Course Syllabus

**SYG2000: Introduction to Sociology**

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| **Professor Information** | |
|  | **Instructor: Dr. Phyllis Baker**  **Office Hours: Tuesdays: 12:45- 1:45pm**  **E-Mail: Please use Canvas Inbox.**  **Office: SIPA  3rd Floor (MMC)**  **Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:15pm** |



**Course Description and Purpose**

Sociology is the scientific study of human action and interaction. Sociologists argue that individual and group actions and experiences are shaped by the social context in which they occur and in turn, that social context is shaped by individual and group activities and experiences. Sociology, very broadly, aims to understand this interaction. This course will introduce students to various sociological perspectives on issues in contemporary society, as well as how sociologists use research to develop these perspectives. We will cover a variety of broad issues studied by sociologists including social structure, inequality, race, gender, class, families, deviance, work, institutions, and culture. An active “sociological imagination” is important in professional fields as diverse as education, social work, health, safety, politics, business, economics, and engineering.

**Course Objectives**

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

Students will learn to understand the "sociological imagination" and other basic concepts/methods of sociology and apply these concepts/methods to:

* identify the features of society and their interrelationships, especially those related to race, class, and gender;
* analyze interrelationships between society and self;
* explain the foundations of global inequalities; and
* develop viewpoints on how to promote constructive change in societies at the local, national/regional, and global levels.

**Global Learning Outcomes**

This is a Discipline-specific Global Learning course that counts towards your FIU Global Learning graduation requirement.

Global Awareness: Students will be able to explain how globally diverse values, beliefs, and behaviors are influenced by social forces.

Global Perspective: Students will be able to examine social processes from diverse perspectives (e.g., conflict, functionalist, and symbolic interactionist approaches).

Global Engagement: Students will be able to propose solutions to a global problem from considering multiple perspectives.



**Important Information**

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

* [Policies](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/131999/pages/policies)
* [Netiquette (Links to an external site.)](https://online.fiu.edu/html/canvas/policies/)
* [Technical Requirements and Skills](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/131999/pages/technical-requirements-and-skills)
* [Accessibility and Accommodation](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/131999/pages/accessibility-and-accommodation)
* [Academic Misconduct Statement](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/131999/pages/academic-misconduct-statement)
* [Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/131999/pages/panthers-care-and-counseling-and-psychological-services-caps)

**VERY IMPORTANT:**If you have any technical problems, do not contact the instructor, immediately contact[**FIU Canvas Help (Links to an external site.)**](https://fiuhelp.force.com/canvas/s/categories-student). They are available to assist via email, phone, chat, or walk-in. Visit their website for hours of operation.

**Course Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

**Textbook and Course Materials**

In this course we will use the textbook Introduction to Sociology by Henry L. Tischler and The Sociology of Religion, Art & Culture, by Dr. Phyllis Baker

**Useful Websites**

* [Countries and Regions (Links to an external site.)](https://data.worldbank.org/country)
* [World Bank Development Data and Statistics (Links to an external site.)](http://www.worldbank.org/data/)
* [International Monetary Fund (Links to an external site.)](http://www.imf.org/)
* [IMF World Economic Outlook (Links to an external site.)](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/02/index.htm)
* [United Nations Economic and Social Development (Links to an external site.)](https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/home)
* [United Nations Statistics Division (Links to an external site.)](https://unstats.un.org/home/)
* [United Nations Development Program (Links to an external site.)](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html)
* [Human Development Report (Links to an external site.)](http://hdr.undp.org/en/)

**Expectations of this Course**

The students are expected to be self-motivation, self-discipline, and utilize the technology for the submission of the required assignments

**Students are expected to:**

* **review the Getting Started module**located in the course content;
* **attend class regularly**
* **interact with classmates and instructor**
* **review**and follow the course calendar; and
* submit assignments on time



**Course Communication**

Communication in this course will take place within Canvas. See the [Canvas Guide (Links to an external site.)](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10574-4212710325) and during class or office hours.

I will try to respond to emails within 1 to 2 business days.

Visit the [FIU Center for Excellence in Writing resources page (Links to an external site.)](https://writingcenter.fiu.edu/resources/index.html) for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

Most class assignments are due by **Sunday, 11:59 pm** the week/module assigned unless otherwise indicated in the course syllabus/calendar. Discussion prompts will be available for the duration of each module.

**Exams**

**Multiple-choice/true-false exams**

* Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions; will cover the textbook and assigned readings

     To prepare for each exam, **FIRST READ EACH CHAPTER CAREFULLY**. The following tips will also help you study.

* Look over the lecture slides
* Emphasize broad concepts and examples of such concepts, rather than narrow facts.
* Please read the textbooks

Unless otherwise indicated, assignments will be available from Thursday to Sunday, 11:59 pm

**Group Engagement Assignment/Class Project**

 You will work with two to three people in the class by selecting a topic from the topic list and writing a 10–12-page paper. Through this assignment you will sharpen your sociological imagination and, by applying it, you will put into practice sociology’s theories and concepts. Format for this paper and topics will be provided.

**Extra Credit and Make-Up Assignments**

Please email the professor if you have any issues.

There will be at least one extra-credit assignment on Canvas wo

**Grading**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Course Grades Distribution Table | | | |
| **Course Requirements** | **Number of Items** | **Points for Each** | **Total Points Possible** |
| **Homework Assignments** | 4 | 5 | 20 |
| **Quizzes** | 3 |  | 25 |
| **Midterm & Final** | 2 | 15 | 30 |
| **Class Project** | 1 | 25 | 25 |
| **Total** | 10 | **N/A** | **100** |

| Letter Grade Distribution Table | |
| --- | --- |
| **Letter** | **Range** |
| A | 95 or above |
| A- | 90-94 |
| B+ | 87-89 |
| B | 83-86 |
| B- | 80-82 |

C+                                                              77-79

C                                                                70-76

D                                                                60-69

F                                                                 59or less                                          
course calendar section

**Course Schedule for Introduction to Sociology**

**Assignments are due on Sunday Nights at 11:59 pm, unless otherwise noted.**

|  | **Topics** | **Activities Due** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1 | Historical  Perspective  Sociological Perspectives | Joseph Campbell: read article   and   complete assignment on Blackboard |
| Week 2 | Socialization  Culture | ·  · |
| Week 3 | *The Sociology of Culture*  *·*  · | \* Letter from A Birmingham Jail: Read letter by Dr. King and complete assignment on Blackboard |
| Week 4 | Crime, Deviance & Violence    *Film: The Shawshank Redemption* | Summary and reaction to The Shawshank Redemption  ·       Quiz 1 |
| Week 5 | · Religion | ·  \*Einstein and Faith: Read Article and complete assignment on Blackboard |
| Week 6    Week 7    Week 8  Mid Term Exam    Week 9  Week 10  Week 11  Political & Economic Systems    Week 12  The Sociology of Art  Week 13  Gender Stratification  Week 14  Environmental Issues  Week 15  Wrap Up | The Sociology of Religion | ·          · Quiz 2               Class Projects due        Quiz 3              Final Exam |



                                                        Format for Class Paper

(A) Why do you think this topic is important?

(B) Historical background, main themes, and concepts

(C) Apply and discuss the theories of Sociology as it relates to your paper, i.e., Conflict Theory, The Interactionalist Theory, Functionalist Theory, and others

(D) How is your topic relevant to this course?

(E) Implications for improvements

(F) Conclusion/summary

(G) References (5 or more)