the Global Condition by Roland Robertson (15) The Three Instances of Hegemony in The History of the Capitalist World-Economy by Immanuel Wallerstein	Reflection Paper 3 Due
Week 9	Oct 26, 30	<i>French Critical Theory</i>	Readings: (16) Panopticism by Michel Foucault (17) Structure and Habitus by Pierre Bourdieu	

Week 10	Nov 2, 6	<i>Modernity</i>	Readings: (18) Shame and Repugnance by Norbert Elias (19) Redistribution by Bruno Latour	Reflection Paper 4 Due
Week 11	Nov 9-13	Fall Break		
Week 12	Nov 16, 20	<i>Critical Theory</i>	Readings: (20) Disjunction and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy by Arjun Appadurai (21) Three Normative Models of Democracy by Jürgen Habermas	
Week 13	Nov 23, 27	<i>Race Ethnicity and Nationalism</i>	Readings: (22) The Theoretical Status of the Concept of Race by Michael Omi and Howard Winant (23) Ethnicity without Groups by Rogers Brubaker	Reflection Paper 5 Due

Week 14	Nov 30 & Dec 4	<i>Connecting the two centuries</i>	Readings: (23) Politics as Vocation by Max Weber (posted online) Listen, Yankee: The Revolution in Cuba by C. Wright Mills	
Week 15	Dec 7	<i>Revision</i>		

Important Dates

September 2 – First day of classes
 September 7 – Labour Day
 September 30 – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
 October 12 – Thanksgiving
 November 9-13 – Fall Break
 November 27 – Last day to withdraw
 December 9 – Last day of classes

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

VC Student Requirements

Technology	A stable internet connection sufficient to meet the class requirements. Webcam, microphone, speakers.
Class Participation	Camera on and showing your face during class. An appropriate screen name.
Test/Exam Supervision These are requirements essential to maintaining the academic integrity of	Dual camera setup. During the exams you must have a webcam showing your face and a camera behind you showing your work surface with your computer.



the course. The dual camera option is available to VC students only

If you are unable to meet the dual camera setup requirement VC students can pay to write the exams at an independent proctor location approved by me. Note: the proctor cannot be a friend/family member, etc.

If neither of the above two options work for you, another option is to come to the NWP campus in person and write the exams with the other students during the scheduled time.

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:

- 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.
- Note: extensions will be given only when students notify the instructor prior to the deadline and present valid evidence excusing lateness.

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

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