



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2021

SO1000 (N2): INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Grande Prairie Regional College respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 8 territory, the traditional homeland and gathering place for many diverse Indigenous peoples. We are honoured to be on the ancestral lands of the Cree, Dene/Beaver and Métis, whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work, learn, and live on this land.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Michael Holland **PHONE:** 780-539-2973
OFFICE: C-404 **E-MAIL:** mholland@gprc.ab.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays (1-2 PM); Wednesdays (11:30-12:30 PM), or by appointment.
Zoom office hours available: <https://gprc.zoom.us/j/9996329885>

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:

Cumming, S. (2020). Sociology Unlocked. Oxford University Press

DELIVERY MODE(S): lectures, class discussion, group work, class presentations, written tests, written projects

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will:

- Be shown how to apply the theories and methodologies of sociology as a science, and how it relates to people's individual lives
- Be introduced to essential sociological concepts, perspectives, and historical foundations
- Be provided with strong foundational knowledge in preparation for further studies in sociology
- Be familiarized with the key sociological concepts, theories, and debates in present society.
- Encouraged to develop essential skills in critical thinking, writing, referencing and research.

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

- Know how to think sociologically
- Gain a basic understanding of how to critically evaluate conventional wisdom using a "sociological imagination"

- Develop an ability to explain social patterns, trends, problems, and collective behaviour from a sociological perspective.
- Understand the major sociological perspectives and the methods sociologists use to perform their work.
- Differentiate between macro and micro-level analyses and the purpose of such types of analyses
- Recognize and apply the appropriate sociological terms, concepts, and definitions
- Apply and incorporate relevant sociological explanations of social issues and institutions

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 and transferable grades.

EVALUATIONS:

Assessment	Total Point Value	Weight
10 Chapter Quizzes (10 pts each *10)	100 pts	10 %
4 Unit Reflections (10 pts each*4)	40 pts	7.5 %
In class activities (10 pts each *4)	40 pts	7.5 %
Research Paper Assignment <i>Field notes/thesis/research problem (5 pts; 2.5 %)</i> <i>Outline (20 pts; 7.5 %)</i> <i>Final paper (50 pts; 15%)</i>	75 pts	25 %
1 Midterm	60 pts	20 %
Final Exam	80 pts	30 %
Total	395 pts	100 %

Chapter Quizzes (10 quizzes at 10 points each for 100 points total)

Beginning week 2, you will complete chapter quizzes on our course webpage (MyClass). There will be 10 questions (combination on multiple choice and true and false questions). These quizzes serve to encourage that you consistently read the chapters and to test your knowledge as we move forward in the course. Beginning the second week of the class (See below), quizzes will open on Monday at 12:00 AM and close the following Sunday at 11:59 PM. It is your responsibility to ensure that you complete these quizzes on time. No exceptions will be made for lateness.

Unit Reflections (4 reflection papers at 10 points each for 40 points total)

At the end of each unit, you will write a 1-2 page reflection about what you learned, your general impression of the unit (enjoyed, criticisms), and at least one question to generate discussion for class. Unit reflections are based on the material (class lectures, readings, videos, discussions, etc.).

In Class Activities (groupwork, submit 4 reflection papers, 10 points each, worth 40 points total)
Throughout the semester, there will be in-class activities based on a given topic. Working in groups of 3-4, you will need to submit only 4 reflection papers based on the activity. All members of the group will share the grade for the activity.

Research Paper Assignment (consists of 3 parts, worth a total of 75 points)

You will complete a full research paper based on data you collect from a simple *Bus Trip to the Prairie Mall*. The research paper will be broken down in steps. First, you will **take a bus trip to the mall** (proof of bus trip needed!) to collect original data and **produce field notes and evidence about the trip**. You will then come up with a **research topic (based on the trip)**, **write a research problem statement, and then write a working thesis or argument**. Note: you may travel with a group or friend to the mall but submit individual work.

This first project will be evaluated and must be approved by the instructor before moving onto the **outline assignment**. The outline assignment consists of locating peer-reviewed, academic resources, and then organizing research into a logical essay in which you paraphrase research and utilize proper citations (APA 7th edition citation style). You will incorporate your data (i.e., fieldnotes) that you collected on your trip. Finally, you will complete a **full research paper** that consists of full sentences, paragraphs, and a complete title page and reference page. All of these assignments have strict due dates. **You must complete each part of these assignments in order before moving on to the next.**

Midterm (60 points total)

The midterm (20% of course grade) will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. There will be a brief review the class before the midterm. The midterm will test your knowledge and application of concepts, theories, and perspectives on the course material (textbook, journal articles, classroom discussions, and video clips) up until the midterm.

Final Exam (80 points total)

The Final Examination (30% of course grade) will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. Like the midterm, there will be a brief review before the final exam. The final exam is non-cumulative but the emphasis will be on ‘big picture’ themes and concepts. The final exam will be based on all course material (textbook, journal articles, classroom discussions, and video clips).

GRADING CRITERIA:

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

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		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	0-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Unit and Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
1: Foundations of Sociology				
Sept 7	Introduction to course: Thinking Sociologically	Course syllabus Chapter 1	Course syllabus Quiz (ungraded)	Sept 7
Sept 14	Sociological theories Library Research Workshop	Chapter 2	Class Activity 1 Quiz 1 opens (Monday, 12 AM)	Quiz 1 due Sunday 11:59 pm
Sept 21	Sociological methods Discuss Research Project	Chapter 2	Quiz 2 opens (Monday, 12 AM)	Quiz 2 due Sunday 11:59 pm
2: Culture and Socialization				
Sept 28	Culture, Deviance and Crime	Chapter 3 & 10	Class Activity 2 Quiz 3 Opens (Monday, 12 AM)	Unit 1 Reflection Paper Due Sept 28 Quiz 3 due Sunday 11:59 pm
Oct 5	Socialization and Social Interaction	Chapter 4 & 5	Quiz 4 Opens (Monday, 12 AM)	Research Project (Step 1) Due Oct 5 Quiz 4 due Sunday 11:59 pm
Oct 12	Fall Break (No Classes)			
Oct 19	Families + Midterm Review	Chapter 8	Quiz 5 Opens (Monday, 12 AM)	Quiz 5 Due Sunday 11:59 pm
Oct 26	Midterm (in class) Discuss Research project			Unit 2 Reflection Paper Due Oct 26
3: Inequality and Social Stratification				
Nov 2	Wealth and Class Inequality	Chapter 6	Class Activity 3 Quiz 6 Opens (Monday, 12 AM)	Quiz 6 due Sunday 11:59 pm

Nov 9	Gender, Race and Ethnicity	Chapter 7 + 9	Quiz 7 Opens (Monday, 12 AM)	Research Paper Outline (Step 2) Due Nov 9 Quiz 7 due Sunday 11:59 pm
Nov 16	Health and Environment	Chapter 11 + 12	Quiz 8 Opens (Monday, 12 AM)	Quiz 8 due Sunday 11:59 pm
4: Institutions and Organizations				
Nov 23	Education		Class Activity 4 Quiz 9 Opens (Monday, 12 AM)	Unit 3 Reflection Paper Due Nov 23 Quiz 9 due Sunday 11:59 pm
Nov 30	Media	No readings	Class Activity 5 Quiz 10 Opens (Monday, 12 AM)	Quiz 10 due Sunday 11:59 pm
Dec 7 (Last class)	Final Review			Unit 4 Reflection Paper & Final Paper Due Dec 7
Final Exam		All course notes, chapters, videos, discussions, after midterm	Final Exam Scheduled by the Registrar Office	

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 1 — First Day of Classes

Sept 6 — Labour Day – No classes

Oct 11 — Thanksgiving No classes

Oct 12-15 — Fall Break – No classes

Nov 11 — Remembrance Day No classes

Nov 26 — Last day to withdraw from courses in most programs with a grade of “W”

Dec 9 — Last day of classes

Dec 11 — Finals start

Dec 20 — Finals end

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

PLEASE NOTE:

In order to fair to everyone in this course, **I will not alter the evaluation**, so any missed testing or assignments will not be accommodated. If at any point in the semester you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your course work, 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 own grades: Please do not contact the professor for such information.**

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. To be successful in this course, complete your assignments on time!
- Late assignments will be deducted 5 % per 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**.

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 College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

Additional Information:

Professional Conduct:

- Please be aware that I respect that everyone's time is precious and valuable, please afford me the same courtesy.
- Instead of preoccupying your mind with questions such as, "how do I get an 'A'?" Instead, ask yourself, "how can I work to expand my knowledge, perspective, and outlook on the real world?"

- Please only use your **GPRC e-mail account** to avoid having your message blocked by SPAM filters.
- Always include “SO1000” (with your section, N2) 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 on a regular basis upon graduation. For example, use a simple greeting, do not use slang or abbreviations, and always sign off with your name!