

**DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences**

**COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2024**

**SO2120(A3): 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.

<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Dr. Rashid Begg	<b>PHONE:</b>	780-539-2021
<b>OFFICE:</b>	C203	<b>E-MAIL:</b>	mbegg@nwpolytech.ca
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	By e-mail appointment		
<b>CLASS TIMES:</b>	Tue & Thursday: 10:00 – 11:20		

**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)/COREQUISITE:** Completed the following:

**SO1000 - Introductory Sociology (3)**

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

Sociological Imagination SO2120(A3) (VC) - Corrigan-Brown, Catherine. *Imagining Sociology - An Introduction with Readings*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2023. E-Book.

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** On-Campus

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Knowledge of the variety of paradigms or schools of sociological theory; familiarity with classical sociological and contemporary theory.

To apply sociological theory and the sociological imagination to modern-day social phenomena.  
To be able to link social theory to other academic and non-academic pursuits.

### **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.**

### **EVALUATIONS:**

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

### **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 cumulative but with an emphasis on 'big picture ideas' covered throughout the semester.

### **GRADING CRITERIA:**

Please note that most universities 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
Week 1	Jan 9, 11	Introduction to Course, Meet and Greet. Intro to Sociological Theory <i>Chapter 1</i>	Reading from The Sociological Imagination by C. Wright Mills	
Week 2	Jan 16, 18	Classical Sociological Theory Emile Durkheim, Biography, and writings	Readings: (1) "Review of Albert Schaeffle, <i>Bau und Leben des Sozialen Körpers: Erster Band</i> " (2) On Mechanical and Organic Solidarity	
Week 3	Jan 23, 25	Karl Marx, Biography, and writings	Readings: (1) Manifesto of the Communist Party (2) The Civil War in France	Reflection Paper 1 Due
Week 4	Jan 30, Feb 01	Max Weber, Biography, and writings	Readings: (1) The Spirit of Capitalism, (2) The Sociology of Charismatic Authority (readings on MyClass)	
Week 5	Feb 6, 8	Georg Simmel Biography, and writings	Readings: (1) The Stranger (2) The Metropolis and Mental Life (readings on MyClass)	Reflection Paper 2 Due
Week 6	Feb 13	W.E.B. Dubois	Reading: Of Our Spiritual Strivings	
Week 6	Feb 15	Midterm Exam		
Week 7	Feb 19 - 23	Winter Break		

Week 8	Feb 27 & Feb 29	Contemporary Sociological Theories <i>Gender at the intersections</i> Chapter 7	Readings: (1) Subversive Bodily Acts by Judith Butler (2) Femininity and Masculinity by Raewyn Connell Chapter 7 Text	
Week 9	Mar 5, 7	<i>Globalization and Global Inequality</i> Chapter 5	Readings: (1) Mapping the Global Condition by Roland Robertson (2) The Three Instances of Hegemony in The History of the Capitalist World-Economy by Immanuel Wallerstein	Reflection Paper 3 Due
Week 10	Mar 12, 14	<i>Deviance Law and Crime</i> Chapter 3	Readings: (1) Panopticism by Michel Foucault (2) “On Being sane in Insane Places” by D.L. Rosenhan	
Week 11	Mar 19, 21	<i>The Media</i> Chapter 8	Readings: (1) The Power Elite by C Wright Mills (2) Smartphone and Social Media Addiction by Adorjan and Ricciardelli	Reflection Paper 4 Due
Week 12	Mar 26, 28	<i>Critical Theory</i>	Readings: (1) Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction by Walter Benjamin (2) Three Normative Models of Democracy by Jürgen Habermas	
Week 13	April 2, 4	<i>State, Economy, and Civil Society</i>	Readings: (1) War Making and State Making as Organized Crime by Charles Tilly (2) How Will Capitalism End? By Wolfgang Streeck	Reflection Paper 5 Due
Week 14	April 9, 11	<i>Comparison and Revision</i>		

**OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:**

Jan 8 – Classes Start

Jan 17 – Last Day to Add/Drop classes.

**Feb 19 – Family Day**

**Feb 20 - 23 – Reading Week, No classes.**

**March 29 – Good Friday**

**Apr 1 – last Day to Withdraw**

**Apr 15 – Last day of classes**

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**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 Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

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