**SYG 2010: Social Problems**

Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies - Summer Semester B - 2023

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10:45-12:50 Frost Museum 107

# Instructor: James Gerardo Lamb

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# Please message me using Canvas Inbox. This is the best way to get ahold of me for any questions.

# Phone: (773) 255-2889

For time sensitive/urgent issues (i.e. course deadlines). Please use Canvas/email first if possible.

# Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom. Message me to arrange a time.

# **Course Description and Purpose**

This course examines “social problems” in a critical and global perspective. Social problems examined concern issues such as economic inequalities, race and racism, gender, sexuality, the environment, crime and the justice system, family, education, health care systems and inequities and war and terrorism.

Together we’ll use sociological principles to explore issues of social inequality—from global to local and personal. Working together, we’ll try to make sense of our lives in a complicated world: to gain insight into how our social worlds are created and how we can endeavor to make the world a better place.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

CO 1 Identify, define, and evaluate major social problems in the United States and globally

CO 2 Suggest possible solutions for social problems and defend these suggestions

CO 3 Critically examine social problems through the use of sociological theories, methods, and empirical techniques

CO 4 Communicate an analytical rigorous understanding about the social problems discussed in the course utilizing the sociological imagination and through the use of academic research and writing

Skills practiced in this course:

1. Team building and maintenance
2. Critical Reading
3. Academic research
4. Professional writing

**Course Communication**

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox and Announcements. Check out the Canvas Conversations Tutorial or [Canvas Guide](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10574-4212710325) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox.

To contact me please attempt to use the course website or email and phone/text only if necessary.

**Course Website**

The first order of business in this class will be making sure you have access to the course website   
on Canvas. Class information, announcements, readings, assignments, grades, materials from   
class lectures and feedback for your work will all appear on the Canvas website. The website   
is where you will submit your work. Let me know right away if you have trouble accessing it.

**Textbook**

The main textbook for the class is **Social Problems: Community, Policy, and Social Action** 7th **edition** by Anna Y. Leon-Guerrero from Sage Publishing Company (Copyright 2021 - **ISBN 9781071813584**).

**Office Hours**

Office Hours are a key course resource. They will be particularly helpful in writing your research papers. You can sign up individually or with a group if all students agree to a group meeting.

**Course Organization, Policies, Assignments and Grading**

Each week will be a mix of going over a selection of readings, which also serves as preparation for the quizzes, academic research and writing modules to learn about the steps in researching and writing the papers and workshop sessions to work in your groups on papers and assignments.

Your grades for the course will be determined by the following criteria and weights:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attendance at class lectures | 10% |
| Weekly content quizzes | 20% |
| Class Participation | 10% |
| Preparatory assignments for research paper | 10% |
| Research Paper First Draft | 10% |
| Research Paper Final | 40% |

Overall final class grades will be assigned on the following scale:

A = 93+ A- = 90-92 B+ = 87-89

B = 84-86 B- = 80-83 C+ = 77-79

C = 70-76 D = 60-69 F < 60

**Attendance**

Attendance at all class meetings is mandatory and will constitute your attendance grade. Attendance will be taken using the FIU Check-In system and App.

[FIU Check-In Student Guide](https://attendance.fiu.edu/docs/Student%20Guide.pdf)

If for any reason your FIU Check-In App is not working or you cannot check in, message me.

For cases of illness or emergency, or for authorized university events or activities, such as athletic team travel, absences can be marked as excused with proper documentation.

**Weekly Quizzes**

During each class week there will be short content quizzes after we finish going over a chapter in the textbook. They are generally 5-10 multiple choice, true-false or fill in the blank questions. The quizzes are based on the texts but incorporate lectures.

Quizzes will be available after the lecture on Wednesdays and Fridays, are due at the end of the week, and will be timed. All quizzes will be taken through the Canvas course website, so make sure to check there. The quizzes are worth a total of 20% of your grade. They are due by the Sunday of the week assigned.

**Class Participation**

Class participation will count for 10% of the overall grade. It will be assessed, most importantly, on contributing to class discussions and to your group work. But all forms of participation and engagement in the course (such as attendance at office hours or completing extra credit) count.

**Preparatory Assignments for Research Papers**

Leading up to the research paper there will be five short “scaffolding” or preparatory assignments due at the end of each of the five class weeks leading up to the week the research papers are due. Assignments are always due on the Friday of the week assigned and are graded only on a check/no check basis (that is, if they are turned in, complete and demonstrate some effort, full credit will be given).

Sometimes an “incomplete” grade will be given for some editing changes that are needed. When the assignment is resubmitted with the needed revisions, the grade will change to full credit.

These are an opportunity to receive feedback on key aspects as you develop your research papers.

As the research papers will be done in randomly assigned groups, only one assignment per group is turned in.

The due dates for each of the assignments are listed in the course calendar below and will appear with instructions under the assignments tab on the course website in Canvas.

**Research Papers**

Your main product in this course, accounting for the largest part of your grade, is an original sociological research paper. These papers will be group projects, written in randomly assigned groups of four students.

**The basic requirements for the papers are that they are about 1,500 words (+/- 250 words), which is about 5 pages, not including title or bibliography pages; and they must include four sources: the textbook, one news media article and two articles from academic social science research journals.**

The papers must include a formal thesis and sociological argument that structures the paper and which links together your four sources in the service of substantiating that thesis/argument. The papers must address a specific social problem from the textbook and include ASA citations and a bibliography.

There will be lecture time devoted to going over the skills needed to produce a formal academic sociology research paper, such as finding scholarly research articles, constructing and supporting a valid thesis, how to properly cite sources and research paper organization. In addition, there will be lecture time set aside to work in your groups. Groups are also strongly encouraged to attend office hours. Finally, your groups will probably need to meet on your own time, either in person or via zoom. You should also make use of the group discussion tab on Canvas to work together asynchronously on assignments and the final product.

Papers will be graded according to a detailed rubric that will be available on the class website on Canvas.

**Plagiarism Detection through Turnitin.com**

All papers submitted for this course will be automatically analyzed by Turnitin. Turnitin is a plagiarism detection tool which creates an originality report of the assignments that students upload to the site. It also helps with improving students’ research techniques and citation methods. [Here are some resources to use](https://fiuhelp.force.com/canvas/s/article/Academic-Integrity-Resources-Students).

Plagiarism is defined as: i. The deliberate use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. ii. Assisting another Student in the deliberate use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Plagiarism is considered serious academic misconduct.

**Academic Misconduct Statement**

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 to honestly 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 [Student Conduct and Honor Code](https://regulations.fiu.edu/docs=257) procedures and sanctions as outlined in the [FIU Regulation 2501](https://regulations.fiu.edu/regulation=FIU-2501) and the [Student Handbook](https://dasa.fiu.edu/all-departments/student-handbook/).

**Panthers Care and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**

If you are looking for help for yourself or a fellow classmate, Panthers Care encourages you to express any concerns you may come across as it relates to any personal behavior concerns or worries you, for the classmate’s wellbeing or yours; you are encouraged to share your concerns with FIU’s Panthers Care website: [http://PanthersCare.fiu.edu/](http://pantherscare.fiu.edu/).

Counseling and Psychological Services ([CAPS](https://dasa.fiu.edu/all-departments/counseling-and-psychological-services/)) offers free and confidential help for anxiety, depression, stress and other concerns life brings. Professional counselors are available for same-day appointments. Don’t wait to call 305-348-2277 to set up a time to talk or [visit the online self-help portal](https://dasa.fiu.edu/all-departments/counseling-and-psychological-services/).

**Accessibility and Accommodations**

The Disability Resource Center collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at 305-348-3532 or visit them at the Graham Center GC 190. If you need additional information or assistance visit FIU's [Disability Resource Center page](https://dasa.fiu.edu/all-departments/disability-resource-center/). For more information on [Canvas visit the accessibility page](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Basics-Guide/What-are-the-Canvas-accessibility-standards/ta-p/1564).

**Key Dates**

Monday, June 19 First Day of Lecture

Monday, July 3 No Class for Holiday

Monday, July 17 Last Day to Drop with DR Grade

Friday, July 28 Last Day of Class/End of Term

Sunday, July 30 Research Paper Due

Thursday, August 3 Grades Posted on my.fiu.edu

# **Week 1**

**Readings:**

Leon-Guerrero, Social Problems, Chapter 1: Sociology and the Study of Social Problems

Leon-Guerrero, Social Problems, Chapter 2: Social Class

**Monday, June 19/Wednesday June 21/Friday June 23:**

- Review syllabus

- Introduce research paper 1

Review prompt/instructions

Basic Essay Structure – library tutorial module 6 slide 8 <https://library.fiu.edu/infolit/tutorials>

Review research paper grading rubric

- Assign groups for research paper 1

- Introduce resources for research papers

Library Research Guide for SYG 2010 research papers: <https://library.fiu.edu/SYG2010/welcome>

library research guide - <https://library.fiu.edu/gss>

library tutorials - <https://library.fiu.edu/infolit/tutorials>

research librarian - <https://library.fiu.edu/prf.php?account_id=4266>

Center for Excellence in Writing - <https://case.fiu.edu/writingcenter/student-services/index.html>

- Introduce research paper preparatory assignment 1: Choose a Topic

The Research Journey <https://library.fiu.edu/infolit/research>

The Research Process – where can I get help finding a topic? <https://library.fiu.edu/gettingstarted>

Getting Started with Research <https://library.fiu.edu/infolit/started>

Background Research - library tutorial module 1 slide 8 <https://library.fiu.edu/infolit/tutorials>

- Workshop for group project

- Review readings

- Videos

Sociology Crash Course: What is Sociology?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio>

Income and Wealth Inequality <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xMCWr0O3Hs>

Social Class & Poverty in the US <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8PEv5SV4sU>

Flat Broke with Children: Women in the Age of Welfare Reform

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?173561-1/flat-broke-children-women-age-welfare-reform>

**Friday, June 23: RESEARCH PAPER PREPARATORY ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE**

**Sunday, June 25: QUIZZES 1 & 2 DUE**

**Week 2**

**Readings:**

Leon-Guerrero, Social Problems, Chapter 3: Race and Ethnicity

Leon-Guerrero, Social Problems, Chapter 4: Gender

**Monday, June 26/Wednesday, June 28/Friday, June 30:**

**Monday, June 26: \*\*\* Class in Green Library (GL) 280 \*\*\***

- Introduce research paper preparatory assignment 2: Annotated Bibliography

Review prompt and instructions

Annotated Bibliographies <https://library.fiu.edu/citation/annotbibs>

Creating and Formatting Annotated Bibliography <https://guides.library.charlotte.edu/c.php?g=173027&p=1142943>

Annotated Bibliography Videos

<https://guides.library.charlotte.edu/c.php?g=1029765&p=7672614>

Getting Started with Research <https://library.fiu.edu/infolit/started>

The Research Process – <https://library.fiu.edu/c.php?g=159967&p=1048703>

Identify Scholarly & Popular Sources <https://library.fiu.edu/gss/peer-review#s-lg-box-10880499>

Library Website Research: Start video <https://youtu.be/QiNY_TOFwm4>

- Workshop for group project

- Review readings

- Videos

Sociology Crash Course: Race and Ethnicity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7myLgdZhzjo>

Sociology Crash Course: What is Gender?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CquRz_cceH8>

**Friday, June 30: RESEARCH PAPER PREPARATORY ASSINGMENT 2 DUE**

**Sunday, July 2: QUIZZES 3 & 4 DUE**

**Week 3**

**Readings:**

Leon-Guerrero, Social Problems, Chapter 5: Sexual Orientation

Leon-Guerrero, Social Problems, Chapter 10: Health and Medicine

**Wednesday, July 5/Friday, July 7:**

- Introduce research paper preparatory assignment 3: Thesis Statement

Review prompt and instructions

Thesis Statement video <https://library.fiu.edu/infolit/started>

Undergraduate Writing Guide for Sociology Pp. 57-61 <https://sociology.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/documents/student_services/writing_guide/Writing%20for%20Sociology%20Guide%20Second%20Edition.pdf>

How to Narrow Your Topic video <https://library.fiu.edu/infolit/started>

Framing a Problem video - library tutorial module 3 slide 3 <https://library.fiu.edu/infolit/tutorials>

Library Website Discovery video – library tutorial module 3 slide 11 <https://library.fiu.edu/infolit/tutorials>

- Workshop for group project

- Review reading

- Videos

Sociology Crash Course: Sex & Sexuality

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kqt-_ILgv5c>

**For Extra Credit Quiz:**

Health & Medicine <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NGlENS1qgo>

Population Health <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9SWRByzDSo>

The Structure & Cost of US Health Care <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KriEIJ0ubh0>

**Friday, July 7: RESEARCH PAPER PREPARATORY ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE**

**Sunday, July 9: QUIZZES 5 & 6 DUE**

**Week 4**

**Readings:**

Leon-Guerrero, Social Problems, Chapter 8: Education

Leon-Guerrero, Social Problems, Chapter 9: Work and the Economy

**Monday, July 10/Wednesday, July 12/Friday, July 14:**

- Introduce research paper preparatory assignment 4: Outline - Body Paragraph Topic Sentences

Undergraduate Writing Guide for Sociology Pp. 29-33 <https://sociology.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/documents/student_services/writing_guide/Writing%20for%20Sociology%20Guide%20Second%20Edition.pdf>

Synthesizing Information for Academic Writing – library tutorial Module 6 slide 4

Steps to Synthesis Writing – library tutorial Module 6 slide 5 <https://library.fiu.edu/infolit/tutorials>

- Workshop for group project

- Review reading

- Videos

Sociology Crash Course: Education in Society

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S294zRodS_4>

Sociology Crash Course: Schools & Social Inequality <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYMk3Bk08NA>

Sociology Crash Course: Economic Systems and the Labor Market

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wslCc0Di978>

**Friday, July 14: RESEARCH PAPER PREPARATORY ASSIGNMENT 4 DUE**

**Sunday, July 16: QUIZZES 7 & 8 DUE**

**Week 5**

**Readings:**

Leon-Guerrero, Social Problems, Chapter 13: Crime and Criminal Justice

Leon-Guerrero, Social Problems, Chapter 14: The Environment

**Monday, July 17/Wednesday, July 19/Friday, July 21:**

- Introduce research paper preparatory assignment 5: Outline – Transition/Linking Sentences

Anatomy of a Research Paper Video – library tutorial Module 6 slide 7

Review Anatomy of a Research Paper – **Concluding Sentence = Return to Thesis (“Linking”)**

Undergraduate Writing Guide for Sociology Pp. 29-33 <https://sociology.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/documents/student_services/writing_guide/Writing%20for%20Sociology%20Guide%20Second%20Edition.pdf>

- Workshop for group project

- Review reading

- Videos

Sociology Crash Course: Crime

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBodqwAlW3A>

Environmental Economics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlAfFgKQ5r8&list=PLfw-x8itmgecHL-Q5AVEykBRLiQVRDNZF>

**Friday, July 21: RESEARCH PAPER PREPARATORY ASSIGNMENT 5 DUE**

**Sunday, July 23: QUIZZES 9 & 10 DUE**

**Week 6**

**No Lectures/ No Reading / No Quizzes**

**Monday, July 24/Wednesday, July 26/Friday, July 28:**

**Resources for Research Papers**

- Citations and bibliography

Why Citations Matter – library tutorial module 5 slide 3 <https://library.fiu.edu/infolit/tutorials>

Why Citations Matter video & tutorial - <https://library.fiu.edu/infolit/citations>

Library Citations Guide - <https://library.fiu.edu/infolit/citations>

Library Citation Guide step 2: Citation Information and Generators

<https://library.fiu.edu/infolit/citations>

Undergraduate Sociology Writing Guide – Pp. 68-78

<https://sociology.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/documents/student_services/writing_guide/Writing%20for%20Sociology%20Guide%20Second%20Edition.pdf>

When to Use Citations

<https://sociology.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/documents/student_services/writing_guide/When%20to%20Use%20Citations.pdf>

How to Use Quotations

<https://sociology.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/documents/student_services/writing_guide/How%20to%20Use%20Quotations.pdf>

Formatting Citations <https://sociology.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/documents/student_services/writing_guide/Formatting%20Citations.pdf>

Sample Bibliography Formats

<https://sociology.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/documents/student_services/writing_guide/Sample%20Bibliography%20Formats.pdf>

- Research paper grading rubric

- Research Paper Draft Review Meetings

**Friday, July 28: LAST DAY FOR RESEARCH PAPER DRAFTS TURN IN AND MEETING**

**Sunday, July 30: \*\*\* FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE \*\*\***