

# Course Syllabus

## SYG2000: Introduction to Sociology

Professor Information

**Instructor: Dr. Phyllis Baker**

**Office Hours: Mondays 2:00-3:00pm**

**E-Mail: Please use Canvas Inbox.**

**Office: SIPA 3rd Floor (MMC)**

**Mondays & Wednesdays**

**Charles E. Perry (PC) 424**

### 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.

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

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [Policies](#)
- [Netiquette \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#). 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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [World Bank Development Data and Statistics \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [International Monetary Fund \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [IMF World Economic Outlook \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [United Nations Economic and Social Development \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [United Nations Statistics Division \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [United Nations Development Program \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Human Development Report \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

## 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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#) and during class or office hours.

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

Visit the [FIU Center for Excellence in Writing resources page \(Links to an external site.\)](#) 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 text books

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

## Group Engagement Assignment/Class Project

You will work with one or two other persons in the class by selecting a topic from the topic list and write 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 worth 10 points.

## Grading

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Possible
Homework Assignments	4	5	20
Quizzes	3		25

<b>Mid term &amp; Final</b>	2	15	30
<b>Class Project</b>	1	25	25
<b>Total</b>	10	<b>N/A</b>	<b>100</b>

Letter Grade Distribution Table

<b>Letter</b>	<b>Range</b>
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	59 or less

### Course Schedule for Introduction to Sociology

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

	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Activities D</b>
Week 1 August 22-August 28	Sociology and its origin	Joseph Camp read article and

	Topics	Activities D
	· Sociological Theories	assignment o Blackboard
Week 2 August 29- September 4	· Socialization · Culture	·
Week 3 September 5- September 11	· <i>The Sociology of Culture</i> ·	* Letter from Birmingham Read letter b King and cor assignment o Blackboard
Week 4 September 12- September 18	· Crime, Deviance & Violence  <i>Film: The Shawshank Redemption</i>	· Summ reaction to T Shawshank Redemption · Quiz 1
Week 5 September 19- September 25	· Religion	· *Einstein an Read Article complete ass on Blackboa
Week 6 September 26- October 2	The Sociology of Religion	·

	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Activities D</b>
Week 7		
October 3-9	Stratification	· Quiz 2
Week 8		
October 10-16		
Mid Term Exam		
Week 9		
October 17-23		Class Project
Week 10		
October 31- November 6		Environment paper due/or presentation environment of your choic
Week 11		
November 7-13		
Political & Economic Systems (Veterans Day)		
Week 12		Quiz 3
November 14-20-		
The Sociology of Art		
Week 13		
November 21-27 (Thanksgiving Holiday)		
December 1-9		
Final Exam		Quiz 4

## 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 Interactionist 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)

## Possible Topics

1. The effect of Religion on a Human Population
2. Racial Profiling
3. Black Lives Matter
4. Coronavirus Pandemic
5. Drug Abuse in the United States
6. What do people fall in love?
7. Why do people seek or believe in God?
8. Why do people get married?
9. Medical Marijuana
10. Health Issues
11. Aging
12. The Role of the Media
13. Violence in Schools



## 14. Socialism V.S. Capitalism

15. Art in Public Places
16. The Role of the Family in Modern Life
17. The Sociology of Art
18. The Sociology of Sports
19. Cause of Mental Health Issue
20. Poor performance in Education
21. Environmental Issues in Florida or other places
22. The Causes of Poverty in the United States or other places in the world and its effect
23. What is the impact of Music on the Individual & Society
24. Homelessness in the United States
25. Style and Dress
26. Values and Culture
27. Pick a Culture of your choice
28. Technology and Culture
29. Health Care in the United States
30. Social Change and its impact on society
31. Gender Issues
32. Gay Marriages in the United States
33. Social Movements
34. Male & Female Interaction
35. Dating Issues and Solutions
36. Nonverbal Behavior
37. Becoming a Person