



## Mount Saint Mary College

Newburgh, New York

Division of Social Sciences

<b>Course Name:</b> Introduction to Sociology	<b>Credit Hours:</b> 3 credits
<b>Course Code:</b> SOC 1010	<b>Prerequisites:</b> None
<b>Semester:</b> Spring 2022	<b>Method:</b> Asynchronous – Fully Online
<b>Session:</b> Traditional Semester 1/24/22 – 5/10/22 (15 weeks)	
<b>Course Delivery Details:</b> This course will be offered asynchronous online through eClass, but will also offer optional opportunities to Zoom for one-on-one support. Students are not required to come to campus for this course.	
<b>Use of Moodle (eClass):</b> You will use our secure learning management system Moodle (eClass) to participate in all online activities and assignments. While you are responsible for obtaining required course materials, additional course materials such as journal articles and Library resources, , videos, and eLectures will be provided on our Moodle (eClass) course site.	

**Instructor:** Kristen Dellasala

**MSMC Email:** [dellasala@my.msmc.edu](mailto:dellasala@my.msmc.edu)

**Office Location:** Virtual Office: Zoom (link found in eClass)

**Virtual Office Hours:** Fridays, 3-4pm, through Zoom (link found on eClass)

**Preferred Method of Contact:** Email

### A NOTE ABOUT STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN THIS FULLY ONLINE COURSE:

Active participation in this online course is defined in this Syllabus. It is your responsibility to be fully aware of this information.

**Failure to actively participate in any of the ways defined in this Syllabus before or on the AW date listed below may result in your instructor submitting an academic withdrawal (AW) from the course. Please note that failure to actively participate in this course could impact your eligibility for Financial Aid.**

Per the above, please be aware of important Session X dates:

- January 28th - Add/Drop deadline
- February 7<sup>th</sup> - Academic Withdrawal (AW) deadline
- April 11<sup>th</sup> - Last Day to Withdraw without academic penalty

*\*It is the responsibility of the student to facilitate an official course drop/withdrawal by the date(s) listed above. The student should inform both the instructor and the Registrar's office if he/she plans to drop or withdrawal from this course.*

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## Course Description

This course introduces students to the theoretical foundations of sociological thinking. Students will gain an understanding of the major social theories, the relationships between culture and human behavior, and the process of socialization. Students will apply theories to the analysis of important social structures such as social stratification. They will also use their sociological competence to analyze current social issues.

## Course Outcomes

At the end of this course you should:

1. be familiar with the major concepts in sociology
2. be able to identify, describe and apply the major theoretical perspectives of sociology (structural-functionalism, social conflict theory and symbolic-interactionism)
3. analyze different views on how society holds itself together
4. analyze the components of society and how those components relate to each other
5. understand that social concepts, knowledge, and values are products of social interaction
6. place individual and group choices within the larger social environment
7. analyze current social issues using sociological perspectives
8. apply the analysis of current issues to develop individual positions and increase civic engagement
9. understand the history of sociology and how the field's development has been influenced by social phenomena (e.g., economic structures, technological levels and scientific knowledge)
10. recognize and critically evaluate methods of collecting and analyzing information
11. be able to apply sociological perspectives to the analysis of social phenomena (e.g., race, deviance, stratification, etc.)
12. be able to articulate complex social thinking in writing and speaking

## Required Course Materials

There is **no required textbook for this class**. Instead, a variety of required readings and materials will be distributed via eClass. In addition, students will be asked to seek out and curate resources from the internet, MSMC Library and other open-source materials.

## Technological Requirements and Recommendations for Online Courses

The table below provides a basis of required and recommendations technologies that one should have when learning online. Please add to this table per your course requirements/recommendations.

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
Office Software: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Microsoft Office's current Version</a> (Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, etc.)</li></ul>	Internet Browsers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Google Chrome</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Mozilla Firefox</a></li></ul>

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- [GSuite](#) (Free through your MSMC email account)
- [Adobe Reader](#)

Background Programs:

- [Java](#)
- [Adobe Flash](#)

*The IT Support Center is here to assist you with your general technology needs. To obtain technology support, please visit <https://helpdesk.msmc.edu/support/> to submit a ticket or email [it.support@msmc.edu](mailto:it.support@msmc.edu).*

*Please consult your instructor for Moodle (eClass) related questions or concerns.*

**Email and Course Communication Guidelines:** I will make every effort to return all email messages or respond to posts in our Course **Q&A Forum** with 24 hours. If you send communication after 7pm, or on a College holiday, I will respond the next business day. You are expected to use your MSMC email account for all email exchanges. I will not respond to email addresses that do not end in @my.msmc.edu.

### Grading Scale

Grading Scale					
A	94-100%	940-1000	C-	71-73 %	710-739
A-	91-93 %	910-939	D+	68-70 %	680-709
B+	88-90 %	880-909	D	60-67%	600-679
B	84-87 %	840-879	F	Below 60 %	>600
B-	81-83 %	810-839	To estimate your own grade at any point in the term, add the number of points <i>earned</i> and the number of points <i>available</i> for the assignments completed; divide <i>earned</i> by <i>available</i> , and multiply by 100 to get a percentage. This is just an estimate; the faculty tabulates the final score for the course.		
C+	78-80 %	780-809			
C	74-77 %	740-779			

### Evaluation Criteria

	Assignment	Submission	Technology	Points	Total
	Pre-assessment	Module 1	eClass (Moodle)	1 assessment X 70 points	70 points
	Discussions (online discussion forums)	Modules 1-8	eClass (Moodle)	8 discussions X 30 each	240 points
	Video reflection assignments	Module 1 and 8	eClass (Moodle)	2 reflections X 25 points	50 points

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Written Assignments	Modules 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6	eClass (Moodle)	5 written assignments X 40 points	200 points
Case study assignments (problem-based learning assignments)	Modules 2- 8	eClass (Moodle) and Zoom	12 case studies X 20 points	240 points
Discussion Leader assignment	Pick a week	eClass (Moodle)	1 leadership assignment X 200 points	200 points
<b>Total</b>		<b>1000 points</b>		

### **Assignment Details**

- **Pre-assessment:** this assignment asks important questions to ensure you are ready for the course. Have you read the syllabus? Are you ready to develop new skills? Are you ready to learn about sociology?
- **Online Discussions:** these assignments ask you to work with peers to identify and discuss topics that surround sociology.
- **Video Assignments:** it is important to reflect on what sociology means to you. You will have two opportunities to do so through short video posts, one in the beginning of the course, and one at the end.
- **Written Assignments:** What a great way to learn about the great thinkers that frame our way of thinking about sociology! You will earn a badge every time you learn and write about 5 great people. Writing about important social scientists and other figures improves your writing and heightens your historical and theoretical knowledge.
- **Case Studies:** Have you ever heard of problem-based learning (PBL) or case-based learning? Because sociologists' study social problems, this method is a great way to go about learning about society, culture and the self! Each week a social problem will be posed, and we need to solve the problem, through analysis, critical thinking and research. Each week being a different topic chosen by you and your peers, with a different leader guiding the conversation. Instructional details will be provided on eClass.
- **Discussion Leader Assignment:** Each week someone will take the lead discussing a case/problem (see *Case Studies* above). Instructional details will be provided on eClass.

### **Course Calendar**

A Course Calendar is provided on our Moodle (eClass) course site under the "Course Documents" tab and should be used alongside this Syllabus. It is your responsibility to be aware of all assignment due dates and deadlines as outlined in Course Calendar document. While I will make every effort to avoid

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changes, I reserve the right to amend the Course Calendar per the needs of the class. Any changes to deadlines will be communicated via the Announcements forum in our course. This forum will automatically send a copy of the announcement to your @my.msmc.edu email address (not your personal email or otherwise).

### ***What to Expect from this Course***

**Instructor and Student Communication:** I will be using our eClass Announcements forum located on the “Course Documents” tab of the course to communicate all course updates/reminders, usually on a weekly basis. This forum will send a copy of the message to your MSMC email. Please pay close attention to all communications on our **Announcements** forum, as well as your MSMC email account. I will make every effort to return all email messages within 24 hours on weekdays. If you send communication after 8pm, or on a College holiday, I will respond the next business day. You are expected to use your MSMC email account for all email exchanges. I will not respond to email addresses that do not end in @my.msmc.edu.

**Course Engagement:** You can expect to be very active on eClass, watch short e-lectures, read articles and watch videos, which will provide foundational concepts for this course. Additionally, discussions will give you the chance to express your learning through conversation and dialogue with your peers, and with me, and written, video and audio submissions and milestones will demonstrate and showcase your work – these will require both independent work and collaborative work with your peers. You can plan on working anywhere from 4 -15 hours per week on this course, depending on the week and assignment expectations – some weeks will lean on the rigorous side, others will require less time. It is recommended that you plan your time accordingly per the specific details outlined in this Syllabus and in the Course Calendar.

Engagement in this course includes:

- Contributing to discussions and conversations online
- Watching videos and listening to videos and audio clips and/or eLectures
- Reading and reviewing library articles and other webpages
- Fully participating in each milestone and assignment (leadership assignment, video reflections, written assignments, and case studies)
- Logging into eClass every week; several times throughout each week

### ***Distributing Grades***

All weekly assignment grades will be posted to our eClass gradebook within one week of the assignment due date. I will make every attempt to provide personalized feedback when and where it is applicable. I will not discuss grades or give assignment feedback via email. Please make an appointment with media Zoom to discuss a grade.

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### **Grading Rubrics**

Rubrics for each major assignment in this course will be listed alongside each activity for the course and found on eClass/Moodle.

### **Active Participation**

Students are required to maintain an active and engaged presence throughout the duration of the online course. Mount Saint Mary College defines active participation in an online course as:

- Student submission of an academic assignment;
- Student submission of an exam;
- Documented student participation in an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction;
- A posting by the student showing the student's participation in an online study group that is assigned by the instructor;
- A posting by the student in a discussion forum showing the student's participation in an online discussion about academic course material;
- An email from the student or other documentation showing that the student-initiated contact with a faculty member to ask a question about an academic subject studied in the course.

Simply logging in to the course and viewing materials will not be considered active participation.

**Note:** A lack of active participation as outlined above may affect Financial Aid. If a student fails to meet the definitions of active participation on or before the AW date listed on page 1 of this Syllabus, he or she may be recommended for withdrawal from the course by the instructor.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance will be tracked on eClass. It remains your responsibility to be regularly engaged in the course and be intimately aware and familiar with our Course Calendar in order to anticipate any conflicts with assignment deadlines. Failure to participate regularly (according to the Course Calendar expectations) could result in a 2-point deduction to your final course average.

Please plan your time accordingly and communicate any conflicts well in advance with me per the below:

- In the case of an anticipated absence (e.g., work-related conflict, military deployment, or religious observance that may require you to miss deadlines, and/or would impact your ability to participate regularly for a period exceeding 24-48 hours), the student should contact the instructor via MSMC email to make arrangements to complete the required assignments.
- In case of an unanticipated event/emergency (e.g., accident, death in family, or major internet or technical outage), the student should contact the instructor via MSMC email as soon as possible providing documentation supporting the need for any late submission of a graded event.

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Other events outside of the above (e.g., vacations, weddings, etc.) will not be considered an acceptable excuse to miss deadlines; no late work or make-ups will be offered for such circumstances.

- **Instructor Attendance:** I will make every effort to be present on eClass. However, in case of an unanticipated event/emergency (e.g., illness/accident, death in family, or major internet or technical outage), students will be notified via eClass announcement as soon as possible, and next steps will be provided.

### ***Late Work/Make-Up Policy***

All assignments are due by the deadline outlined in our Course Calendar. All times are Eastern Standard Time (EST). If you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submittal time accordingly. Any late work submitted without previous communication regarding conflict with a deadline and/or a previous agreement with me to make up missed work could result in a 5-point deduction per day from the assignment grade.

### ***Expectations for Course Collaboration and Active Learning***

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to academic work, and particularly important for the success of the whole class when working online. For assignments in this course, you are encouraged (but not required) to consult with your classmates (through phone, email, and Zoom) and share ideas. You may find it useful to discuss your chosen discussion leader topic with your peers, particularly if you are working on the same topic as a classmate. However, you should ensure that any written work you submit for evaluation is the result of your own research and writing and that it reflects your own approach to the topic.

While this course is fully online, outside of our class I encourage social distancing during the pandemic, I highly recommend collaborating with peers remotely/online whenever possible. When collaborating online, it is the student's responsibility to practice good netiquette and demonstrate respect in all interactions and collaborations with students and instructor(s). Resources on developing netiquette skills are provided on our eClass course site.

### ***College Policies***

#### ***Academic Honesty Policy***

The mission of Mount Saint Mary College is concerned with "...the development of sound values, goals and commitments on the part of students. Equipping students to play responsible roles in society has been a consistent aim of our institution." Instances of academic dishonesty subvert the mission of the College and the experience students derive from it. These instances harm the offender as well as students who maintain academic honesty. The Mount community, therefore, commits itself to do all in its power to prevent such dishonesty and imposes impartial sanctions upon those who harm themselves, their fellow students and the College in this way.

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### **Definitions:**

Generally, academic dishonesty may be defined in the following ways:

- a. Cheating: using or attempting to use, giving or attempting to give, unauthorized materials, information, assistance or study aids in any academic exercise or evaluation (tests), unless the nature of the academic exercise legitimizes cooperative learning;
- b. Plagiarism: copying or imitating the language, ideas or thoughts of another person, and passing off the same as one's original work;
- c. Falsification: forgery, alteration or misuse of academic documents, records or forms.

To download a current copy of the Student Handbook visit the MSMC Portal.

### **Student Resources and Support**

#### **Office of Disability Services** (click name to enter site):

It is the policy of Mount Saint Mary College to accommodate students with disabilities in accordance with federal and state laws. If you, as a student with a disability, have difficulty accessing any part of the course materials or activities for this class, please notify the instructor immediately. Accommodations for test-taking should be arranged in advance. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be determined. Please call the office at 845-569-3638, or email them at [disabilityservices@msmc.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@msmc.edu).

*If you have met with the Coordinator in the Disability Services Office and have been given an accommodation letter, please make an appointment to speak with me as soon as possible so that we can discuss the logistics and implementation of your accommodations.*

#### **Tutoring** (click name to enter site):

Free individualized and small group tutoring is available to all MSMC undergraduates in most major subject areas through the Office of Student Success. Drop-in tutoring only is available for some Natural Science and Nursing courses with no appointment necessary. A schedule for the drop-in tutoring is posted every semester on the tutoring site.

#### **Counseling Services** (click name to enter site):

Many students face personal challenges or have psychological needs that may interfere with their academics, social life, or emotional well-being. MSMC Counseling Services offers a variety of confidential services to help students through difficult times including counseling, crisis intervention, consultations, and mental health screenings. Students can contact Counseling Services by phone at 845569-3115 or email at [counseling@msmc.edu](mailto:counseling@msmc.edu).

#### **The Writing Center** (click name to enter site):

The Writing Center is the home for writing at Mount Saint Mary College. Their primary function is to support students as they are completing academic writing assignments. The Writing Center's team of trained writing tutors assists Mount students in all stages of the writing process: brainstorming and

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organizing ideas; structuring sentences, paragraphs, and essays; strengthening argumentation; incorporating research and appropriate systems of citation; improving grammar and style; and more!

**[Kaplan Family Library](#)** (click name to enter site):

The MSMC Library creates a dynamic, responsive learning environment by connecting people with information. They facilitate teaching and learning, foster scholarship, and create a vibrant intellectual and social gathering place for the Mount Saint Mary College community. They offer outstanding information resources, expert information literacy instruction, attentive personal service, and relevant programming in a space designed for study, discovery, collaboration, and inspiration.

***Office of Information Technology/IT Support Center:***

The IT Support Center is here to assist you with your general technology needs including Mount Account support, computer hardware/software issues, printing, on-campus internet services and more. Please visit <https://helpdesk.msmc.edu/support/> to submit a ticket or email [it.support@msmc.edu](mailto:it.support@msmc.edu).

**Required Tutorial for Online Learners**

**OLSOT (Online Learning Student Orientation Tutorial) (Required ONLY for 100% online courses)** This mandatory, self-paced orientation is required of all students taking fully online courses. If this is your first fully online course and you have not done so yet, please complete this tutorial before beginning this course. The tutorial will appear as a red hold notification in the Alerts section of your MSMC Portal ([my.msmc.edu](http://my.msmc.edu)). Please click on the notification to begin the tutorial. Please expect to spend approximately 1 hour completing this tutorial. If you have any questions regarding the OLSOT, please contact the Office of Digital Learning and Instructional Design Services at [onlinelearning@msmc.edu](mailto:onlinelearning@msmc.edu).

***To all students:***

**As a member of the Mount community, we AGREE to take cooperative steps to protect the health and safety of every member of our campus and local community in the midst of this global pandemic.** Furthermore, we recognize that our efforts keep us, and those with whom we live and learn, safer and healthier. We understand that our personal and academic success are dependent on staying healthy and agreeing to shared behavioral practices – wearing a face covering, maintaining sanitized work areas, and social distancing across campus – that will keep you, me and other members of the College and local community protected from illness. **WE AGREE** to invite others to participate in our mutual responsibility to sustaining the health and wellbeing of our cherished community.

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