

Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) College in Prison Program (CIPP) Sample Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Title: Introduction to Sociology

Course Code: SO101

Credits: 3

Semester: Spring 2026

Location: Marcy Correctional Facility – Education Wing

Meeting Times: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Instructor: Dr. [Instructor Name]

Email: [Instructor Email]

Office Hours: Available before/after class or by written request through program coordinator

Course Description

This course introduces students to the study of human society, social institutions, and group behavior. Through readings, discussions, and written assignments, students will explore how culture, socialization, class, race, and gender shape the human experience. The course emphasizes critical thinking and self-reflection to understand how social forces influence personal and collective life.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain core sociological theories and concepts.
2. Analyze social structures and their influence on individual behavior.
3. Evaluate issues of inequality related to race, class, and gender.
4. Apply sociological perspectives to everyday situations.
5. Demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills.

Required Materials

Textbook: Giddens, A., Duneier, M., Appelbaum, R., & Carr, D. (2023). *Introduction to Sociology* (12th ed.).

W.W. Norton & Company.

Note: Texts and handouts will be distributed by program staff and remain inside the facility.

Course Requirements & Evaluation

Grades will be based on the following:

- Class Participation and Attendance – 20%
- Weekly Reflection Papers – 25%
- Midterm Exam – 25%
- Final Paper (5–7 pages) – 30%

All assignments must be handwritten unless otherwise approved. Late work is accepted only with valid reason (e.g., facility lockdown, illness, transfer) and at the instructor's discretion.

Attendance & Engagement

Regular attendance is required to meet course objectives. Because access to classroom sessions is limited, students must notify the instructor or program coordinator if absent due to facility operations or health reasons. Repeated unexcused absences may result in grade reduction.

Academic Integrity

All MVCC students are expected to adhere to the MVCC Student Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty—including plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, or falsification of work—will result in disciplinary action in accordance with college policy.

Classroom Conduct

Students are expected to maintain a respectful learning environment. Discussions should reflect mutual respect, academic curiosity, and professionalism. Personal items, communication, and

movement are subject to correctional facility rules and instructor guidance.

Academic Support & Resources

Students have access to tutoring, advising, and reentry planning support through the MVCC College in Prison Program staff. Faculty and program coordinators collaborate to ensure students receive the resources needed for academic success.

Facility Procedures & Contingency Plan

In the event of facility lockdowns, movement restrictions, or other interruptions, the instructor will adjust deadlines and activities as needed. Students should continue assigned readings and written reflections during any class cancellations.

Course Schedule (Sample – 15 Weeks)

Week 1 – Introduction to Sociology: The Sociological Perspective
Week 2 – Research Methods in Sociology
Week 3 – Culture and Society
Week 4 – Socialization and the Life Course
Week 5 – Social Interaction and Groups
Week 6 – Deviance and Social Control
Week 7 – Midterm Exam and Review
Week 8 – Stratification and Social Class
Week 9 – Race and Ethnicity
Week 10 – Gender and Sexuality
Week 11 – Education and Work
Week 12 – Family and Relationships
Week 13 – Social Change and the Environment
Week 14 – Final Paper Preparation
Week 15 – Final Presentations and Course Reflection

This syllabus is subject to adjustment as needed to accommodate facility schedules, student needs, or college policy updates. Any changes will be communicated promptly through the program coordinator.