

Course Information

Course Number:	101
Course Title:	Principles of Sociology
Section:	03
Time:	MW 1:30pm-2:45pm
Location:	McCook Academic Building (MC), Room 106
Credit Hours:	1.00 unit

Instructor Details

Instructor:	MJ Vickers
Office:	Seabury S-013
Phone:	(860) 297-2077
E-Mail:	maryjane.vickers@trincoll.edu
Office Hours:	TR 10:00am-1:00pm, W 3:00pm-5:00pm (<i>By appointment only!</i>) CLICK HERE to schedule (<i>You must schedule at least 12 hours in advance.</i>)

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to sociology as a discipline, its foundational theories, and its specializations (race, gender, class, etc.). We will be examining the various ways in which we are impacted by our social world, why sociological research is important, and broad themes within the field – such as inequality, deviance, and interpersonal interaction. This course and its text emphasize the relationship between power and inequality, globalization and diversity, and the impact of technology on society. A key goal for this course is for students to develop critical thinking skills to analyze various sociological topics. The class will also help students view and understand key issues from various perspectives and discuss these topics respectfully with one another. This course takes into consideration that some concepts may make students uncomfortable or challenge certain beliefs. Mutual respect and civility are expected when taking this course.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Special Course Designation

Meets Social Sciences Requirement (SOC).

Course Goals

The goals of this course are for students to 1) gain a better understanding of the impact of social structure on ourselves and broader society, 2) develop a critical perspective when interpreting and discussing sociological issues, 3) interpret and assess evidence, 4) improve sociological writing and

communication, 5) provide skills and resources to foster effective life-long learning, and 6) address civil and informed discourse.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Discuss various sociological issues, such as culture, mass media, the family, crime, etc.
2. Differentiate between basic sociological concepts and theories such as beliefs and norms, sex and gender, race and ethnicity, etc.
3. Explain how social identities such as race, gender, and class can intersect with other social identities to produce unique sociological issues.
4. Implement strategies for thinking critically about our sociological world and sociological research.
5. Analyze empirical, academic research related to sociology, and reflect on ways in which the research could be improved.
6. Recognize various patterns of human behavior and social life.
7. Develop a sociological imagination!

Textbook Information

Required Textbook:

Sociology: Understanding and Changing the Social World, Brief Edition v3.0 by Steven E. Barkan, 2021, Flatworld.

ISBN (Digital): 978-1-4533-3831-5

Your textbook is available on the online platform [Flatworld](#). You can purchase the book by [clicking here](#).

When signing up for Flatworld, please use your TrinColl email address. You will also need to access your homework assignments through Moodle rather than going to Flatworld directly. This ensures that your grades from Flatworld Homework sync to Moodle's gradebook.

If at any time you require financial assistance with course materials, especially textbooks, please reach out to the **Student Emergency and Equity Fund**, which you can find by [clicking here](#).

Grading Policy

Calculation of Course Grades (See course calendar for dates)

*****PLEASE NOTE:** The final grade calculation on Moodle may not be accurate to your actual final grade.

Table 1: Assignment Points and Weighted Percentages

Tests		Weighted Percentage (%)	
		Total Points	of Final Grade
	Exam 1	100	15%
	Exam 2	100	15%
	Exam 3	100	15%
	Chapter Quizzes	180	20%
	Packback Discussions	180	20%
	Attendance	100	15%
	TOTAL	760	100%

Table 2: Weighted Percentage to Course Letter Grade

Percentage (%)	Course Grade
89.5 – 100%	A
79.5 – 89.4%	B
69.5 – 79.4%	C
59.5 – 69.4%	D
Less than 59.4%	F

Calculating Your Weighted Final Grade: To calculate your final grade, take the average of your scores for each category, then multiply them by their weighted percentage. Add everything up to see your final weighted score.

For example, your exams are worth 45% (15% each) of your final grade. Let's say you score a 75, 80, and 90 on the three exams.

Take the AVERAGE of these scores: $(75 + 80 + 90)/3 = 81.66$

Then, multiply that number by 45% (0.45): $81.66 * 0.45 = 36.75$

Do this calculation for your attendance, Packbacks, etc. and add all weighted averages together to get your final grade.

You can also use the following website to help you calculate your grades:

<https://www.rapidtables.com/calc/grade/grade-calculator.html>

Access to Grades: Grades will be posted on the Moodle Gradebook. If you would like to discuss your grade or believe there has been an error, schedule a meeting with me during office hours immediately.

It is a violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) to reveal any information about grades or student status over the phone or in email, even with student permission or at student request.

Extra Credit: I will allow up to two (2) additional assignments that may be completed for extra credit. Instructions for the extra credit are found on the course's Moodle page.

Late or Missed Work: Deadlines are set but I will accept late work. If an assignment is not turned in by the due date/time, it will receive a zero (0). **HOWEVER**, you can still turn in work up to three days after the due date and I will grade it. Any work turned in beyond the three-day grace period will receive a 10% penalty for each subsequent day it is late. **Please contact me immediately if you need more time on an assignment, especially if you have disability accommodation.**

Course Concerns: Please contact me immediately about any pressing issues which might negatively affect your participation in the course as soon as possible in the semester. It is much more difficult to address these issues as the semester progresses.

Borderline Grades: All points in this class must be earned. Extra points will not be awarded for the sole purpose of boosting a grade. However, there will be a small curve for rounding up half-point grades, such as raising an 89.5 to a 90. If you have questions or concerns regarding your grades, please meet with me during my office hours.

Incompletes: Grades of "incomplete" (I) are given only under extraordinary circumstances that occur near the end of the semester, and require that students provide detailed documentation in order to justify the grade (e.g. serious injury, or illness of the student, or serious illness, injury or death in the student's immediate family). An incomplete grade will NOT be given under any other circumstances. If you find that you are in a situation that negatively impacts your ability to successfully complete the course, contact me immediately to discuss strategies to improve your performance. Do NOT wait until the end of the semester when time is severely limited. More information about Incomplete grades can be found at <https://www.trincoll.edu/dean-of-students/campus-life-resources/academic-resources/course-incomplete/>.

Graded Course Components

Please check your Trinity College student email account daily, because important information about this class could be emailed to you. Please consult the course's Moodle page and your university email account for important updates regarding classes, the course calendar, and assignments. Packback also includes reminders of upcoming assignments. A breakdown of course requirements and how each will contribute to your grade is included below.

Scheduled Exams (100 points each): There will be a total of three online exams in this course. Exams can be found in the various course modules on Moodle. They will consist of 50 multiple choice questions, worth 2 points each (100 total). None of the three exams will be comprehensive. They will only cover what has been discussed in class up until the test date, or since the last exam. This will include the lecture material and assigned readings and other media from the book or Moodle. **All exams are open note/open book.** Exams will be open for about 48-72 hours. You do not have to complete them in one sitting and can take breaks if needed. **Class will meet at the regularly scheduled times the weeks exams are available.** Make-up exams will be the same format as the other exams, but will have a maximum score cap of 70/100 points.

****If you know in advance that you will be unable to take an exam or may miss the scheduled day of the exam, please notify me as soon as you can and provide any and all necessary excuse documentation. This gives me time to schedule a make-up for you.*

Packback Discussions (180 points total): Every week, you will be expected to participate in a discussion on Packback. Discussions include posting at least one discussion question of your own to pose to your classmates (worth 5 points) and responding to at least two discussion questions posted by me, your TA, or your peers (worth 5 points each for a total of 10). Both your discussions and responses will need to have a Curiosity Score of at least 50 to receive credit. This is to help develop your writing ability and critical thinking skills. Packback can be accessed through the menu item on the course's Moodle page. More information about Packback is included further in the syllabus. As with the rest of the course, civility is required when participating in a discussion. Posts that contain profanity, rudeness, harassment, etc. will result in a loss of points. **Late Packbacks will not be accepted after three days from the original due date.**

Attendance (100 points): Attendance for this course will be recorded for a small portion of the grade for this course. If you need to miss class for *any reason*, please reach out to me and let me know. If you will be absent for an extended period of time (especially due to a health reason), please reach out and I will be happy to work with you.

PACKBACK NEEDS TO BE ACCESSED THROUGH THE LINKS ON MOODLE IN ORDER FOR YOUR GRADES TO SYNC CORRECTLY TO MOODLE. IF YOUR GRADES DO NOT SYNC PROPERLY, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO (0).

Packback Questions

Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications. Packbacks will be due weekly throughout the semester. A table with due dates is provided below. **You will need to access Packback and create an account through the link on Moodle. When you access Packback through Moodle, it will automatically create an account for you using your Moodle credentials. All you need to do is complete the account set-up and you're good to go!**

Packback Requirements:

Your participation on Packback will count toward 20% of your overall course grade.

There will be a Weekly Sunday at 11:59PM ET deadline for submissions. In order to receive full credit, you should submit the following per each deadline period:

- 1 open-ended Question every week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 50, worth 5pts of each

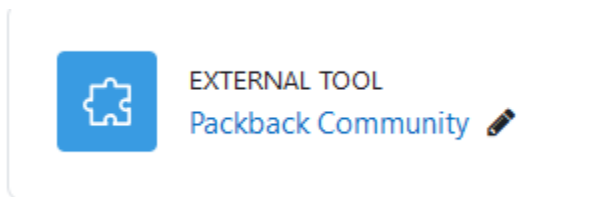
assignment grade

- 2 Responses every week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 50, worth 5pts of each assignment grade
- Half credit will be provided for questions and responses that do not meet the minimum curiosity score.

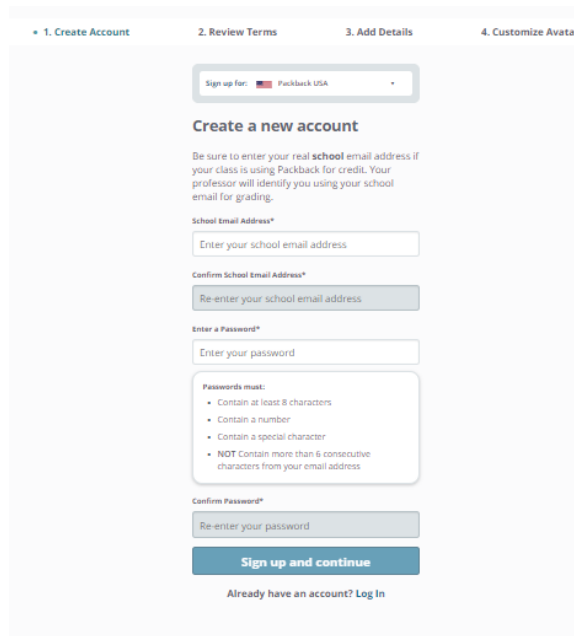
How to Register on Packback:

Note: Only access Packback through Moodle in order to ensure your grades sync properly

1. Click the Packback tool link under the General Tab on our Moodle page.



2. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

A screenshot of the Packback registration form. At the top, there are four steps: '1. Create Account', '2. Review Terms', '3. Add Details', and '4. Customize Avatar'. The '1. Create Account' step is active. Below the steps is a dropdown menu for 'Sign up for:' with 'Packback USA' selected. The main heading is 'Create a new account'. Below this is a note: 'Be sure to enter your real school email address if your class is using Packback for credit. Your professor will identify you using your school email for grading.' The form includes several input fields: 'School Email Address*' (with a placeholder 'Enter your school email address'), 'Confirm School Email Address*' (with a placeholder 'Re-enter your school email address'), 'Enter a Password*' (with a placeholder 'Enter your password'), and 'Confirm Password*' (with a placeholder 'Re-enter your password'). A 'Sign up and continue' button is at the bottom. Below the button is a link: 'Already have an account? Log In'. A 'Passwords must:' section lists requirements: 'Contain at least 8 characters', 'Contain a number', 'Contain a special character', and 'NOT Contain more than 6 consecutive characters from your email address'.

Packback may require a paid subscription. Refer to www.packback.co/product/pricing for more information.

How to Get Help from the Packback Team:

If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please read their FAQ at help.packback.co. If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at help@packback.co.

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV7QmikrD68>

Important Note About Grades (PLEASE READ)

During the semester, you may find yourself struggling with grades, work, family, or life in general. If you are worried about your performance in the course, please talk to me and I will be happy to work with you on a solution. **DO NOT WAIT until the end of the semester when grades are due to start improving your grade.** It is extremely difficult to address situations like this at the last possible minute and there will likely be extremely limited options for improvement. It is imperative you talk to me *BEFORE* that point. A stitch in time saves nine – in other words, it is better to address a problem early on rather than waiting until later when the problem is worse!

Additional Information and University Policies

Civility Statement

Students of all backgrounds are welcome in this course. We will discuss topics which may include sensitive subjects, such as race, gender, social class, politics, and more. Information in this course may challenge your beliefs or assumptions. As this is a social science class, please understand this information is being presented to you on the basis of scientific data and research, not anyone's personal opinions. It is perfectly fine to be curious, confused, or unsure – that means you are learning! However, please remember that civility and mutual respect are required when discussing the topics covered in this course, and intolerance will not be tolerated (see Karl Popper's paradox of tolerance). Disruption and disrespect inside or outside of the classroom will be addressed following university guidelines.

Intellectual Honesty

In accordance with the Trinity College Student Integrity Contract (p.4), students are expected to abide by the highest standards of intellectual honesty in all academic exercises. Intellectual honesty assumes that students do their own work and that they credit properly those upon whose work and thought they draw. It is the responsibility of each student to make sure that he or she is fully aware of what constitutes intellectually honest work in every examination, quiz, paper, lab- oratory report, homework assignment, or other academic exercise submitted for evaluation in a course at Trinity College.

Statement on the Use of A.I.

There is an ongoing discussion in academia regarding the use of artificial intelligence (A.I.) in the classroom, and the growing prevalence of its use among students across the country. Whether or not you have personally used generative A.I. in the past or present, please know its use is expressly prohibited in this course. I expect any and all assignments to be written by you, not a robot. Please also

be aware that using A.I. to write your assignments for you constitutes plagiarism and is a violation of academic integrity. Any assignments which contain any A.I.-written content will receive a zero. Why should I bother to grade something you didn't bother to write?

Not everyone enjoys writing, but it is an important skill to develop, and college is an excellent place to do so. By using a computer to write your assignments, you are cheating yourself out of an education. A.I. writing can also be extremely inconsistent, contain factual errors, and often scrapes (i.e. steals) from other sources to generate its content.

A.I. cannot think, but *you can*. Please use this course as an opportunity to think critically, develop your own voice and refine your writing skills. It will pay off later, especially on the job market where effective writing (and a unique voice) will make you a strong candidate.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

Trinity College is committed to creating an inclusive and accessible learning environment consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who may need some accommodation in order to fully participate in this class are urged to contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center, as soon as possible, to explore what arrangements need to be made to assure access.

If you have approval for academic accommodations, please notify me by the end of week two of classes. For those students with accommodations approved after the start of the semester, a minimum of 10 days' notice is required. Please be sure to meet with me privately to discuss implementation.

Student Accessibility Resources can be reached by emailing SARC@trincoll.edu.

Title IX Statement

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance...” 20 U.S.C. § 1681.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. If only one of an educational institution's programs or activities receives federal funding, all of the programs within the institution must comply with Title IX and its implementing regulations. Accordingly, Trinity College prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in all of its programs and activities, including academics, employment, athletics, and other extracurricular activities. This prohibition includes gender-based harassment, sexual violence and other sexual harassment. Compliance with Title IX is a community-wide responsibility. The information here provides an overview of the [College's policy](#), who you may contact with questions about Title IX, and how you can report sexual harassment and discrimination.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects people from sex discrimination in educational programs and activities at institutions that receive federal financial assistance. Questions regarding Title IX may be referred to the College's Title IX Coordinator, Shannon Lynch, located at 208 Mather Hall, 300

Summit St. Hartford, CT 06106, or via email at titleixcoordinator@trincoll.edu. Students may also access Title IX information through the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 8th Floor, Five Post Office Square, Boston MA 02109-3921. Telephone: 617.289.0111, Fax: 617.289.0150, TDD: 800.877.8339, or Email: ocr.boston@ed.gov.

Statement on Mental Health and Wellness

Mental health and well-being are just as important as one's physical health. If you ever feel you need assistance or someone to talk to, please reach out to Trinity College's Counseling and Wellness Center.

From the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](#):

The Trinity Counseling and Wellness Center provides a full range of counseling and psychological services to all students who desire assistance in coping with personal and emotional difficulties and social relationships. All services offered by the center are free, and all contact with members of the staff is privileged and confidential as provided by law.

Students may call the Center at **(860) 297-2415** between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and our office manager, Elif, will help to set up an appointment as soon as possible. You can meet our staff members on our [staff page](#).

Usually, an appointment can be set up relatively promptly within a few days to a week. During busy periods, or if a student wishes an appointment with a specific person or at a specific time of day, it may be longer before a time can be scheduled. If it is an urgent situation, we will schedule you as soon as possible for a one-time emergency appointment. Appointments may routinely be made as early as 9:00 a.m. or as late as 3:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. You can also e-mail [Haben Abraham](#), with any questions.

Tentative Course Schedule

Unit #	Topic(s) and Important Dates	Readings (Vantage)	Assignments
0 9/4	Introduction to the Course	--	--
1 9/9-9/11	What is Sociology and Why Should I Care?	<i>1: Sociology and the Sociological Perspective</i>	Chapter 1 Quiz PackBack Discussion 1 DUE 9/15 11:59pm
2 9/16-9/18	What's Culture Got to Do With it?	<i>2: Culture and Society</i>	Chapter 2 Quiz PackBack Discussion 2 DUE 9/22 11:59pm
3 9/23-9/25	Who Am I and Who Are You?	<i>3: Socialization and Social Interaction</i>	Chapter 3 Quiz PackBack Discussion 3 DUE 9/29 11:59pm
4 9/30-10/2	How Do I Get Into "The Club?"	<i>4: Groups and Organizations</i>	Chapter 4 Quiz PackBack Discussion 4 DUE 10/6 11:59pm

Exam 1 (ONLINE) 10/1	Exam 1 will be available on Moodle from 12am 10/1 to 11:59pm 10/3.	Chs. 1-4	--
5 10/7-10/9	What Happens if I Break the Rules?	<i>5: Deviance, Crime, and Social Control</i>	Chapter 5 Quiz PackBack Discussion 5 DUE 10/13 11:59pm
10/14-10/15	Trinity Days (no class)		
6 10/16-10/22	Why Are Some People More Equal than Others?	<i>6: Social Stratification</i>	Chapter 6 Quiz PackBack Discussion 6 DUE 10/27 11:59pm
7 10/23-10/28	Why is Race a Thing?	<i>7: Race and Ethnicity</i>	Chapter 7 Quiz PackBack Discussion 7 DUE 11/3 11:59pm
8 10/30-11/4	What is "Gender" and Why is it so Complicated?	<i>8: Gender and Gender Inequality</i>	Chapter 8 Quiz PackBack Discussion 8 DUE 11/10 11:59pm

Exam 2 (ONLINE) 11/5	Exam 2 will be available on Moodle from 12am 11/5 to 11:59pm 11/7.	Chs. 5-8	--
9 11/6-11/11	The Thing Everyone Loves Talking About: Politics!	<i>10: Politics and the Economy</i>	Chapter 10 Quiz PackBack Discussion 9 DUE 11/17 11:59pm
10 11/13-11/18	What's Sociological About the Family?	<i>11: The Family</i>	Chapter 11 Quiz PackBack Discussion 10 DUE 11/24 11:59pm
11 11/20-11/25	Are We Learning About Learning (and also Religion)? <i>*Packback 11 is due on Monday 12/2 instead of Sunday since this due date is following a break.</i>	<i>12: Education and Religion</i>	Chapter 12 Quiz PackBack Discussion 11 DUE 12/2 11:59pm
*11/26-12/1	Thanksgiving Break	*Starts after the last class on 11/26	
12 12/2-12/4	We Learned, Now What?	<i>14: Social Change: Population, Urbanization, and Social Movements</i>	Chapter 14 Quiz PackBack Discussion 12 DUE 12/8 11:59pm



<p>Exam 3 (ONLINE) 12/12</p>	<p>Exam 3 will be available on Moodle from 12am 12/12 to 11:59pm 12/15.</p> <p><i>*You have an extra day for the last exam since finals will be ongoing.</i></p>	<p>Chs. 10-12, 14</p>	<p>--</p>
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