

Course Syllabus



SYG2000: Introduction to Sociology

Professor Information



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General Information

Course Description and Purpose

Sociology is the scientific study of human action and interaction. Sociologists argue that individual and group action 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.

University Core Curriculum

This course satisfies the following University Core Curriculum requirement for Social Science Group One (state-required):

Students will demonstrate the ability to examine behavioral, social, and cultural issues from a variety of points of view. Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavioral, social, and cultural issues, past and present, local and global.

It is supported by the following learning outcomes for the course:

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 taking into account multiple perspectives.

Important Information

Important Information

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [Policies](#)
- [Netiquette](https://online.fiu.edu/html/canvas/policies/) [_\(https://online.fiu.edu/html/canvas/policies/\)](https://online.fiu.edu/html/canvas/policies/)
- [Technical Requirements and Skills](#)
- [Accessibility and Accommodation](#)
- [Academic Misconduct Statement](#)
- [Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)

VERY IMPORTANT: If you have any technical problems, do not contact the instructor, immediately contact [FIU Canvas Help](https://fiuhelp.force.com/canvas/s/categories-student) [_\(https://fiuhelp.force.com/canvas/s/categories-student\)_](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 be using textbook chapters and course materials from "A Sociological Experiment." This is an initiative by leading sociologists to provide high quality introductory materials in an accessible manner. All required materials will be available for purchase on their [website](https://www.sociologyexperiment.com/) [\(https://www.sociologyexperiment.com/\)](https://www.sociologyexperiment.com/). You can purchase the chapters (\$1 a piece) on their website. If that still poses a financial challenge, you can email them to work something out. You will need to purchase Chapters 1-15 for this course.

Useful Websites

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

Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, meaning that all of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as for a traditional course; in fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills that can make them more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **review the Getting Started module** located in the course content;
- **introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion forum;
- **take the Syllabus Quiz (you need to take the Syllabus Quiz and receive a perfect score in order to gain access to all the modules, including discussions and exams, in the course);**
- **interact** online with instructor and peers;
- **review** and follow the course calendar; and
- check the course website 3-4 times per week for any updates and notification from the instructor or T.A.

Course Detail

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place within Canvas. See the [Canvas Guide \(https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10574-4212710325\)](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10574-4212710325) on communicating with course users for more information.

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

Discussions Forums

Keep in mind that forum discussions are public, and care should be taken when determining what to post.

Discussion Forum Posts: 60 possible semester points

Students are required to post to the discussion forum in response to the instructor's discussion questions. These can be accessed by clicking on the "Reply" tab in the "Discussion" link in each weekly module. You will post your response to the questions for that particular week. **You will need to read the assigned chapter readings before posting.** Use these postings to maximize discussion with your classmates and instructors.

As described below, each post will be graded pass/fail. This means that there will be no partial credit. If your post does not meet all of the criteria below, it will receive zero points. These are "all or nothing" grading procedures. A student's semester grade for the discussion forum will be based on the percentage of the discussion assignments that the student posts and passes.

Students are encouraged to post multiple commentaries for each discussion forum topic, but only the first post that each student makes for an assignment will be evaluated according to the discussion forum rubrics, as presented below. Each student's initial post will be graded pass/fail according to

these rubrics:

- Relevance to assigned material: the posted ideas indicate that the student has read the assigned material.
- Clarity, coherence: the ideas are stated clearly and coherently.
- Critical thinking: there is evidence that the student has adequately analyzed, synthesized, and evaluated the assigned material.
- Poses a discussion question about the assigned material or draws a connection between a current event and the assigned material
- Spelling, grammar: the posting must meet university-level standards of spelling and grammar. Be sure to break up your post into paragraphs for clarity. **This is extremely important. I will be very strict about this so proofread your posts!**
- Length: the initial posting for each weekly module must be no less than 500 words. **I will also be very strict about this. Be sure to do a word count before submitting it.**

After posting in response to a discussion forum question, students are encouraged to continue posting informally to continue the dialog with each other and with the instructor.

There will be 6 assigned discussion forum posts. Each post will be graded pass/fail, according to the above criteria. Each student's semester grade for discussion participation will be based on the percentage of the semester's 5 discussion assignments that the student posts and passes: 6=60 points; 5=50 points; 4=40 points; 3=30 points; 2=20 points; 1=10 points; 0=0 points.

Discussion forum posts 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

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the Syllabus Quiz from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. You need to receive a perfect score in order to gain access to all the modules, including discussions and exams, in the course.

Multiple-choice/true-false exams & final grade:

- 40 possible points each; 240 possible semester points
- The 6 exams will be based entirely on the textbook A Sociology Experiment.
- Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions; will cover the textbook's assigned readings; and will have 20 questions, worth 2 points each. Thus, each exam will count up to a possible 40 points. **The exams will be available within the modules.**

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

- Look over the lecture slides and videos in the appropriate module for review.
- Emphasize broad concepts and examples of such concepts, rather than narrow facts.
- Look over and complete any other supplemental materials available in the modules or on the [A Sociological Experiment](https://www.sociologyexperiment.com/) (<https://www.sociologyexperiment.com/>) website.

Unless otherwise indicated, exams will be available from Thursday to Sunday, 11:59 pm, at the end of each module.

Group Engagement Assignment

In this assignment, you will work with a few classmates to gather online sources that provide data and propose solutions to a specific social issue. Then, as individuals, you will compose a letter or an online petition to send to local, state, and/or national representatives in support of a particular policy or approach. Through this assignment you will sharpen your sociological imagination and, by applying it, you will put into practice sociology's principle that the personal is political.

There will be three total submissions for this assignment. First, your group will submit a draft of the sources to receive feedback from the instructor (10 points). Second, your group will re-submit its revised annotated list (10 points). Third, you will submit an individual letter or online petition (20 points).

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 worth 10 points.

Grading

Note: All required assignments must be completed to be eligible to earn a passing grade.

The graded assignments will be 6 multiple-choice/true-false exams (40 possible points each; 240 possible semester points), 6 discussion forum posts (10 possible points each; 60 possible semester points), a group engagement assignment (40 possible points), and a Syllabus Quiz (10 possible points) adding up to 300 total possible semester points.

Final grades will be computed by the percentage of 350 total possible semester points earned.

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Possible
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Syllabus Quiz	1	10	10
Exams	6	40	240
Discussion Posts	6	10	60
Group Engagement Assignment	1	40	40
Total	12	N/A	350












Letter Grade Distribution Table









Letter	Range
A	315 - 350 (90+%)
B	280 - 314 (80-89%)
C	245 - 279 (70-79%)
D	210 - 244 (60-69%)
F	209 or less (<60%)

Course Calendar

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Sun May 15, 2022	 Discussion 1 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1766004	due by 11:59pm
	 Exam 1 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1765993	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun May 22, 2022	 Syllabus Quiz https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1765998	due by 11:59pm
	 Discussion 2 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1766003	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 29, 2022	 Exam 2 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1765997	due by 11:59pm
	 Discussion 3 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1766002	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 29, 2022	 Exam 3 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1765995	due by 11:59pm
	 First Draft of Group Resources https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1766009	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 5, 2022	 Discussion 4 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1766001	due by 11:59pm
	 Exam 4 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1765996	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 12, 2022	 Discussion 5 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1766000	due by 11:59pm
	 Exam 5 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1765994	due by 11:59pm
	 Revised Annotated List https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1765994	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	/136536/assignments/1766012)	
	 Discussion 6 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1765999)	due by 11:59am
	 Exam 6 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1765992)	due by 11:59am
	 Extra Credit - PhotoVoice https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1766005)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 19, 2022	 Extra Credit - Social Ties and Homelessness https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1766008)	due by 11:59pm
	 Extra Credit- Social Movement Rally Participant Observation https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1766006)	due by 11:59pm
	 Individual Letter or Online Petition (https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1766010)	due by 11:59pm
	 Extra Credit - Social/Protest Movements https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1766007)	
	 Mid-Semester Grade https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/136536/assignments/1766011)	