“It can be said that the first wisdom of sociology is this: things are not what they seem.”
–Peter Berger

Instructor: Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter
Teaching Assistant: 
Office: GSS 302
Office Hours: Mondays, 10:00-11:30 (or by appointment)
E-Mail: coueslat@fiu.edu (Email me to set up a face-to-face appointment to discuss your grades or assignments)
Telephone: 305-348-3629 (Email me to set up a face-to-face appointment to discuss your grades or assignments)

Course Description:
Marijuana is on the verge of legalization; what will be the societal consequences? Should Miami's official language be made Spanish, and why does such a possibility make some members of society uncomfortable? Why are female college students more vulnerable to sexual assault than most other groups of U.S. women? Why is it that the largest group of consumers of "gangsta rap" are white adolescent boys? These questions are a small sampling of the challenges that we’ll explore together this semester. In this course, you will conduct research and develop grounded sociological theory from the study of "real life." The sociological experience will facilitate your skills for achieving success by learning to work with fellow students to achieve goals as a team, a skill employers seek. You will also learn to practice sociology as a martial art, a means of self-defense against oppressive ideologies. Sociology will help you combat the assumptions and stereotypes that impact your life chances, as well as others'. Ultimately, you will become a social historian of your own life, able to trace the forces that led you to your present circumstances and identity.
Learning Goals- upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1) Apply theories of sociology to real-world situations and scenarios.

2) Assess researchers’ employment of sociological research methods.

4) Interpret and assess sociological journal articles and compare them with popular media.

5) Consider the causes and consequences of inequalities by employing sociological evidence and theory.

6) Trace the societal forces that led you to be who you are presently; you will do the same for other groups of people.

7) Gain empathy for other groups of people (as well as your own group) through assessment of how power affects all human beings.


Student Directions for acquiring Revel:
This course uses a Pearson digital product which contains important assignments and resources used throughout the semester. The required link below is unique to this course. Here is how to register:

1. Visit this link: https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/hbwtei
2. Sign in with your Pearson Account. You can either: sign in with an existing Pearson username and password OR create a new Pearson account if this is your first Pearson digital product.
3. Choose your course under 'My Courses' and choose an access option: redeem an access code that you got from your school's bookstore or purchase access online. There is a free trial if you are waiting for financial aid.

What you should know:
- Bookmark https://console.pearson.com to easily access your materials.
- Pearson recommends using the latest version of Chrome, Firefox, or Safari with this digital product.
Grading Scheme

**Learning Catalytics:** You will need to sign up with Learning Catalytics for this course. There will be two Learning Catalytics questions given during each class period. These questions range from true/false to short essay, and cover current events and issues that are relevant to sociology. One question will be given at the beginning of class, and another will happen at a random time during the class. You will be responsible for answering each question during the class. You must be present to get the code to answer each question. If you do not answer the two Learning Catalytics questions during class, then you will be counted as absent. If you answer only one of the two questions, you will still be counted as absent. Please do not be late or absent, because this class is built on our mutual presence and discussions. **Every three absences will result in you being marked down by one letter grade in the overall class.**

How to set up Learning Catalytics for this class- Follow the instructions at this link:  

**Module Quizzes**- You will take quizzes on each learning module within a chapter. These quizzes are taken through the Revel online system for the class. You get three attempts to take the quiz. However, after the first attempt, each time you take it, a point is subtracted from your potential quiz grade. Due the Tuesday of each week of class (see class schedule below for more details). Total Points: 1,539

**Chapter Quizzes**- You will take a chapter quiz for each chapter of the text. These quizzes are taken through the Revel online system for the class. You will also get three attempts to take the chapter quiz, but with a point subtraction for each attempt after the first attempt. Due the Tuesday of each week of class (see class schedule below for more details). Total Points: 870

**Critical Assessment of a Sociology Journal Article Paper**- You will create an assessment of one sociology journal article, of your choosing. The research paper requires students to write a review of a sociological study that has been published *either in book form OR in article form* as a peer-reviewed sociology journal. You must state the title and author of your article, the name of the Journal or book, and the date of publication on the title page of your paper. The review will include a summary of the focus of the research, the research methods employed, and the findings, as well as the student’s explanation of why
this research is important. The paper is required to be 5-7 pages, typed, double-spaced, 1” margins, 12 point font.

How the paper should be organized:

- **Cover Page:** NO NUMBER APPEARS ON THIS PAGE, Student’s Name and Student’s ID#, Author/s and title of article, title of Journal, publication date.

- **Summary of article or book:** minimum 1-2 double-spaced pages.

- **Description of research methods:** minimum 1 double-spaced page.

- **Description of findings:** minimum 1-2 double-spaced pages.

- **Student’s explanation as to why this research is important:** minimum 2 pages.

- The Last Page is the Works Cited Page, where you will write the full citation of the article in either APA or MLA.

Other Requirements: You may only use one direct quote of no longer than two sentences in your paper. More than one direct quote will result in deduction of points from your grade. The purpose of this paper is, in part, to encourage you to learn to translate research into your own words. The paper must be submitted to Revel prior to the class deadline for submission. APA or MLA formatting is acceptable.

To find a full-text academic sociology article: DO NOT RUN A GOOGLE SEARCH (this is a big waste of your time). (And Google Scholar? Those articles tend to be older.)

Go to: FIU Libraries, catalogue search, search, Academic Onefile [Fun Fact: your tuition pays for thousands of subscriptions to academic journals.]

Then run an advanced search of sociology journals. Be patient and be prepared to run several searches before you find an article that interests you. You must check the box “full text” to get full text articles.

You will upload your paper into Revel, and it will be automatically checked for “similarities” through turnitin.com. Due Friday, November 13th at 11:00 pm.

*Total of one paper per semester.* Total Points: 591
Grading Scale: A 3,000-2,851; A- 2,850-2,701; B+ 2,700-2,551; B- 2,550-2,401; C+ 2,400-2,251; C 2,250-2,101; D+ 2,100-1,951; D 1,950-1,801; D- 1,800-1,650; F 1,649-0 (Please Note: every three absences will result in you being marked down by one letter grade in the overall class.)

Grading Criteria:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module Quizzes</td>
<td>1,539</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Quizzes</td>
<td>870</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Assessment of a Sociology Journal Article Paper</td>
<td>591</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,000</td>
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Extra Credit Opportunities:
You can choose to attend as many of the following events as you would like to attend. You will have to sign a sign-in sheet and also turn in a 2-page hand-written summary of the event to me the following class period.

Tuesday Times Roundtable: The Terrorist Attacks in Tunisia, 10/6/15 12:30-1:30pm in GC 150 Total Points: 100

The Mariel Exodus, 35 Years Later: Impacts in the U.S. and Cuba, 10/30, 2015, 01:30PM-05:00PM GC 243 Total Points: 200

Course Policies:

Students are expected to be in class during class times.

1. Attendance: Attendance will be taken during each class, via the questions you answer on Learning Catalytics.

2. Your lowest week’s grade will be automatically dropped: Your lowest week’s grade will be dropped at the end of the semester when grades are being calculated. This means that the week where you earned the lowest grade on the module quizzes and chapter quiz combined will be automatically dropped. You may not “mix”
a lowest module grade from one week with a lowest chapter quiz grade from another week.

3. **E-mails:** Please note that you are welcome to meet with me during my office hours, Mondays from 10:00-11:30, to discuss the course, your assignments, and/or your grade. Please note that **I will not answer questions about your grade, or your assignments, via email. We must meet in person to discuss these things.** If you cannot attend my office hours, you will need to set up an appointment time with me via email.

4. **Readings/Assignments:** Success in this course requires familiarity with the textbook. The professor will not cover all material in the text, because the student is responsible for reading the text and posing questions in class. Students are expected to read all assigned chapters **before** the class period, so that they can pose questions and engage in discussion.

5. **Assessments:** It is the student’s responsibility to take the module and chapter quizzes by Tuesday of each week of class. These assignments are opened one week in advance. No late work will be accepted.

6. **Conduct in the Classroom:** If students disrupt the teaching/learning process or act in a disrespectful, threatening, or intimidating way toward the professor or other students, they will be asked to leave the class.
Schedule and Required Readings for SYG 2000

*Assignments (Module Quizzes and Chapter Quizzes) are due TUESDAY of EACH WEEK.

Week 1. (Aug 24-28) Henslin Ch. 1. What is the Sociological Perspective? How to sign up for and use the Revel system. **Note that this week ONLY, you have until Sunday the 30th to complete the Module Quizzes and Chapter Quiz for Chapter One.**

Week 2. (Aug 31- Sept 4): Henslin Ch. 2. What does culture do in society? Sept 1: Module Quizzes and Chapter Quiz Due Ch. 2

Week 3. (Sept 7-11): Henslin Ch. 3. What is socialization? Would humans exist without it? Sept 8: Module Quizzes and Chapter Quiz Due Ch.3

Week 4. (Sept 14-18): Henslin Ch. 4. Hidden in plain sight: Social Structure and Social Interaction. Are you an agent or a victim of social structures? Sept 15 Module Quizzes and Chapter Quiz Due Ch. 4

Week 5. (Sept 21-25) Henslin Ch. 5. Exploring groups beginning with university groups. Social Groups and Formal Organizations Sept 22 Module Quizzes and Chapter Quiz Due Ch. 5

Week 6. (Sept 28- Oct 2): Henslin Ch. 6. Deviance and Social Control Sept 29 Module Quizzes and Chapter Quiz Due Ch.6

Week 7. (Oct 5-9): Henslin Ch. 7. Global Stratification Oct 6 Module Quizzes and Chapter Quiz Due Ch. 7

Week 8. (Oct 12-16): Henslin Ch. 8. Class in the United States Oct 13 Module Quizzes and Chapter Quiz Due Ch. 8

WEEK 9: (Oct 19-23) Henslin Ch. 9. Race & Ethnicity Oct 20 Module Quizzes and Chapter Quiz Due Ch. 9

Week 10. (Oct 26-30): Henslin Ch. 10. Gender & Age Oct 27 Module Quizzes and Chapter Quiz Due Ch. 10
Week 11. (Nov 2-6): Henslin Ch. 11 Politics & Economy
Nov 3 Module Quizzes and Chapter Quiz Due Ch. 11

**Friday, Nov 13: Research articles Due Midnight (submit through Revel)**

Week 12. (Nov 9-13): Henslin Ch. 12 Marriage & Family
Nov 10 Module Quizzes and Chapter Quiz Due Ch. 12

Week 13. (Nov 16-20): Henslin Ch. 13. Education & Religion
Nov 17 Module Quizzes and Chapter Quiz Due Ch. 13
(TA teaching week)

**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**
Nov 24 Module Quizzes and Chapter Quiz Due Ch. 14

Week 15 (Nov 30-Dec 4) Henslin Ch. 15 Social Change
Dec 1 Module Quizzes and Chapter Quiz Due Ch. 15