



*Mitchell College is a transformative and inclusive learning community.
We create a radically supportive, empowering environment where each individual's growth is nurtured and celebrated.*

Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Semester: FALL 2025

Course Number, Section & Title: Introduction to Sociology (SO103A)

Credits: 3

ABE Dominant Ability to be Assessed: Diversity and Global Perspectives; Level 1

Instructor: Stephane Browder, LMSW

Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 10am-11:30am (by appointment only)

Office Location: NH 307

Contact Information: **Phone:** 860-744-4514

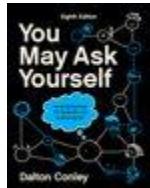
E-mail Address: browder_s@mitchell.edu

Class time, days, and room: Monday and Thursday 8:30am-9:50am in Nathan Hale RM 203

Catalog Course Description: Introduces sociological concepts, theories, and methods to examine social institutions and sociocultural phenomena. Topics include culture, social stratification, family, education, politics, race, gender, sexualities, and environment in contemporary United States. Emphasis is on application of social science perspectives toward understanding cultural diversity.

Prerequisites: None

Course Materials:



Required Course Text: Textbook: Available as Paperback

You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist, Core 8th edition by Dalton Conley

Learning Outcomes: The primary objective of SO103 is for students to understand sociological concepts and theories and to apply social science perspectives to family, school, community, career, and global contexts.

Course Learning Outcomes	Activities and/or assessments to achieve course outcomes:
1. Understand and use sociocultural perspectives	Use concepts and theories to develop analytical skills to address social problems.
2. Develop social science research skills	Complete an ethnographic research project to analyze how people interact with each other and their environment.
3. Acquire Inter/Cross cultural communication skills	Conduct a short-written interview with someone who is outside your cultural or ethnic difference
4. Apply the concept of cultural relativism to a variety of career contexts	Understanding different perspectives and its relevance to working with diverse populations.

Ability Based Education:

ABE partners the intellectual abilities cultivated by the liberal arts and sciences with the professional skills and personal development required to compete in the global economy. As students' progress through their programs of study, they will collect evidence (papers, videos, presentations, projects, etc.) that document their progress.

Students must achieve Competent in 5 of 7 abilities. The seven abilities to be assessed prior to graduation from Mitchell College are:

1. Analysis and Problem Solving
2. Communication
3. Critical & Creative Thinking
4. Diversity and Global Perspectives
5. Information and Communication Technology Literacy (ICT Literacy)
6. Social Interaction
7. Values, Ethics & Social Responsibility

ABE Ability Assessed in this Course	ABE Assessment(s)
Diversity and Global Perspectives	Ethnography Project

Grading:

Grading Scale:

The final course grade will be based on the grading system delineated below.

A+	100-97	C	76-74
A	96-94	C-	73-70
A-	93-90	D+	69-67

B+	89-87	D	66-64
B	86-84	D-	63-60
B-	83-80	F	59-0
C+	79-77		

Course Requirements:

Midterm Assessment (20%)

The Midterm Assessment will be an essay assignment based on an in-class film about Amish culture. Students will examine the function of group networks among the Amish, applying cultural relativism. More information will be provided in a separate handout in class and in Moodle.

Ethnography Project (50%)

Sociology is a social science based on inquiry and data analysis, and by taking this course at Mitchell College you will develop your **Diversity and Global Perspectives ability, Level 1**. The Ethnography Project is designed to provide you experience applying the concept of cultural relativism – understanding another person’s experience, from their perspective, not your own. I encourage you to have fun with this assignment as you learn the story of someone else’s assimilation experience. A separate handout detailing this assignment will be provided in Moodle and discussed in class.

In-Class Work (20%)

You are expected to attend class regularly and arrive on time for class. **Please be sure you have a laptop and textbook access during class time (paperback)**. In-class work includes reflective writing, posts to Moodle discussion board, group work, and class discussion. Students will be evaluated by their effort and quality of contributions to in-class work.

Final Self- Assessment (10%)

Your final assessment will take place during finals week and require you to write reflective responses to a series of questions relating to the Diversity and Global Perspectives ability outcomes. There will be multiple choice questions and two essay questions included. These multiple-choice questions are a culmination of all chapters from the semester assigned textbook. More information will be provided in class, You are expected to arrive on time to complete this portion which will be your Final Exam.

Course Outline:

Course Delivery & Teaching Methods:

Class time will consist of discussions and other active learning exercises incorporating reflections, group work, story exchanges, multi-media, simulations, and PowerPoint relevant to textbook readings. I will serve as a facilitator of your learning, and your participation is essential. These opportunities will allow you to learn key concepts in the social sciences and begin to apply these concepts to your own life experiences.

Classroom Etiquette and Student Conduct:

All students are expected to follow the Mitchell College Student Code of Conduct for this course. Students are expected to use appropriate language and behavior in the classroom as you would in a professional work environment. It is expected that everyone will be respectful toward one another. This course allows you to

practice listening to viewpoints different from your own and respecting individual and cultural differences. Students are expected to arrive on time and stay through the entire class period with minimal phone use.

College Attendance Policy: Mitchell College requires students to attend all classes punctually and to participate actively. When a student is absent from class it disrupts the learning community. Faculty will record attendance for all class meetings. The college recognizes that students may occasionally have to miss classes (e.g., sickness, personal matters, or mental health). Excessive absences, however, will impact learning and a student's ability to pass a course. Course-specific attendance policies as defined by each instructor are outlined in course syllabi. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the attendance policy in each class. In the event of an absence, regardless of the reason, students should communicate with the faculty; the student remains responsible for all missed coursework and related materials.

[Course Attendance Policy]: Every student is strongly encouraged to notify via Email to the Instructor that they will be absent from class. You are also expected to make contact with your Group to gather information regarding class content and homework.

Make-up Policy: Assignments can not be made up, but can be handed in after assignment date with the understanding that points will be deducted for each day after assigned date.

Policy on Academic Honesty: Penalties and procedures regarding academic dishonesty are defined in the College Catalog. Academic dishonesty includes the following but is not limited to: using the work of another individual – including another student – as one's own, using non-approved resources during quizzes or exams, submitting the same essay assignment for multiple classes, or the unauthorized use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Please refer to the College Catalog for the procedure required when an instructor has evidence of Academic Dishonesty.

Individual instructors are free to set their own policies concerning the use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in their courses. In the absence of such a policy, the use of AI may be considered a form of academic dishonesty. [Faculty are encouraged to provide additional guidance on the use or misuse of AI tools here. Visit <https://mitchell.libguides.com/AI> for additional resources.]

As described in the Mitchell College policy manual, “students at Mitchell College are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct.” By enrolling in this course, students agree that they understand and swear to adhere to those rules. Failure to adhere to these rules will affect a student's grades. Academic dishonesty will result in a score of zero for that assignment and the incident will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs. Academic dishonesty on the final exam will result in course failure.

[Course AI Policy]: No information from AI can be solely attributed to as a citation unless the information has been noted and authenticated by an author.

Policy on Intellectual Property: Material created for ordinary teaching (in-person, hybrid/blended, or remote) use in the classroom and in department programs, such as syllabi, assignments, and tests, shall remain the property of the faculty creator unless otherwise denoted. Unauthorized distribution and uploading of course materials to external platforms is not permitted. The Mitchell College Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement (*effective August 2021*):

Mitchell College complies with the mandates created by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. In accordance with these laws, Mitchell College is committed to ensuring that no otherwise qualified student, on the basis of their disability, will be denied access to course content, materials or activities.

A student who believes they need accommodation should contact the Office of Accessibility Services at 860-701-5790. Accommodation is not retroactive and cannot be provided by faculty based upon disability until the Letter of Accommodation has been issued by Accessibility Services. Letters of accommodation must be updated each semester. If students have questions or concerns, they should contact the Office of Accessibility Services. More information can be found in the Course Catalog and by visiting the Accessibility Services webpage at www.mitchell.edu/access.

Civility: It is the right of every college student to be educated in an environment that is free of distraction from the educational activities being conducted in the classroom. To support a student's right to a distraction-free educational environment, **students engaged in any type of disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the classroom and will be counted as absent from the class.**

Communication: Students are required to obtain and use a Mitchell College e-mail account for all departmental and College communications. All assignments/information will be posted as described by the instructor.

Important Dates:



Academic Year 2025-2026 College Calendar

FALL SEMESTER 2025

August 21	Thursday	New Mitchell students move in/check in
August 21	Thursday	Thames students move in/check in
August 23	Saturday	Returning Mitchell students move in/check in
August 25	Monday	1 st day of classes, Fall Semester - Add/Drop begins
September 1	Monday	<u>Labor Day – No Classes - College Offices closed</u>
September 2	Tuesday	Add/Drop ends at 5:00 p.m. (6 days)
September 3	Wednesday	Convocation
September 5	Friday	Student Attendance Census Mandatory Reporting by Faculty
September 17	Wednesday	Constitution Day
September 15 - 19		4 th Week
September 22	Monday	Early Academic Reports due to Registrar by 9:00 a.m.
September 26-28 Fri - Sun		Fall Weekend
October 6-10		7 th Week
October 13	Monday	<u>Indigenous Peoples' Day – Fall Break - No Classes</u>
October 14	Tuesday	<u>Fall Break - No Classes</u>
October 15	Wednesday	Mid Term Grades due to Registrar by 9:00 a.m.
October 25	Saturday	Admissions Fall Open House
November 3	Monday	S26 Registration begins
November 7	Friday	Last Day to Withdraw from a Class
November 11	Tuesday	Veterans' Day - Commemorative Events
November 14	Friday	S25 Registration ends
November 25	Tuesday	Last day of classes before Thanksgiving Break
November 26– 30 Wed-Sun		Thanksgiving Break for Students (Res. Halls close at noon on Wednesday, November 26 and re-open at noon on Sunday, November 30)
December 4	Thursday	Last day of classes before final examination period



Academic Year 2025-2026 College Calendar

December 5, 6, 7 Fri-Sun	Reading Days
December 8 – 12 Mon-Fri	Final Examination Period
December 12	Friday
	Residence Halls close at 5:00pm
December 16	Tuesday
	Grades Due to Registrar by 9:00 a.m.