



# SOC-135 Introduction to Sociology

Rene Meyers

FORT HAYS TECH | NORTH CENTRAL

## COURSE INFORMATION

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This transferable course introduces the student to the study of the structure and function of human groups, particularly those occurring in contemporary industrialized cultures. The relationships between the individual and society, culture and society and the social dynamics of institutions are discussed. Sociological principles will be applied to current social problems.

Credits: 3

Total Hours: 45

## CLASS INFORMATION

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Section Number:

Term: Summer Year: 2026 Start Date: 6/1/2026 End Date: 7/25/2026

Delivery Mode: Online

## INSTRUCTOR

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Rene Meyers

Email: [rmeyers@fhtechno.edu](mailto:rmeyers@fhtechno.edu)

Office Location: Online

## TEXTBOOKS

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Sociology, A Down-To-Earth Approach, Fourteenth Edition

James M. Henslin; ISBN 9780134736570

## SUPPLIES

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- Textbook
- Computer with quality internet access
- Ability to check school email address daily

## COURSE COMPETENCIES

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1. Define and describe the role of social institutions in contemporary societies (eg. Family, State, Economy, Religion, Education, Media, Healthcare).
2. Differentiate and apply the main ideas of Functionalism, Conflict/Critical Theory, and Symbolic Interactionism.

3. Give an example of how systems of social stratification (e.g. class, race and ethnicity, gender, sexuality, age) organize the distribution of social advantages and disadvantages.
4. Describe the relationship between social structure and individual behavior.
5. Distinguish between qualitative and quantitative approaches to conducting sociological research.
6. Define the major components of culture, including the role of socialization, social norms and deviance.
7. Give an example of the social causes and consequences of a major social change (e.g. globalization, environment, technology, population shifts, social movements).
8. Critically examine common assumptions about how society works using the sociological imagination.

## **GRADING INFORMATION**

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Fort Hays Tech | North Central Grading Scale:

- A 100% -90%
- B 89% - 80%
- C 79% - 70%
- D 69% - 60%
- F 59% and below

## **CLASS REQUIREMENTS:**

Chapter Exams - 20 points per exam

Activities/Assignments - 10 points per activity/assignment

I Am Alive Paper - 40 points

Research Paper - 100 points

Discussion Post - 10 points per discussion post

## **PLAGIARISM AND AI USAGE:**

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Plagiarism is a violation of the Academic Honesty process. You may use AI programs e.g. ChatGPT to help generate ideas and brainstorm. However, you should note that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. Beware that use may also stifle your own independent thinking and creativity. You may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own. If you include material generated by an AI program, it should be cited like any other reference material (with due consideration for the quality of the reference, which may be poor).

**AI usage, plagiarism or any other form of cheating will result in a zero on the assignment/activity.**

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

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Membership in the Fort Hays Tech | North Central learning community imposes upon the student a variety of commitments, obligations, and responsibilities. It is the policy of this College to impose sanctions on students who

misrepresent their academic work. Appropriate classroom instructors or other designated persons will select these sanctions consistent with the seriousness of the violation and related considerations.

Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- Plagiarism: i.e. taking someone else's intellectual work and presenting it as one's own. Each department set standards of attribution. Faculty will include disciplinary or class-specific definitions in course syllabi.
- Cheating is unacceptable in any form. Examples include consultation of books, library materials, notes or intentional observation of another student's test on paper or a computer screen; accessing another student's answers from an exam to be given or in progress; submission of falsified data; alteration of exams or other academic exercises; and collaboration on projects where collaboration is forbidden.
- Falsification, forgery or alteration of any documents pertaining to assignments and examinations.
- The use of AI generated content from AI tools such as, but not limited to, ChatGPT, Dall-E, Co-Pilot, etc., is up to faculty discretion per course as stipulated within the course syllabus. Submitting AI generated work as your own, without attribution, will be considered academic dishonesty.
- In courses where the use of AI tools are not permitted as stipulated within the course syllabus, work submitted using AI will be considered academic dishonesty.
- Students who participate in, or assist with, cheating or plagiarism will also be in violation of this policy.

Classroom instructors and/or administrators will assess sanctions for violations of this policy. The seriousness of the violation will dictate the severity of the sanction imposed. Academic sanctions may include but are not limited to any of the following:

1. verbal or written warning
2. lowering of grade for an assignment
3. lowering of term grade

Administrative sanctions may include but are not limited to either of the following

1. Suspension from the course, program, or College
2. Dismissal from the course, program, or College

## **FORT HAYS TECH | NORTH CENTRAL MISSION STATEMENT**

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Fort Hays Tech | North Central delivers applied, innovative and personalized education to empower learners, enrich lives, develop skilled professionals and strengthen economic systems.

### Vision Statement

Fort Hays Tech | North Central is dedicated to being a leader in workforce development by maximizing value for students, employers and communities through educational excellence.

### Core Values

Achieving EXCELLENCE with INTEGRITY through  
DEDICATION

INNOVATION

COLLABORATION

COMMUNICATION

## FORT HAYS TECH | NORTH CENTRAL NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

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To provide equal employment, advancement, and learning opportunities to all individuals, employment and student admission decisions at Fort Hays Tech | North Central will be based on merit and qualifications. Fort Hays Tech | North Central does not discriminate on the basis of any characteristic protected by law in all aspects of employment and admission in its education programs or activities. Any person having inquiries concerning Fort Hays Tech | North Central's non-discrimination policy, including the application of Equal Opportunity Employment, Titles IV, VI, VII, IX, Section 504, ADA, and impending regulations, is directed to the VP of Student and Instructional Services at (800) 658-4655, or [compliance@fhtechn.edu](mailto:compliance@fhtechn.edu), or PO Box 507, 3033 Hwy 24, Beloit, KS 67420.

## FORT HAYS TECH | NORTH CENTRAL TOBACCO USE POLICY

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The use of tobacco products in any form and/or electronic cigarettes is prohibited in, or within ten (10) feet of any building owned, leased, or rented by the College. Kansas Law established the minimum age of 21 to sell, purchase, or possess cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, or tobacco products. Underage use or possession of any of these products is prohibited on property owned, leased, or rented by the College.

## FORT HAYS TECH | NORTH CENTRAL WEAPONS POLICY

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Fort Hays Tech | North Central prohibits the possession and use of firearms, explosives, and other weapons on Fort Hays Tech | North Central property, with certain limited exceptions. Please refer to the Fort Hays Tech | North Central Student Handbook for the full policy.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

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College campus dismissals and cancellations will be announced using the College Alert system. Local media will also be notified.

## OVERVIEW FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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Fort Hays Tech | North Central is dedicated to providing equal access and opportunity to all campus programs and services for students with disabilities. We are committed to providing reasonable accommodations in accordance with applicable state and federal laws including, but not limited to, Section 504 and 508 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. We strive to create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment and promote awareness, knowledge and self-advocacy.

Fort Hays Tech | North Central acknowledges that traditional methods, programs and services are not always appropriate or sufficient to accommodate the limitations experienced by some qualified persons with disabilities. When a student's disability prevents him/her from fulfilling a course requirement through conventional procedures, consideration will be given to alternatives, **keeping in mind that academic standards must be maintained.**

Services are provided through Student Accessibility Services (SAS) staff located in the Student Success Center, on the Beloit Campus, and in Student Services, on the Hays Campus.

- Director of Learning Services, may be reached at [1-785-738-9020](tel:1-785-738-9020); or by mail at [Fort Hays Tech | North Central, 3033 US Hwy 24, Beloit, KS 67420](#).

### **Student Responsibilities**

Students requesting support services will need to register ("self-disclose" and complete Student Accessibility Services Intake and Consent Form), provide appropriate documentation (if available) including how the disability affects academic performance and suggested accommodations, and communicate with the Director of Learning Services as part of the interactive process to create an *Educational Accommodation Plan* that will notify Instructors of approved accommodations, services and/or auxiliary aids.

Students are encouraged to make timely and appropriate disclosures and requests, at least two weeks in advance of a course, program, or activity for which an accommodation is requested (or as soon as realistically possible) to allow adequate time for accommodation services to be set in place.

### ***Accommodations, Academic Support Services, or Auxiliary Aids***

Reasonable accommodations including academic support services and auxiliary aids are provided to allow students with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from our educational programs. Accommodations will be provided on a case-by-case basis determined by student request, documentation, intake interview, Educational Accommodation Plan team, and assessment of individual needs and course requirements.

#### **Reasonable testing accommodations may include, but are not limited to:**

- Extended testing time
- Reduced distraction testing environment
- Test reader and/or scribe
- Use of calculator

#### **Academic support services/auxiliary aids may include, but are not limited to:**

- Note-taking assistance (second set of notes, power point slides, or other visual aids provided)
- Sign Language Interpreter
- Preferential seating in the classroom
- Large print exams, handouts, signs, etc.
- Telecommunications devices
- Use of Assistive Technology

Accommodations may not fundamentally alter the nature of the program or activity, lower academic standards, present undue financial or administrative burden on the college, or pose a threat to others or public safety.

Additionally, some accommodations and services cannot be provided, such as personal devices or assistance with personal services.

Auxiliary aids may be available through a variety of sources available to individual students. The student may make a request in obtaining specialized support services from other resources such as Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR), Recordings for the Blind, Kansas Talking Book Service, etc. For example, Vocational Rehabilitation may fund such items as transportation to the institution, tuition, textbooks, hearing aids, and other individually prescribed medical devices.

If at any time throughout the academic year, a student feels that the agreed upon accommodations are not being followed or that alternate accommodations need to be provided, the student should notify Student Accessibility Services (SAS) staff. Fort Hays Tech | North Central is committed to student success; however, we do not require students to use accommodations. The decision of when to utilize approved accommodations or services is up to the student. Integration, self-advocacy and individual responsibility are promoted and expected.

### ***Grievance Procedure***

Any student who believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability or has been denied access or accommodations, shall have the right to invoke the Grievance Procedure.

Students are encouraged to first discuss their concerns with SAS. An attempt will be made to resolve the issue(s) causing concern by assisting the student in discussions with the person(s) involved. Most situations are positively resolved through this process. If the student does not feel the concern or complaint has been appropriately resolved, he or she should contact the [Vice President of Student and Instructional Services](#) at 1-800-658-4655 or [PO Box 507, 3033 US Hwy 24, Beloit, KS 67420](#), where grievance procedures are filed for all students, including students with disabilities.

If the complaint is not resolved at the College level, a student may choose to file a complaint with the [Office for Civil Rights](#) at 1-816-268-0550 or [U.S. Department of Education, One Petticoat Lane, 1010 Walnut Street, Suite 320, Kansas City, MO 64106](#).

### ***Confidentiality***

All information regarding a student's disability is confidential. All documentation will remain separate from academic records and will not be released to an individual or source external to Fort Hays Tech | North Central without the student's written consent. In order to provide effective services, it may be necessary to communicate limited information on a need-to-know basis regarding disability-related needs to Fort Hays Tech | North Central faculty and/or staff.

## REASONABLE SUSPICION

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If reasonable suspicion of substance abuse exists regarding an employee or student based on objective criteria (including, but not limited to, behavior, appearance, demeanor, detection of the odor of alcohol or any controlled substance), the employee or student will be requested to consent to drug testing performed by Fort Hays Tech | North Central's contract vendor at the expense of the college.

- A. A college administrator (or their designee) shall drive the employee or student to the vendor's site for drug testing and shall return the employee or student to his/her residence (or arrange for transportation) following the testing.
- B. Test results shall be sent directly to the college administrator, with a copy also sent to the employee or student. All test results will be considered confidential, access to the results will be limited to institutional personnel who have a legitimate need-to-know.
- C. In the event of a positive test result, the employee or student may request a retest of the sample at the employee or student's expense. The request must be submitted within 24 hours.
- D. Positive results for any illegal drugs, or prescription drugs (either not prescribed for the employee or student, or at levels above the prescribed dosage), or blood alcohol level of 0.04 or greater shall be grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including termination or expulsion.
- E. Refusal to provide a specimen for this testing shall be treated as a positive drug test result.
- F. Test results or specimens that have been determined to be altered by the employee or student shall be grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including termination or expulsion.
- G. If the employee or student tests positive for an authorized prescription drug which may impair his/her performance or judgment, the employee or student may not be permitted to participate in college activities until he/she provides a doctor's release.

## RIGHT TO MODIFY THE SYLLABUS

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The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus during the semester. Students will be given advanced notice if a change would occur.

## KANSAS CORE OUTCOME STATEMENT

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The learning outcomes detailed in this syllabus meet, or exceed, the learning outcomes specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Project for this course, as sanctioned by the Kansas Board of Regents.

## ONLINE ATTENDANCE

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In an online course, you are not required to show-up in at a particular location and at a particular time. However, you are expected to show-up online.

This course is designed to be an active and interactive course in which you contribute and respond to the contributions of others. You should plan to log on and participate in the course at least 3-5 times each week. I will measure this by recording the date of each entry you make to the system--a response to an assignment, an entry into the threaded discussion, submission of an assignment, or participation in group work. (Though you are welcome to participate in the CyberCafe as frequently as you would like, this does not qualify as "attending and participating" in the course.)

Please do not "drop out" for a period of time and then expect to "drop back in." If your business/personal obligations or illness require you to be absent for a week, please contact me and arrange to make up the work you will miss. Since you can access this online course from anywhere in the world, there should be little likelihood "absence."

## ONLINE COMMUNICATION

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In a cyber community, you present yourself and learn about others through written words. You don't need to be a prize-winning author or poet to successfully communicate in an online community, however you do want to present yourself in a positive light and to communicate your thoughts and ideas effectively.

The following guidelines will help you ensure that you are properly understood, get your points across effectively, avoid getting anybody annoyed, and avoid looking like a "beginner" on the net.

1. Format your posting so that it is easy to read. Use short paragraphs separated by blank lines. Don't write everything

in uppercase (capital) letters. It is more difficult to read and, even worse, in an online environment it means you are SHOUTING.

2. Be brief. Plan your messages ahead so that you don't ramble.

3. Be clear. Don't use abbreviations or acronyms that others may not understand. Read your messages over before sending them.

4. Check your spelling. People will not take you seriously, no matter how brilliant your ideas, if your writing is full of misspellings. Use your computer's Spell Check features; then read over what you have written to catch errors that Spell Check misses.

5. When you are interacting with others online, remember that things may "sound" harsh or less friendly when the reader cannot see your smile or the twinkle in your eye. Read your messages over to be sure they are diplomatic and polite.

## **ONLINE - CORE ABILITIES**

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Although the primary setting for learning in this course is online, you are a member of a learning community just as you would be in a classroom course. As members of an online learning community, we share responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment that communicates mutual respect, supports learning for all members, and provides opportunities for all members of the community to learn from one another. Throughout this learning experience we will strive to build the following online learning core abilities:

Learn effectively.

You will know you are practicing effective online learning habits:

- you actively engage in the online learning community
- you use the syllabus, learning plans, performance assessment tasks, and learning materials to guide learning
- you use online learning tools such as Profiles, Orientation, Learning Plans, Discussion, Chat, In/Out Box, WorkSpace, GradeBook, Help Desk
- you take responsibility for self as a learner
- you use resources that are provided and find additional resources to meet learning needs
- you produce evidence of learning that meets the performance expectations

Work cooperatively

You will know you are effectively contributing to the online learning community when:

- you complete assigned tasks for team/group work
- you use collaborative strategies to complete tasks
- you exchange information, ideas, and opinions in group and/or class discussions
- you actively provide feedback through Peer Review process, if applicable

Act responsibly

You will know you are taking responsibility for your online learning when:

- you complete assigned tasks according to prescribed deadlines
- you complete assigned tasks according to prescribed criteria
- you are an active participant in your cyber community
- you observe the rules of netiquette

Think critically and creatively

You will know you are thinking critically and creatively when:

- you respect other points of view
- you apply the principles and strategies of purposeful, organized thinking to problem solving and decision making
- you distinguish between fact and opinion
- your contributions to online discussions show original thought you synthesize information from a variety of sources

## **ONLINE - CREATING A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AT HOME**

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What makes a particular setting or space a good place to learn? Think about classrooms or training rooms that have worked well for you. Chances are they provided good lighting, comfortable seating, ample workspace, good ventilation and a comfortable temperature, minimal distractions, and content-related visual or audio cues.

When you attend class in a classroom, the school and your instructor create a good learning environment. When attend class online, you need to create a good learning environment for yourself-most likely in your home. Don't underestimate the importance of your study surroundings. The time you spend creating surroundings that support learning will be well invested.

Here are some tips to help you get started:

- Select a space in which you can set up your computer (with access to your internet connection) and your tools for learning (books, papers, pencils and pens, calendar) and (if possible) leave them undisturbed between sessions.
- Keep the area well ventilated and at a temperature that works for you-cool enough so that you don't feel sleepy, but warm enough so that you are comfortable.
- Provide yourself with a comfortable desk or work chair (preferably adjustable; not an easy chair) and ample work surface (table space) at a comfortable height.
- Ensure that you have good lighting that does not cause a glare on your computer screen, but still allows you to read comfortably.
- Keep your study space as free from distractions as possible (television, distracting music, conversations, ringing phones).
- Add props to make your learning space more interesting and to help you focus on the subject matter. You might use posters, pictures, mind maps, geographic maps, drawings, charts, etc. that are related to the subject matter you are studying.
- Play music that enhances learning. Research shows that classical music written by classical composers such as Bach, Brahms, Handel, Mozart, Vivaldi, Mendelssohn, Haydn, Tchaikovsky, and Corelli, can enhance the ability of many students to concentrate and think. You can purchase classical music CDs or tapes very reasonably at any music store, many book story chains, and online.
- Have fresh drinking water and nutritious snacks nearby.

## **ONLINE - INSTRUCTOR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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As your instructor, I am responsible for providing an environment in which an opportunity for learning exists. I will work with you and assist you in your quest for understanding. I cannot make you learn anything. As a resource person and facilitator, I will organize the course, schedule learning activities, and evaluate the short-run "products" of your learning process. Recognizing that even asynchronous online communication is time sensitive, I will monitor threaded discussions and respond to queries within 48 hours of the time they were posted. Since the Writing and Thinking Skills and Individual Reflections are significant pieces of writing, it may take a little longer to assess them. I will be giving your work, as well as that of your fellow learners, careful consideration.

## ONLINE - LEARNER ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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You are an adult learner and as such you are responsible for your own learning. No one else can be a "stand in" for you in the learning process. You will be held accountable for all assigned activities. You matter and what you do does make a difference. You will have an opportunity to share your unique ideas and experiences with your student peers and instructor. The form and content of your participation will determine the level of achievement, satisfaction, and enjoyment that you experience. Because others are depending on you to keep the course moving, you have an obligation to meet deadlines for completing assignments and postings.

## PLAGIARISM AND AI USAGE

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Plagiarism is a violation of the Academic Honesty process.

Any plagiarism or AI usage or other form of cheating will result in a zero on the assignment/activity.

## SUMMER SCHEDULE

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<u>Date/Week</u>	<u>Learning Activities</u>	
<b>Week 1</b>	Chapters 1 and 2 Power Point Lecture Chapter Questions Chapter Quiz Discussion Post	
<b>Week 2</b>	Chapters 3 and 4 Power Point Lecture Chapter Questions Chapter Quiz Discussion Post	
<b>Week 3</b>	Chapters 5 and 6 Power Point Lecture Chapter Questions Chapter Quiz Discussion Post Social Structure Assignment*	*Social Structure Assignment: Watch a documentary and complete the assignment.
<b>Week 4</b>	Chapters 7 and 8 Power Point Lecture Chapter Questions	

	Chapter Quiz Discussion Post	
<b>Week 5</b>	Chapters 9 and 10 Power Point Lecture "I Am Alive" Assignment Chapter Quiz Discussion Post	
<b>Week 6</b>	Chapters 11 and 12 Power Point Lecture Chapter Questions Chapter Quiz Discussion Post	
<b>Week 7</b>	Chapters 13 and 14 Power Point Lecture Chapter Questions Chapter Quiz Discussion Post	
<b>Week 8</b>	Chapter 15 Power Point Lecture Chapter Questions Chapter Quiz Discussion Post Major Social Change Paper*	*Major Social Change Paper: Three-page paper identifying and describing a major social change in the U.S. or elsewhere.