

# McLennan C O M M U N I T Y C O L L E G E

WACO, TEXAS

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## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**AND**

## **INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

### **Introductory Sociology**

**SOCI 1301.01.03**

**PAULA UNGER**

**NOTE: This is a 16-week course.**

**NOTE: This is a Blended/Hybrid course.**

#### **COVID 19 Notice:**

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals. We are also concerned for your safety. We are working through COVID-19 guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. This will include smaller class sizes to manage social distancing and proper cleaning techniques. You will have the advantage of a physical classroom experience but may also need to work part of the time online as we adjust to limited classroom capacity. This will also allow us the flexibility to move online if so directed by federal, state and/or local COVID 19 guidelines. Faculty and staff are preparing now to ensure that you have the best experience in the midst of these uncertain times.

# Introduction to Sociology

SOCI 1301.01.03

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**Course Description:** *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.*

**Semester Hours:** 3 (3 lecture)

**Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:** None

**Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:** Course documents are posted on Brightspace.

**Instructor Information:**

Instructor: Paula Unger  
Email: [punger@mclennan.edu](mailto:punger@mclennan.edu)  
Phone: 254.299.8494  
Office: Michaelis Academic Center (MAC) 233  
Zoom: <https://mclennan.zoom.us/j/2542998494>

Conference Hours: Because of COVID, all conference hours will be held via Zoom or phone.

Days	Conference Hours
Mondays	11 am - noon & by appointment
Tuesdays	by appointment
Wednesdays	11 am - noon & by appointment
Thursdays	by appointment

*Please let me know if you'll be dropping in during conference hours. I sometimes have meetings which interfere and would hate to miss you.*

**Required Textbook:**



Textbook: *Introduction to Sociology, 2e*  
Author: OpenStax | Publisher: OpenStax, Rice University

Several options are available to access the *free* textbook – PDF and online link. You can use the:

- PDF (available within Brightspace)
- OpenStax online [link](#) (also available within Brightspace)
- iPhone or Android app (available in the app store)

If you prefer a hard copy, you can purchase the book from the McLennan Bookstore for about \$30; renting it or buying used is even cheaper. Amazon has new paperback books for \$18; click [here](#) for that link.

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

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### Required Learning Tools:

- Textbook
- Computer/laptop
- Reliable internet
- Compatible Brightspace internet browser – Google Chrome and/or Mozilla Firefox

### Methods of Teaching and Learning:

**Basic Course Structure:** This course is organized into weekly units and assessments. Working ahead is permitted and encouraged.

Assessment	Description	Time & # of Attempts	Total #	Points for Each	Total Points
Quizzes	The quizzes correspond with each chapter and related materials – videos, slideshows, etc. You are expected to complete them by the deadline; most are administered online and some (exam reviews) are given in class. Unlimited attempts are permitted, and the highest score will be recorded. You are allowed two <i>free</i> make-ups for missing a quiz deadline.	30 minutes & unlimited attempts	15	20	300
Sociology Skills Assignments (SSKA)	The SSKA assignments are designed to develop and refine sociological skills through investigation and analysis. For these in-class assignments, you will work alone and/or in small groups. Each assignment is worth 20 points for a total of 300 points. You are allowed three <i>free</i> make-ups for a missed SSKA deadline. More details will be shared in class.	Varied & 1 attempt	15	20	300
Exams	Each exam follows a multiple-choice and true/false structure, and the 50 questions are based on the readings, videos, discussions, and quizzes. They are mandatory and will be administered and completed in class. Whichever exam you score highest on will count double – for that exam and it will replace your lowest exam grade. Scantron #882 is needed for each exam.	80 minutes & 1 attempt	4	100	400
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>34</b>		<b>1000</b>

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### **Course Objectives and/or Competences for Social & Behavioral Sciences:**

Courses in this category focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human. Courses involve the exploration of behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture.

- **Critical Thinking** -- to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Communications Skill** -- to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- **Empirical & Quantitative Skills** -- to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- **Social Responsibility** -- to include intercultural competency, civic knowledge, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Compare and contrast the basic theoretical perspectives of sociology.
2. Identify the various methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data in sociology.
3. Describe key concepts in sociology.
4. Describe the empirical findings of various subfields of sociology.
5. Explain the complex links between individual experiences and broader institutional forces.

### **Course Grading Information:**

For the specific dates, please go Brightspace and click on Course Calendar. Keep in mind that the schedule is **tentative** and subject to change, though you will be given advanced notice of any modifications.

TOPICS		EXAMS
<b>UNIT I</b>	Chapter 1: Introduction to Sociology	<b>Exam 1</b>
<i>What is sociology and how does it explain being human?</i>	Chapter 2: Sociological Research	
	Chapter 3: Culture	
<b>UNIT II</b>	Chapter 4: Society & Social Interaction	<b>Exam 2</b>
<i>How is society possible?</i>	Chapter 5: Socialization	
	Chapter 6: Groups & Organizations	
<b>UNIT III</b>	Chapter 9: Social Stratification in the USA	<b>Exam 3</b>
<i>What are the consequences of inequality?</i>	Chapter 10: Global Inequality	
	Chapter 11: Race & Ethnicity	
<b>UNIT IV</b>	Chapter 12: Gender, Sex & Sexuality	<b>Exam 4</b>
<i>How should human differences be managed?</i>	Chapter 7: Deviance, Crime & Social Control	

**Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:**

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

- 1) **May I make up a missed exam?** Yes. But if the reason is *unexcused*, you will lose points for having extra study time and missing the deadline. The number of points lost depends on how late you take the exam.
- 2) **May I make up a missed quiz?** Sometimes. You are allowed two *free* make-ups for missed quizzes. If you miss more than two quiz deadlines, you give up the unlimited attempts and may only attempt each one once.
- 3) **May I submit a late Sociology Skills & Analysis assignment (SSKA)?** Sometimes. You are allowed three *free* make-ups for missed SSKAs. If you miss more than three deadlines, you can submit them with point deducted for being late.
- 4) **How do I get the notes if I miss class?** Brightspace is your resource! The slideshows and videos of our class discussions and lectures will be posted to Brightspace.

**Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity.”

\* [Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)

([www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity))

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

\* [Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

**Attendance/Participation:** Part of your responsibility for this course is to show up and participate in class discussions and activities. For a class that meets twice a week, MCC policy requires that you attend 75% of the time, which equates to no more than 7 absences. Attending via Zoom is considered being in class.

**Special Note:** Absences for official McLennan events (athletics, music, theater, conferences, etc.) are considered *excused*. Students with these obligations are expected to communicate an upcoming absence before missing class.

\* You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Mozilla Firefox, Chrome, Microsoft Edge or Safari) to print each link's information.

# McLennan

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## ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

### **Student Support/Resources:**

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a success coach by calling (254) 299-8226. Students can visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a success coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

### **MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:**

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at [https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency\\_Grant\\_Application.pdf](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

### **Minimum Technical Skills:**

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

### **Backup Plan for Technology:**

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be contacted/notified through your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

\* [Click Here for the Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace](https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html)  
(<https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html>)

Click on the link above for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

**Email Policy:**

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails.

**Instructional Uses of Email:**

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with her/his students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

**Email on Mobile Devices:**

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails.

**Forwarding Emails:**

You may forward the emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may become lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

**Accommodations/ADA Statement**

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. Instructors should not provide accommodations unless approved by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit [mclennan.edu/disability](http://mclennan.edu/disability).

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto:disabilities@mclennan.edu)

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

\* [Click Here for more information about Title IX](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix)  
([www.mclennan.edu/titleix](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix))

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at

[titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC by calling 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting the following website: <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

McLennan's Title IX webpage (<http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>) contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

*\* You will need to access each link separately through your web browser (for example Mozilla Firefox, Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Safari) to print each link's information.*