



**Sociology 1301.050 IN**  
**Introduction to Sociology**  
**Spring 2024**  
**Online Course**

**Instructor:** Will Bryerton, Ph.D.  
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**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](mailto: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.

If you would like to meet with me, I am happy to meet virtually or face-to-face at the College of the Mainland campus. Just send me an e-mail saying when you would like to meet and I will let you know if that will work. If not, we'll arrange another meeting time.

**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](http://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**

- Discussion board posts: 10 in total, worth 5 points apiece for 50 points.
- Weekly quizzes: 3 in total, worth 10 points apiece for 30 points.
- Reflection paper: Worth 20 Points, due Wednesday, May 29

\*\* Please go to “Start Here: Read This First” in D2L Brightspace and read “How This Class Works” for further information about these requirements, including grading criteria, late submission policies, and instructions.

**Determination of Course Grade / Grading Formula**

Maximum overall point value: 100

(50 points from 10 discussion boards, 30 points from 3 quizzes, and 20 points from the reflection paper)

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

**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 Submissions**

A quiz completed after its deadline will incur a 50% reduction of the score on the quiz (i.e., a 7/10 will count as 3.5/10). Discussion boards have end dates after which students will not be able to post, so discussion posts must be submitted by the due date in order to receive any credit. The reflection paper, due Wednesday, May 29, will incur a 50% point reduction if submitted any time on Thursday, May 30 or up to noon CST on Friday, May 31 (e.g., if you submit the paper on Thursday and score 16/20, your grade will be 8/20). Papers received after noon CST on Friday, May 31 will not be graded.

**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.)

**Course Learning Outcomes**

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via...</b>
1. Compare and contrast the basic theoretical perspectives of sociology	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Week 1 Quiz; Applying Sociological Perspectives discussion post
2. Identify the various methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data in sociology	Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)	Week 3 Quiz; Research Methods discussion post
3. Describe key concepts in sociology	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	All quizzes, discussion posts, and the reflection paper

4. Describe the empirical findings in various subfields in sociology	Communication Skills (CS) and Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)	All quizzes, discussion posts, and the reflection paper
5. Explain the complex links between individual experiences and broader institutional forces	Social Responsibility (SR)	All quizzes, discussion posts, and the reflection paper
6. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a SOCI 1301-related topic through written communication	Communication Skills (CS) (Writing)	All discussion posts and the reflection paper

### **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](mailto:swakao@com.edu).

### **Course Outline**

#### **Week 1**

Tuesday, May 14: Verify participation before Census Day (in Start Here module) by 1:00 pm;  
 "Applying Sociological Theories" Discussion Post  
 Wednesday, May 15: "Cultural Diffusion" Discussion Post  
 Friday, May 17: "The Education of Omarina" Discussion Post  
 Sunday, May 19: Week 1 Quiz

#### **Week 2**

Monday, May 20: "Deviance Review" Discussion Post  
 Tuesday, May 21: "The Power of Social Networks" Discussion Post

Thursday, May 23: "Trends in American Stratification, 1970 to Present" Discussion Post

Friday, May 24: "Institutional Discrimination" Discussion Post

Sunday, May 26: Week 2 Quiz

### Week 3

Monday, May 27: "Marriage, Family, Divorce, and Emotional Labor" Discussion Post

Tuesday, May 28: "College Dropout and Social Class" Discussion Post

Wednesday, May 29: **Reflection Paper** and "Research Methods / Religion" Discussion Post

Thursday, May 30: Week 3 Quiz

### **Incomplete Grades (The “I” Grade)**

The instructor has the right to grant or deny students’ requests to take an incomplete grade at the end of the semester. I will grant requests to take an incomplete if the student making the request satisfies the following two conditions: (1) The student has submitted all discussion posts and taken all quizzes on time throughout the first 2 weeks of class (through Sunday, May 26), and (2) the student experiences a documented emergency or an unforeseen-and-unpreventable circumstance that impedes the completion of the course. If both conditions are satisfied, I will draft an “Incomplete Contract” for the student to sign that specifies the work that the student must do and the due date for this work. At this due date, the incomplete grade (“I”) will be changed to an A, B, C, D, or F. If the two conditions above are not satisfied but a student feels that his/her/their circumstances warrant an incomplete, please e-mail the instructor with an explanation of these circumstances.

Speaking frankly, incomplete grades are not commonly issued in my classes. I understand why they are sometimes necessary and I am happy grant requests for them when the two conditions outlined above are met. However, I’ve found that doing work on time and maintaining communication with the instructor when you encounter difficulties can resolve most of the problems that lead to requests for incomplete grades.

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### **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\\_2023-2024\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_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 at 409-933-8919 or [klachney@com.edu](mailto:klachney@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the 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 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is February 28. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 22. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is May 1. The last date to withdraw for spring mini session is May 29.

**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](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).