

Introduction to Sociology

Fall 2025

Wednesday Synchronous Face to face or Zoom

Mondays Assignments Due

Instructor: Karen Branden

Department: Sociology and Criminal Justice

Cell: 701-388-7737 I accept texts

Office: Lommen Hall 212Q

Email: branden@mnstate.edu

Office Hours: My online office hours: Tuesdays 9-11; Wednesdays 9-12; Thursday 9-2 (via zoom). Make sure you make an appointment with me via email or text. I am often booked and making an appointment assures you I will be available.

Karen Branden's Personal Meeting Room <https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/8480927107> **Meeting ID:** 848 092 7107 **Passcode:** equity
(Join by SIP 8480927107@zoomcrc.com or Join by H.323 Meeting ID: 848 092 7107 Passcode: 518534)

Class time: Online Synchronous or face-to-face. You are required to meet (whether face-to-face or via zoom) on Wednesday. Mondays your assignments are due.

Course Description: Introduces the sociological approach to understanding the structure and dynamics of society. The course focuses on socialization, organization, social inequality, institutions, and social change. MnTC Goal 5. Credit hours: 3 Prerequisites: None

Course Objectives: As a result of completing this course students will:

1. understand sociology as a disciplined way of studying society.
2. learn the concepts and theories of sociology.
3. engage in sociological ideas and methods.
4. be required to use sociological data to explore the reality of society and to strip away the myths surrounding human behavior.
5. Be expected to critically analyze society and seek understanding.

Class Agreements: We will develop our class agreements during the first couple days of class. This will include how we should behave in class/on zoom and what topics you would like covered.

Required Textbook/Readings: You are responsible for reading the assigned material before coming to class. The required text is Introduction to Sociology 2e <https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-2e> . You can access the text through the previous link. The text will also be provided on the D2L course page under Materials and Content.

Power points and additional materials will be provided within the course site in D2L under the Materials link and then Content. Please note that ***all instructional materials*** (readings, videos, etc.) assigned in this course are ***required*** unless specifically indicated as optional.

Evaluation & Assignments: Your grade for the course will be calculated based on the total points that you have accumulated out of the percentage of possible points.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	A	B	C	D	F
Percentage	90-100%	80-89.9%	70-79.9%	60-69.9%	59.9% and below
Points	380-342	341-304	303-266	265-228	227 and below

Assignments

Assignments	Points	Due Date of Assignment
Chapter Quizzes (7) throughout the semester <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Syllabus Text Quiz 2. Research 3. Culture is the Boss of You 4. Socialized but not for a Pandemic 5. Social Control: The Secret Within 6. What Treaty? 7. Sex: You're Doing it Wrong 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Syllabus Text Quiz 2. Research 3. Culture is the Boss of You 4. Socialized but not for a Pandemic 5. Social Control: The Secret Within 6. What Treaty? 7. Sex: You're Doing it Wrong <p style="text-align: center;">20 points each X 7 = 140 points</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Due September 2nd by Midnight 2. In Class September 10th 3. Due September 22nd by Midnight 4. Due Oct by Midnight 5. Due October by Midnight 6. Due November 14th by Midnight 7. Due November 19th in Class as Activity
Section Quizzes (called Quizzes in D2L) These are really your exams.	100 points each X 2 = 200 points	Section One Quiz due October 17 th by Midnight Section Quiz Two due date to be discussed
Total Possible Points:	340 Points	

Explanation of Assignments: You must check the syllabus every week to see due dates or any changes made to the course schedule. All assignments, section quizzes/weekly quizzes, and readings must be completed when the due date is indicated on the syllabus or indicated during class lecture. Do not hesitate to contact me any time if you need an extension for any reason.

Section Quizzes: There will be two (2) section quizzes. All Section Quizzes will be worth 100 points. Section Quizzes can be accessed under Materials and Content for you to complete before you fill out the answers under Assessment and then Quizzes. The due dates for Section Quizzes are on the syllabus. These are basically exams.

Chapter Quizzes: There will be seven (7) chapter quizzes during the semester. These will typically be due on Mondays. These are available for you to complete under Assessments and then Quizzes on the D2L course page. Each weekly Quiz is worth 20 points.

Class participation/Group Discussion: (4) This is one way I keep track of attendance. Randomly throughout the semester we will have zoom break out rooms. You will do group work (unless you decide to work individually). Each group discussion is worth 20 points.

Extra Credit: There will be opportunities to earn extra credit during the semester. Extra credit opportunities will also be presented during class time. If you are participating in an activity or have an extra credit idea, please let me know so we can offer it to the entire class.

September 10th Class	Basic Features of Sociology and Research Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will have a class discussion on chapters One and Two of the text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Two Power Point slides can be found on the D2L site under Materials and then Content.
September 15th Quiz #2 Review	Quiz #2 Research Quiz to be done in class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access quiz under materials and content. Review the Quiz for class on September 17th. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quiz is available under Materials and Content to review. To complete the quiz you must access it under Assessment, Quizzes and "Research and Fallacy: How to Spot BS."
September 17th Class	Finish Research and discuss Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will go over the Research quiz and complete our discussion of chapter two "Sociological Research". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Three Power Point slides can be found on the D2L site under Materials and then Content.
September 22nd Read	Read Chapter Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Chapter three for discussion on September 24th. 	
September 24th Class	Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will discuss culture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Three of the text and power points.
September 29th	Quiz #3 Due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the quiz "Culture is the Boss of You" Read chapters four and five and be ready to discuss at October 1st zoom class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quiz is available under Materials and Content to review. To complete the quiz you must access it under Assessment, Quizzes and "Culture is the Boss of You."
October 1st Class	Continue Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will continue to discuss culture. 	

October 6th Read	Read	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters Four and Five • Read Chapters Four and Five for discussion October 8th. 	
October 8th Class October 13th Quiz #4 Due	Socialization Quiz #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will discuss Socialization • Complete Quiz #4 Socialization • Review the Section One quiz. Section One Quiz Due 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter Five of the text. • The quiz is available under Materials and Content to review. To complete the quiz you must access it under Assessment, Quizzes and "Socialization but not for a Pandemic." • Review the Section One Quiz by accessing the word document under Materials and Content. Keep track of where you got your answers. Complete the Section One Quiz by accessing it under Assessments and then Quizzes. Click on "Section One Quiz" and complete it.
October 15th Class	Socialization and Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Quiz #4 and Review for Section One Quiz 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Section One Quiz by accessing it under Assessments and then Quizzes. Click on "Section One Quiz" and complete it.

October 20th Section One quiz Due	Section One Quiz due by midnight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Section One Quiz by accessing it under Assessments and then Quizzes. Click on “Section One Quiz” and complete it. 	
October 22nd Class	Go Over Section One Quiz Groups and Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go Over Section One Quiz • Discuss Groups and Organizations with Deviance 	
October 27th Read	Read Chapters Six	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters Six and Seven continued for discussion on October 29th. 	
October 29th Class	Crime, Deviance and Social Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime with a specific focus on predators 	
November 3rd Quiz #5 Due	Quiz #5 Due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #5 “Social Control: The Secret Within” is due by midnight on October 31st. • Read chapters Nine and Ten by November 5th and be ready to discuss. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quiz is available for review under Materials and Content. Complete the “Social Control: The Secret Within” Quiz under Assessments and then Quizzes.
November 5th Class	Social Stratification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will discuss stratification. 	

November 10th Read	Global Stratification Reach Chapter 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will have a class discussion about stratification. Read Chapter 11 by November 12th and be prepared to discuss. 	
November 12th Class	Race and Ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class discussion on Race and Ethnicity 	
November 17th Quiz #6 Due	Quiz #6 “What Treaty” Due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz “What Treaty?” is due by Midnight. Read Chapter 21 by November 19th for discussion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quiz is available for review under Materials and Content. Complete the “What Treaty?” Quiz under Assessments and then Quizzes.
November 19th Class	Social Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read chapter 21. We will complete the Sex You’re Doing It Wrong quiz as a class together. 	
November 24th	Section Two Quiz Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go over the Section Two Quiz and bring questions to class. 	
November 26th Class	Extra Credit Assignment		

December 1st No Assignment	No Assignment	No Assignment	
December 3rd Class	Course Review/Section Two Quiz Questions		
December 8th	Section Two Quiz Due	Section Two Quiz Due	

Course Policies

Late Work

All due dates for the entire course are stated in the course schedule. Be careful as they change depending on how well material is handled by the class. Due dates occasionally get pushed to a later date but they will NOT be changed to an earlier due date. Check the updated course schedule every week to see due dates. Plan accordingly. I expect assignments to be completed by their corresponding due dates. Life can be difficult at times so please talk to me if anything is preventing you from being successful in my class. I really want you to succeed. We can usually work something out for a make-up.

- Class participation and discussions: We may make use of the discussion board in this class. For true discussion to occur, discussion posts must be posted during a common period which will be announced during zoom class time.
- Exams/Quizzes: You will usually have at least one week to complete the open book, open note exams and quizzes. If you have trouble completing them in that time you should contact me and we can schedule a make-up.
- Individual assignments are usually due the days we are completing group work in class. If you are unable to turn in your assignment by class time you will need to ask your group if it is okay for you to participate. If your group is uncomfortable with your participation you will be given an alternative assignment.

I realize that life is ever changing and situations can arise that are outside of your control. Should you run into a true emergency and anticipate falling behind in the course, contact me immediately and we will discuss options.

Attendance Policy

You are expected to be present and participate when we are meeting for class on Zoom. Most classes will not be recorded.

Course Communications

Students should access [MSUM email](#) and the course site in [D2L Brightspace](#) on a regular basis for class related updates and announcements. Questions can be asked via email. I also accept text messages to make it easy for you to contact should you need anything related to the course or your experiences at MSUM.

Student Email Criteria

Email is regarded as a professional means of communication.

Because I teach multiple courses at the same time, it is helpful for me if you include identifying information in any email you send to me:

1. Include the course name in each subject line.
2. Identify your first and last name at the bottom of each email.

Instructor Response Time

I check email frequently Mon-Fri; students can expect a reply within 24 hours on weekdays; although, in most cases, I will answer you even before and occasionally on the weekend should you communicate an urgent need. If I plan to be out of town without internet access, I will let the class know.

Generally, feedback on assignments will be provided to you within 5 days of the due date. I will update the online gradebook when the grading of each assignment is completed.

I am available throughout the week to meet with students for office hours. Please schedule a time with me to discuss issues or questions. I will make sure to protect a time and not allow others to drop in during our meeting. The link to join these sessions is posted in the Course Information Module in Content. Please take advantage of these opportunities to ask me questions directly.

Professional Conduct / Netiquette

In this course we will be communicating online with each other on a regular basis. Because written communications are “heard” differently than verbal, please be sure to follow commonly accepted rules of netiquette (online etiquette). It is important that all participants in online courses be aware of proper online behavior and respect for each other.

Use appropriate language for an educational environment:

- Do not use obscene or threatening language.
- Avoid slang and uncommon abbreviations.
- Use proper spelling and grammar.
- Avoid overuse of ALL CAPS.
- Use complete sentences.

Professional Ethics & Academic Honesty

The University expects all students to represent themselves in an honest fashion. In academic work, students are expected to present original ideas and give credit for the ideas of others. The value of a college degree depends on the integrity of the work completed by the student.

Work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with the Minnesota State University [Student Academic Honesty Policy](#). For a complete listing of student policies, the [MSUM Student Handbook](#) is available online.

Academic dishonesty may result not only in failure in the course, but in suspension or dismissal from the College. The following areas are violations and subject to the dishonesty charge:

1. Cheating on tests, papers, etc.
2. Plagiarism, i.e., using words, ideas, writing, or work of another without giving appropriate credit (Plagiarism is copying someone else's work or something they have said and using it as your own. This may be copying something word for word or copying someone else's ideas without citing their name).
3. Improper collaboration between students, i.e., not doing one's own work on outside assignments specified as group projects by the instructor.

When an instructor has convincing evidence of cheating or plagiarism, a failing grade may be assigned for the course in which the student cheated. Instructors also may choose to report the offense, the evidence, and their action to the Dean of their college or the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. If the instructor (or any other person) feels the seriousness of the offense warrants additional action, the incident may be reported to the Director of Student Conduct and Resolution. The Director of Student Conduct and Resolution will follow procedures set out in the Student Conduct Code.

This Academic Honesty Statement is also published in the [MSUM Student Handbook](#). (mnstate.edu/student-handbook/)

Turnitin: Students enrolled in this course acknowledge and agree to the requirement of submitting course assignments to Turnitin via the course Assignment folders in D2L Brightspace. Students are responsible for adhering to the expectations within the [Academic Honesty Policy](#). Students' use of this tool during drafting and prior to assignment submission will allow students to review their effective paraphrasing, fair use of sources, and proper citations. Faculty will use this tool in evaluation of student's work.

Use the [Turnitin Student Support Guide](#) to learn more about plagiarism prevention and detection.

University Policies

As a student of MSUM, you are expected to be familiar with all University policies. These can be found in the Policies & Procedures section of the [Student Handbook](#).

Accessibility & Accommodations Service

Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students and strives to make courses inclusive and accessible in accordance with sections 504 and 508 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The University will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Accessibility Resources (AR) is available to facilitate a range of academic support services and accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability, you can request assistance by contacting AR at 218-477-2167 (voice), 218-477-2420 (fax) or accessibility@mnstate.edu (email). Once eligibility has been determined, students register with AR every semester to activate their approved accommodations. Although a student may request an accommodation at any time, it is best to initiate the application process at least four weeks before a student wishes to receive an accommodation. Students may begin the accommodation process by submitting a Request for Accommodations form online at <https://www.mnstate.edu/student-life/student-services/accessibility/request-accommodations/form/> or by contacting Accessibility Resources. The Director of Accessibility Resources, Chuck Eade, serves as MSUM's ADA

Coordinator. He can be reached at Charles.Eade@mnstate.edu. Additional information is available on the AR website: <http://www.mnstate.edu/accessibility>.

Additional Student Support Services

MSUM provides multiple student support services to help you through your academic career here.

- See the [Academic & Student Support Services](#) for a list of available student services and contact information.
- See the [Technical Requirements & Support](#) page for a list of campus supported technologies and details about how/where to find tech help. Links to the privacy policies and accessibility statements for the course software are also available on this page.

*Links to student support services are also available to you on the course navigation bar under **Resources/Help**.*

Safety & Procedural Information

Sexual Violence Prevention Statement

Acts of sexual violence are intolerable. MSUM expects all members of the campus community to act in a manner that does not infringe on the rights of others. We are committed to eliminating all acts of sexual violence.

MSUM faculty and staff are concerned about the well-being and development of our students. We are obligated to share information with the MSUM Title IX Coordinator in certain situations to help ensure that the students' safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking.

If you have experienced or know someone who has experienced sexual violence, services and resources are available. You may also choose to file a report. For further information, contact Lynn Peterson, Title IX Coordinator, petrsnly@mnstate.edu; 218-477-2967, or Ashley Atteberry, Director of Student Conduct & Resolution; ashley.atteberry@mnstate.edu, 218-477-2174; both located in Flora Frick 153. Additional information is available online mnstate.edu/titleix.

Bias Incident Statement

A bias incident is an act of bigotry, harassment, or intimidation that is motivated in whole or in part by bias based on an individual's or group's actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, or familial status.

If you are a student who has experienced or witnessed a hate or bias incident, we want to address the incident and provide you with resources. Contact the Campus Diversity Officer, Jered Pigeon (jered.pigeon@mnstate.edu, 218-477-2047, 114 CMU) or the Dean of Students, Kara Gravley-Stack (kara.gravleystack@mnstate.edu, 218-477-4222, 153 Flora Frick Hall).

Additional information is available at: <https://www2.mnstate.edu/oscar/>.

Student Grievance/Complaint Process

This general procedure is applicable only to those administrative actions for which no special grievance procedure has been established. Special procedures have been established for certain academic (e.g. graduation, grades), student conduct, discrimination/harassment, and employment related matters. Students desiring to appeal actions or procedures of University administrative offices must meet with the following officials, continuing up the hierarchy as necessary to resolve the issues.

Academic Affairs

1. Department Chair of the academic discipline in which the problem arose
2. Dean of that college discipline
3. Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
4. President

Administrative Affairs

1. Director of specific area
2. Vice President for Administrative Affairs
3. President

Student Affairs

1. Director of specific area
2. Vice President for Student Affairs
3. President

This process can also be found in the Policies and Procedures section of the [Student Handbook](http://mnstate.edu/student-handbook/) (p. 12) (mnstate.edu/student-handbook/).

Building Emergency Plans Though this is an online course, you may find yourself on campus at some point, so best to be prepared and aware. Building floor plans showing emergency exit routes, fire extinguisher locations and fire alarm pull stations are conspicuously located in classrooms, labs, conference rooms, departmental main offices and residence halls. The Emergency Preparedness Guides (flip style booklets) are located with the maps. Please review the floor plans as well as the guide so you know how to respond in an emergency situation to help protect yourself and others. If you have questions,

please contact Kevin Pallas, Director of Public Safety, at kevin.pallas@mnstate.edu or 218-477-5869. (mnstate.edu/public-safety/).

This syllabus is subject to change.