



Sociology 1301.121 C2
Introduction to Sociology
Spring 2025
Class Meetings: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays
9:30 – 10:50 am
Learning Resource Center, Rm. 255

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 1:00 to 2:30 pm on Mondays and from 11 am until noon on Wednesdays 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).
- Midterm and Final Exam: Students will take a midterm and final exam, both in-person. The exams are cumulative in nature, meaning that any material previously covered in the course prior to the exam can appear on the exam. Exams are comprised almost entirely of multiple-choice questions, though some true-or-false and matching questions may also appear.

*** 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: 50 points (2 papers accounting for 25 points apiece)

Exams: 50 points (A midterm and final exam, each worth 25 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, Midterm and Final Exams |
| 2. Identify the various methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data in sociology | Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS) | Final Exam |
| 3. Describe key concepts in sociology | Critical Thinking Skills (CT) | All response papers and exams |
| 4. Describe the empirical findings in various subfields in sociology | Communication Skills (CS) and Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS) | All response papers and exams |
| 5. Explain the complex links between individual experiences and broader institutional forces | Social Responsibility (SR) | All response papers and exams |
| 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, Mar. 10 - 13: An Introduction to Sociology (Ch. 1 and Ch. 4) & Culture (Ch. 3)

Week 2, Mar. 24 - 27: Culture (Ch. 3) & Socialization (Ch. 5)

Week 3, Mar. 31 - April 3: Socialization (Ch. 5) & Deviance, Crime, and Social Control (Ch. 7)

Work on Response Paper, due on Tuesday, April 8

Week 4, Apr. 7 - 10: Deviance, Crime, and Social Control (Ch. 7) & Social Structure (Ch. 6)

Prepare for Midterm, taken in-class on Tuesday, Apr. 15

Week 5, Apr. 14 - 17: Social Structure (Ch. 6) and Social Stratification (Ch. 8)

Week 6, Apr. 21 - 24: Social Stratification (Ch. 8) & Gender, Sex, and Sexuality (Ch. 12)

Work on Response Paper, due on Tuesday, Apr. 29

Week 7, Apr. 28 - May 1: Relationships, Marriage, and Family (Ch. 14). Race and Ethnicity (Ch. 11), & Education (Ch. 16)

Week 8, May 5 - 8: Work & The Economy (Ch. 18)

Final Exam taken in-class on Tuesday, May 6

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.

Attendance Policy

Although students do not earn points for attending or lose points for not attending, the instructor will keep a record of student attendance and students are expected to attend class regularly. Students are responsible for material covered during their absences, and it is the student's responsibility to consult with the instructor or another student regarding material that was presented when the student was not present. If a student does not attend two or more class meetings, the instructor reserves the right to withhold (i.e., not share) lecture notes from the missed classes. Students who have not attended class before the Census Date will be dropped from the course. This is a hybrid class (combining face-to-face and online learning) and though most important announcements will be communicated in the classroom, I recommend logging-in to D2L Brightspace and entering the course daily (at least on weekdays) to check announcements and view upcoming due dates. For information about withdrawing from the class, please see the Withdraw Policy (p. 6).

Late Work and Make-Ups

Late Response Papers

Students who do not submit a response paper by the deadline (posted above in the Course Calendar as well as in D2L Brightspace) can submit it late for a 50% reduction in points. A *Complete with Deficiencies* paper, for instance, will receive 8.5 points instead of 17. A *Complete* paper will receive 12.5 points instead of 25. An *Incomplete* paper will receive 5 points instead of 10. The last day to submit any late papers (to receive 50% credit) is Friday, May 2.

Exam Make-Ups

If a student knows in advance that he/she/they will not be able to take an exam, the student should notify the instructor via e-mail to schedule an alternative testing time. If a student is not present for an exam and has not arranged an alternative testing time with the instructor, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and request a make-up. "Make-ups" for missed exams will be allowed only if there is an unforeseen circumstance beyond the student's control that prevented the student from taking the exam. The instructor reserves the right to grant or deny requests to make-up the missed exam.

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_v6.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 February 26. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 21. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is April 30.

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.