

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Basic Ideas of Sociology

SYG 3002 – RVC

SPRING 2023

Professor: Dr. A. Fernández

Office Hours: By Appointment via ZOOM

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Scheduled as: ONLINE

***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

Are you fascinated by the complex forces that keep civilization in balance? Are you interested in the various religious, political, cultural, and ecological factors that can throw that balance into disarray? If so, this course will help you to study the systems and structures that govern the way we interact with society, within communities, and with one another. The topics covered in this course aim to introduce students to the ideas that have captured the imagination of sociologists and other social scientists over time, with particular focus on a modern and contemporary vantage point.

Areas explored and discussed include, but are not limited to, the sociological imagination, social structures, power, organizations, community, inequality, race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, family, religion, social movements, population, aging and health, deviance, and globalization. Drawing from interdisciplinary sources, we will open-mindedly, objectively, and respectfully create a space for the neutral exchange of thoughts, feelings, and emotions regarding the sociological agenda. Grounded in a pluralistic approach to the study of sociology, this course seeks to bridge sociological ideologies with other social science disciplines, creating a space that is both culturally diverse and inclusive.

Note: Be prepared to think outside the box, take intellectual risks, and dare to explore and share your own perceptions of the world that surrounds you.

AIM OF THE COURSE

After completion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of:

- our roles as social advocates and effective citizens within the context of our global community
- the role of communication and persuasion in society
- how social structures/institutions shape our life chances
- the causes and consequences of inequalities of social class, race and ethnicity, power, gender and sexuality

LEARNING OUTCOME

This course is designed to assist students with developing basic *experiential learning abilities* when analyzing interactions between members of society and their immediate environments aimed at developing a comprehensive and inclusive worldview. Experiential learning allows students to make meaningful connections between what they read, view, and discuss in class and what they experience outside of the classroom. In this course, experiential learning is fulfilled by combining data gathered from students' personal life experiences when reviewing the weekly topics of discussion, and then producing summaries that are reflexive of how students interact with, and respond to, the weekly materials. In other words, the students design their own theory of the materials based on their personal reactions to the course content.

TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

Our approach for this course is *interdisciplinary*, which means you will learn how to critically draw from theories reflecting diverse fields of study to include, but not limited to, anthropology, sociology, philosophy, psychology, cultural studies, history, economics, gender studies, and ecology.

- This course is taught in *seminar style* as opposed to a lecture format. This means that as a collective – professor/students – we help guide one another to understand the ideas reflected in the assigned material through a group discussion format.

COVID19 ACADEMIC CONTINUITY PLANNING

The following resources are set up to assist both instructors and students with academic continuity information and guides for the Spring 2023 semester:

<https://repopulation.fiu.edu>

<https://canvas.fiu.edu/coronavirus/>

COURSE PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course. More information about prerequisites can be found in the [FIU course catalog](#).

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Canvas: All students are required to regularly utilize Canvas for this course. Here, students will be able to access course information and materials, upload assignments, view course announcements, send and receive messages, and monitor progress. If you should encounter any technical issues with Canvas, please contact them directly at: <https://canvas.fiu.edu/support/>

Discussion Forums (DF): Students will be designated as facilitators for each week's topic by providing one (1) discussion question extracted from a review of the assigned weekly materials. DFs are interactive and time sensitive. Once closed they cannot be reopened for submission.

Reflections: Weekly summaries are designed to critically analyze the key terms and concepts from the assigned readings and discussions for each week. These assignments offer students the rare opportunity to develop their writing skills in scholarly, academic fashion.

Research Proposal: By the fourth week of class, students are asked to submit a summary of their assigned films along with a list of three (3) external sources they will use for the critical film review.

Critical Film Review: The final project for this course is a critical film review designed to get the student to think about and evaluate the different sociological perspectives that have been presented during the semester through the use of audiovisual media and cinema.

**Students are encouraged to make use of FIUs Center for Excellence in Writing at:*

<https://writingcenter.fiu.edu/index.html>

GRADING CRITERIA

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	NUMBER OF ITEMS	POINTS PER ITEM	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL WEIGHT
Discussion Forums	14	15	210	25%
Weekly Summaries	14	20	280	25%
Research Proposal	1	20	20	20%
Critical Film Review	1	30	30	30%
TOTAL	45	N/A	750	100%

GRADING GRID

LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE
A	95-100	B-	80-83	F	< 60
A-	90-94	C+	77-79		
B+	86-89	C	70-76		
B	83-85	D	60-69		

A, A-: awarded for excellent to exceptional work, free of technical and stylistic errors, showing an impressive academic level.

B+, B, B-: awarded for good to very good work, with some occasional errors, but nonetheless clearly indicating a good grasp of the material and assigned task.

C+, C: awarded for average to above average work, meeting minimal standards and exposing gaps in

student performance and/or fulfillment of the assignment.

D: awarded for barely passing to below average work, usually seriously deficient in fulfilling the assignment.

F: awarded for unacceptable work.

RECOMMENDED READING



*All materials necessary for the successful completions of this course will be provided by the professor.

PLAGIARISM

Do you know what plagiarism is? Many students end up plagiarizing material because they do not know what it entails. In short, plagiarism, or attempting to pass off another's work as your own, falls into three different categories:

- A written work that is entirely stolen from another source;
- Using quotations from another source without properly citing them; and
- Paraphrasing from another source without proper citations.

See the *University Code of Academic Integrity* at: <http://integrity.fiu.edu/plagiarism.html>

IMPORTANT

<https://help.turnitin.com/Home.htm> [Links to an external site.](#)

Any assignment turned in with a **35% or higher similarity rating** will receive an automatic grade of F (0 points) for the plagiarized assignment, and possibly for the course, and can be reported to **FIU Academic Integrity** for further assessment of the situation. Please be aware: Previously submitted work is not allowed, even if it is your own work and even if you are retaking this class.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMODATION

The Disability Resource Center (**DRC**) collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at (305) 348–3532 or visit its office at the Graham Center (GC) 190.

ATHLETES: Please have a representative from SAAC email me all your travel and practice itineraries during the first week of class.

Counseling Services

If you find your academic performance (or just your daily life) is hindered because of anxiety, stress, depression, relationship issues, or other personal struggles, FIU offers Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) to help you. CAPS consists of licensed psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, and trainees with expertise in dealing with student concerns and development. Registered students are eligible to utilize these services and participate in the programs.

<https://dasa.fiu.edu/all-departments/counseling-and-psychological-services/>

Absences

FIU policy on excused absences includes serious illness; illness of a spouse or dependent; death of an immediate family member; University-sponsored trips or sports events for athletes; major religious holy days, and active-duty US military commitments.

- **It is the student's full responsibility** to provide substantiated documentation that provides evidence to support or prove the validity of their absence within 24 hours of the missed class or assignment. All documentation will be verified.

Assignment Submissions

- All work must be submitted through Canvas. Please note that Canvas does not allow instructors to submit on behalf of students. Therefore, please do not email your assignments to your instructor.
- If you encounter errors or issues submitting an assignment, click on “Help” inside Canvas Course (located on the left-hand panel inside the course) and select Chat with Canvas Support (student). A live chat with Canvas support can fix the issue immediately.

Late Assignments

- **Late submissions** will **NOT** be accepted, except in cases of genuine and documented emergencies.

DO NOT PROCRASTINATE! *A warning to students who put off work:* Smart is as smart does – start your research and your work early so procrastination will not happen to you! Procrastination can lead you to lose precious time, pass by good opportunities, not meet important goals, ruin your career, and even damage your reputation. In the words of good ole Benjamin Franklin **“Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today.”**

!!! IMPORTANT !!!

****SUBJECT TO CHANGE!!!**

Because teaching and learning are creative and fun processes, I reserve the absolute right to amend, alter, change, transform, adapt, modify, readjust, and/or revise this syllabus at any time, all in the interest of enhancing the student's overall learning experience.

Any changes to the syllabus are shared with students in a timely manner.