Introduction to Sociology  
SYG 2000  
Fall 2012  
TBA / T and R / 9:30 am to 11:00 am

Instructor: Dr. Maria Aysa-Lastra  
Department: Global and Sociocultural Studies  
School: School of International and Public Affairs  
E-mail: aysam@fiu.edu  
Phone: 305-348-2258  
Office: SIPA 311  
Office hours: T 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm, or by appointment  
Teaching Assistant: TBA

DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the study of social relationships, social institutions and society. The material and texts focus on the United States but material from other countries is also presented for the purpose of comparison, so you have a better understanding of both the uniqueness of America and the diversity of social relationships and social institutions in other regions. Sociology is the study of human society, social life and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. In order to give you an introduction to the discipline, its importance and applications, the material is divided in four large sections: 1) Sociological Theories and Methods; 2) Individuals and Society, 3) Social Inequality and 4) Social Institutions. In each section you will learn new concepts and materials apply and discuss them in class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course seeks to enable students to understand their interrelationships with society in a critical and global perspective.

Students will learn to:
- Identify the main theories, its methods, and major exponents
- Develop an awareness of the relevance of sociology to an understanding of our social world
- Develop the ability to think “sociologically” in examining important personal and public issues
- Understand the origins, manifestations, and implications of social inequality and cultural variability
- Understand the “sociological imagination” and other basic concepts/methods of sociology.
- Apply these concepts/methods to:
  - Identify the features of society and their interrelationships.
  - Make sense of the interrelationships between society and self.
  - Grasp the foundations of global inequalities.
  - Develop viewpoints on how to promote constructive change in societies at the local, national/regional, and global levels.

TEXTBOOKS


Course materials available in moodle: http://ecampus.fiu.edu

EQUIPMENT: Response card from iClicker. You must register your clicker during the first week of the course. Please follow these instructions:
INSTRUCTIONS FOR i>Clicker WEB REGISTRATION:

i>Clicker is a response system that allows you to respond to questions I pose during class, and you will be graded on that feedback and/or your in-class participation. In order to receive this credit, you will need to register your i>Clicker remote online. Register online at [http://www.iclicker.com/registration](http://www.iclicker.com/registration). Complete the fields with your first name, last name, student ID, and remote ID. Your student ID must be your **FIU EMAIL** e.g. mrock008@fiu.edu. The remote ID is the series of numbers and sometimes letters found on the bottom of the back of your i>Clicker remote. It can also be found on the LCD screen upon powering on your i>clicker2 remote. You must come to class at least once and vote on at least one question in order to complete the registration.

i>Clicker2 will be used every day in class, and you are responsible for bringing your remote daily.

**Technical support:** Students, If you need technical support for i>clicker or i>clicker2, please contact (866) 209-5698 or via email support@iclicker.com from 9AM-11PM EST, M-F. The i>clicker website ([www.iclicker.com](http://www.iclicker.com)) also has support documentation, video tutorials, and FAQs for students.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:** None.

**GRADING**

- Three online examinations, each worth 100 points (50 “objective” questions, 2 pts. each). Final is not comprehensive.
- Six impromptu in class (unannounced) quizzes, each worth 10 points, for a total of 60 points. You need your clicker to take the quizzes.
- Eleven weekly evaluations each Friday (but not the weeks online examinations are assigned), each worth 10 points – for a total of 110 points. You need your clicker to take the weekly evaluations.
- There is one optional extra credit assignment worth 30 points (see details in the last page)
- Maximum number of points: 470

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Percentile of the lower limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>432 to 470</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>418 to 431</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>404 to 417</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>390 to 403</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>376 to 389</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>362 to 375</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>348 to 361</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>329 to 347</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>315 to 328</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>301 to 314</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>287 to 300</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>286 and below</td>
<td>Below 61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ATTENDANCE AND CLASS ETIQUETTE**

Attendance is not mandatory, but there will be six unannounced “impromptu” quizzes. Also, a substantial number of exam questions will be derived exclusively from the lectures. Absence will not constitute an excuse for not knowing the material. If you do decide to attend class, you must follow these important rules:

- no conversations or other disruptive behavior
- no ringing electronic devices
- no chronic tardiness
- you may certainly use a laptop in class, but please act as if you are using it to take class notes and not surfing for your favorite exciting or humorous entertainment/chat/video websites
**MISSED EXAMINATIONS**

There are no make-up exams. If you cannot take the online exam at the time any of the three exams is given, you must substantiate, through a verifiable excuse, that it was impossible for you to take it. If I am able to verify it, we will make arrangements so that you will not be penalized. If you do not have a verifiable excuse, you will receive a zero for that exam. Students who do not take the online exam as scheduled because they were delayed by an emergency beyond their control must contact me immediately.

The period for taking the online exams is from Monday to Thursday, exams will not be available on Friday. If you have any technical difficulty before or during the exam you should contact me immediately. I can help you if there is a problem with the FIU system, but I cannot help you with your internet connection.

You should study BEFORE and not during the exam. The exam is a learning opportunity, but you can only learn by critically thinking about the concepts you understand. Please read the text before class, take notes, study and share with the class your ideas on the topics we will cover.

You will receive a zero on any weekly or impromptu quiz you miss, regardless of the reason for missing it.

**FIU’s Policies and Codes**

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the *Student Handbook*.

Please for additional information see:
- Policies on Academic Misconduct
- Other Policies and Codes
- Academic Calendar

Please note that **Oct 29, 2012** is the last date to drop the course with a DR grade.
| Week 1       | Aug 21 & 23 | The definition and nature of sociology  
Chapter 1 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mandatory Assignment: Register your iClicker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Weeks 2 and 3 | Aug 28 to Sep 6 | The origins and development of sociology as a field of study  
Chapter 2 |
| Week 4      | Sep 11 & 13 | The methods of sociology  
Chapter 3 |
| Week 5      | Sep 18 & 20 | Culture and Society  
Chapter 4  
Roles, Statuses, Groups and Organizations  
Chapter 5 |
| Week 6      | Sep 25 & 27 | Socialization and Social Interaction  
Chapter 6  
First Online Exam – Monday to Wednesday |
| Week 7      | Oct 2 & 4   | Population  
Chapter 19 |
| Week 8      | Oct 9 & 11  | Community  
Chapter 20 |
| Week 9      | Oct 16 & 18 | Principles of differentiation and stratification  
Chapter 8 |
| Week 10     | Oct 23 & 25 | Race and Ethnicity  
Chapter 9 |
| Week 11     | Oct 30 & Nov 1 | Sex and Gender  
Chapter 10  
Second Online Exam – Monday to Wednesday |
| Week 12     | Nov 6 & 8   | Religion and the Family  
Chapters 12 and 13 |
| Weeks 13 and 14 | Nov 13 to Nov 22 | Political and Economic groups and systems  
Chapters 15 and 16 |
| Week 15     | Nov 27 & 29 | Social Change  
Chapter 21 |
| Week 16     | Dec 3, 4 & 5 | Final exam week  
Third Online Exam – Monday to Wednesday |
Optional Extra-Credit Assignment

For a chance to add up to 30 extra points to your total score in the class, you may want to do the following:

1. Select an article from one of the following journals (found in the Library):
   *American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, Social Forces*

2. Find out the following about the research reported in the article:
   · What is the major theory or approach or question or topic that the article addresses?
   · What is (are) the specific research question(s) or hypothesis(es) that are being researched?
   · What is the methodology used? Relate this to the various methodological approaches presented in your text (survey, etc.).
   · What were the conclusions of the research?

3. Write up the answers to each of the four questions above using the format below, minimum 300 words (counting only your answers and not the references or the questions, or your name), maximum 400. No cover page, please, and no covers. Keep it together with only a staple (not a paper clip) in the upper left corner. Assignments, needless to say, must be typed.

4. To receive credit, assignment must be turned in by the end of class on November 29.

Example:

Name
id#


1. Theory or question addressed
   Durkheim was interested in suicide as a social fact. His goal was to explain why, when comparing different nations, suicide rates show such consistency across time. He put forth the following theory of suicide: suicide rates vary by . . . yada, yada, yada.

2. Specific research question(s) or hypothesis(es)
   In order to test his theory, the author formulated the following hypotheses: 1) Catholics have lower . . . yada, yada, yada.

3. Methodology
   Durkheim used secondary sources, compiling and computing the suicide rates for different European countries as found in the . . . etc, etc., etc.

4. Conclusions
   After analyzing the data, Durkheim was able to confirm that indeed Catholics . . . etc., etc., etc.