

Introduction to Sociology

Fall 2026

Tuesday attend in-person or on zoom Thursday reflection/assignments

Professor: Karen Branden

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Office Hours: Tuesday; 11-12; Wednesday 10-12 (zoom) 12-1; Thursday 9-3 (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.

Class time: Zoom or in-person. You are required to meet (whether face-to-face or via zoom) on Tuesdays. We will not meet on Thursdays. Thursdays your reflection time/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 3e <https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e> . You can access the text through the previous link. The text will also be provided on the D2L course page under Content.

Power points and additional materials will be provided within the course site in D2L under 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%
Points	420	and below			

Assignments

Assignment	Topics Covered	Due Dates
In-Class Discussions/Assignments Students will discuss various topics during class time. Sometimes these discussions will be linked to assignments.	Various throughout the semester	Various throughout the semester
Quizzes/In Class Discussion/or Short Answer Essay		
1. Assignment #1 Essay	1. Introduction to Sociology upload short answer essay	1. Due August 27th by Midnight
2. Assignment #2 In Class	2. Research In class discussion	2. In Class September 8th
3. Assignment #3 Quiz	3. Culture Quiz	3. Due September 17th by Midnight
4. Assignment #4 Quiz	4. Society and Social Inter	4. Due October 1st by Midnight
5. Assignment #5 Essay	5. Socialization	5. Due October 15th by Midnight
6. Assignment #6 Quiz	6. What Treaty?	6. Due November 5th by Midnight
7. Assignment #7 In Class	7. Sex: You're Doing it Wrong	7. Due November 17th in Class

Exams (also called Quizzes)		
1. Section Exam One	1. Chapters 1-5 and all course materials.	1. October 27 th by Midnight
2. Section Exam Two	2. All course material since Exam one.	2. December 8 th by Class Time

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, videos 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 Content for you to complete before you fill out the answers under the Quizzes link . The due dates for Section Quizzes are on the course schedule section of the syllabus. These are basically exams.
- **Individual Assignments:** There will be seven (7) individual assignments during the semester. These range from short answer essays to quizzes to in-class discussions. These will typically be due on Thursday although the in-class discussions are due at class time. These are available under Content and include directions on how to complete and submit. Most of them you complete under the Quizzes link on the D2L course page. Some will be something you have written that you upload to the assignment folder. Each assignment is worth 20 points.
- **Class participation/Group Discussion:** There will be at least (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.

Course Schedule

Date for each class week	Topic	Assignment location, due date and how to turn it in
Aug 25 th Class via zoom or in person.	Introduction to Course and Sociology	Content link on course D2L page has Syllabus, Text, Power point slides, and other course materials.
Aug 27 th Assignment #1 Due	The Sociological Imagination	Assignment #1 due by midnight on Aug 27 th is under the Content link titled "Assignment #1." You can look at and complete the assignment and then upload it under the Assignment link titled "Assignment #1 The Sociological Imagination"
Sept 1 st Class	Research	Class discussion
Sept 3 rd Reading/Class Prep Due by September 8 th	Sociological Research Methods	The text is under Content on the course D2L page. The class prep document for Assignment #2 is under Content.
Sept 8 th Class	Research/Culture	Class discussion
Sept 10 th Reading	Read the Culture chapter for class disussion	
Sept 15 th Class	Culture	Class discussion
Sept 17 th Assignment #3	Quiz on Culture	The quiz is available under Content for you to complete. You must submit under the Quizzes link to get credit.
Sept 22 nd Class	Society and Social Interaction	
Sept 24 th		
Sept 29 th Class		
Oct 1 st		
Oct 6 th Class		
Oct 8 th		
Oct 13 th		
Oct 15 th		
Oct 20 th		

Date for each class week	Topic	Assignment location, due date and how to turn it in
Oct 22 nd		
Oct 27 th		
Oct 29 th		
Nov 3 rd		
Nov 5 th		
Nov 10 th		
Nov 12 th		
Nov 17 th		
Nov 19 th		
Nov 24 th		
Nov 26 th	No Class Fall Break	
Dec 1 st		
Dec 3 rd		
Dec 8 th Last Day of Class	Section Quiz #2 Due by Class Time	Section two quiz is available under Content to complete. You must submit your answers under the Quizzes link titled "Section Two Quiz".

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.
- **Group Discussions** you are expected to have your work completed to participate in groups. You can always work as an individual in my class.
- **Attendance Policy:** You are expected to be present and participate when we are meeting for class whether in person or 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 48 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.

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. Do not use AI to write assignments for this course. I will be using AI checkers to help identify any use of AI.

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 Statement

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 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The University will make reasonable accommodations for students with reported disabilities/conditions or barriers.

Accessibility Resources (AR) is available to facilitate a range of academic support services and accommodations for students who identify a barrier which hinders their academic experience. If you have a disability/condition or barrier, you can request assistance by contacting AR at accessibility@mnstate.edu (email), 218-477-2167 (voice), or 218-477-4366 (fax). 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 or contact Accessibility Resources.

The Director of Accessibility Resources, Chuck Eade, serves as MSUM's ADA Coordinator for students. He can be reached at Charles.Eade@mnstate.edu. Additional information is available on the AR website: <http://www.mnstate.edu/accessibility>.

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 (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.