



**Sociology 1301 (331 I2 and 021 I2)
Introduction to Sociology
Fall 2024
Online Course**

Instructor: Will Bryerton, Ph.D.
wbryerton@com.edu | 409.933.8954 (office)

Instructor Access, Student Hours, and Location

Your success in this class is important to me and I am happy to answer questions and offer guidance toward your improved performance in the course. The best way to contact me is via e-mail at wbryerton@com.edu. Generally speaking, you can expect a response from me within a few hours as long as your e-mail is sent during standard business hours (9 am - 5 pm on weekdays). E-mails sent outside of these hours will still be tended to but may result in a longer response time.

My student hours (also known as “office hours”) for this class are from 9:30 until 10:30 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays in room A-223 of the Learning Resource Center. If you’d like to meet at a time outside of these hours or virtually, please send an e-mail stating when you would like to meet. If there is an urgent concern, you may call or text me at (847) 525-2283.

Textbook

The textbook for this class is *Introduction to Sociology, 3e*, an open educational resource (OER) published by OpenStax of Rice University. A full-text version is available free of charge at <https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e> and can be downloaded in multiple formats.

Other instructional materials such as notes, articles, and video clips will be accessible on D2L Brightspace (com.brightspace.com).

Course Description

This class examines the scientific study of human society, including ways in which groups, social institutions, and individuals affect each other. Causes of social stability and social change are explored through the application of various theoretical perspectives, key concepts, and related research methods of sociology. Analysis of social issues in their institutional context may include topics such as social stratification, gender, race/ ethnicity, and deviance.

Course Requirements

- **Response Papers:** Students will write two papers, each in response to a prompt about material covered in the preceding weeks. Papers will consist of five-to-seven paragraphs, approximately 3-pages altogether in length (1.5- or double-spaced).
- **Weekly Quizzes:** Students will take seven quizzes that assess comprehension of material from the previous week. Students may use their notes and course materials during the quizzes. The quizzes are comprised almost entirely of multiple-choice questions, although true-or-false and matching questions may appear as well.

*** Further details, instructions, and due dates for each of these requirements can be found in the Start Here module in D2L Brightspace at com.brightspace.com

Determination of Course Grade / Grading Formula

Response Papers: 30 points (2 papers accounting for 15 points apiece)

Quizzes: 70 points (7 quizzes, each worth 10 points)

Maximum overall point value: 100

A = 90-100; B = 80-89.9; C = 70-79.9; D = 60-69.9; F = 0-59.9

Course Learning Outcomes

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via...
1. Compare and contrast the basic theoretical perspectives of sociology	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Response Paper 1, Quiz 1
2. Identify the various methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data in sociology	Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)	Quiz 6 and 7
3. Describe key concepts in sociology	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	All response papers and quizzes
4. Describe the empirical findings in various subfields in sociology	Communication Skills (CS) and Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)	All response papers and quizzes
5. Explain the complex links between individual experiences and broader institutional forces	Social Responsibility (SR)	All response papers and quizzes
6. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a SOCI 1301-related topic through written communication	Communication Skills (CS) (Writing)	Response Paper 1 and Response Paper 2

Course Calendar

Week 1: Start Here Module, An Introduction to Sociology, and Culture

Week 2: Socialization and Deviance

Week 3: Social Structure and Media

Week 4: Social Stratification

Week 5: Race and Ethnicity

Week 6: Gender and Sexuality; Marriage and Family

Week 7: Education, Research Methods, and Religion

Week 8: Government and Politics; Health and Medicine; Environmental Sociology

***Due dates for response papers and quizzes, as well as corresponding lecture clips and articles for each week are presented in D2L Brightspace (in the “Content” tab, which is organized by each week above).

Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus and course calendar during the course. Should any modifications be made, the instructor will notify students in writing (via an announcement in D2L Brightspace) of the changes.

Late Work and Make-Ups

Late Response Papers

Students who do not submit a response paper by the deadline (posted in D2L Brightspace) can submit it late for a 50% reduction in points. A *Complete with Deficiencies* paper, for instance, will receive 5 points instead of 10. A *Complete* paper will receive 7.5 points instead of 15. An *Incomplete* paper will receive 2.5 points instead of 5. The last day to submit any late papers (to receive 50% credit) is Monday, December 2.

Quiz Make-Ups

Quizzes should be completed by the deadline (always 11:59 pm on a Sunday). Late quizzes can be taken for 50% of the points earned on the quiz (e.g., an 8.5 / 10 on a quiz taken after the due date will be recorded as 4.25 / 10). The last day to take late quizzes is Monday, December 2.

Early Submissions

The submission of an assignment is an indication to the instructor that the assignment is ready to be graded. Assignments that are submitted and graded before the due date are not eligible to be resubmitted and/or revised for a higher grade. If you have questions about an assignment, please communicate with the instructor prior to submitting the assignment.

Communicating with your instructor

All electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class

through other electronic means. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via D2L Brightspace.)

The Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

Since this course intends to cultivate writing, critical thinking, and analytical skills, all assignments that require writing should be prepared by the student. Students should not have another person or entity do the writing of any substantive portion of an assignment for them; this includes hiring a person or company to write assignments and using artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT. Doing so is not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism (see “Academic Dishonesty” below).

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating on a test / quiz, plagiarizing, stealing or dishonestly accessing the instructor’s materials, and colluding with other students. If you engage in any form of academic dishonesty, disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the COM Student Handbook and Office of Student Conduct. Plagiarism, at a minimum, will result in a 0 on the plagiarized assignment.

Student Concerns

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please do not hesitate to contact me using the contact information on the first page. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions or believe that I have not addressed the matter fairly, please contact Dr. Shinya Wakao, the Social & Behavioral Sciences Department Chair, at 409.933.8107 and swakao@com.edu.

Incomplete Grades (The “I” Grade)

The Incomplete Grade (“I”) is a temporary grade given when a student has experienced unforeseen circumstances beyond the student’s control which results in the student being unable to successfully complete the course within the timeframe of the semester.

Per the COM Course Catalog, an “I” may be assigned only when the following conditions are met:

1. No more than 25% of the points possible in the class are still outstanding.
2. The student is passing the course with a 70% or better.

Exceptions to these circumstances can be made at the discretion of the appropriate instructional dean.

It is the responsibility of the student to request an incomplete grade. If these conditions are met, I will draft an “I Contract Form” to be signed by the student, the instructor (me), the department chair, and the Dean. This form will specify (a) the course requirements (assignments) that must be completed and (b) a due date. On (or before) the specified due date, the student must submit the assignments listed in the contract for the incomplete grade (“I”) to be changed to a permanent grade of A, B, C, D, or F. If the student does not submit the required assignments by the specified due date, the student will receive a permanent grade consistent with the points the student has earned in the course (See “Determination of Course Grade,” p. 2).

Speaking frankly, incomplete grades are not common in my classes. I understand why they are sometimes necessary and I will grant requests for them when the conditions outlined above are met. However, I've found that doing work on time and maintaining communication with me when you encounter difficulties can resolve most of the problems that give rise to requests for incomplete grades.

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2024-2025_v2.pdf. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is October 2. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 15. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 26.

FN Grading: The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

Resources to Help with Stress:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at deanofstudents@com.edu or communityresources@com.edu.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.