

**SYG 2000-U09
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**

“The difficulty, in sociology, is to manage to think in a completely astonished and disconcerted way about things you thought you had always understood.”

Pierre Bourdieu

Meeting Location: Viertes Haus 131

Meeting Time: W, 1:00-2:50am

Instructor:

Dr. Aslihan Akkaya
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Teaching Assistant

TBA
Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies
SIPA Graduate Student Lounge
By appointment only

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of the discipline of sociology and will introduce you to the sociological perspective in examining our lives and social experiences, as well as many issues facing society today. We will explore the relationship between society and the individual. Specifically we will look at how society functions and is organized, and how these influence individual motivation, understanding, action, and well-being. We will cover basic sociological ideas concerning social relations, social interaction, social structure, and social change and you will be introduced to key issues examined by sociologists such as race, class, gender, sexuality, religion, education, health care, crime, violence, media, and globalization. Students will become better critical thinkers and problem solvers at the end of this course that will prepare them for a variety of future careers.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Identify and apply fundamental sociological concepts
- Discuss specific areas of study within sociology.
- Identify how the sociological perspective illuminates understanding.
- Explain how globally diverse beliefs and behaviors are influenced by social forces (global awareness*)
- Synthesize the local and global nature and impacts of social circumstances.
- Critically examine theoretical perspectives and be able to apply them to current issues.
- Evaluate ideas and debates using the sociological perspective.
- Look at the social world from diverse perspectives—conflict, symbolic interactionist, etc. (global perspective*)
- Propose solutions to a global problem taking into account multiple perspectives (global engagement*)
- Explain the role of violence and power in human existence
- Describe how global and historical forces socially construct gender
- Explain how race, class, and gender shape who we are

*Note: goals marked by an asterisk are global learning objectives

REQUIRED DIGITAL REVEL TEXTBOOK

ESSENTIALS OF SOCIOLOGY-REVEL ACCESS | Edition: 12TH 17

Author: HENSLIN

ISBN: 9780134253381

***MAKE SURE TO REGISTER TO USE THE DIGITAL TEXTBOOK. YOU CAN FIND THE LINK ON BLACKBOARD TO REGISTER. YOU CAN ALSO FIND THE DEMO FOR GUIDELINES ON HOW TO REGISTER. YOU CAN USE AN EXISTING PEARSON ACCOUNT OR CREATE ONE IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ONE TO ACCESS THE REVEL COURSE AND E-TEXT.**

BLACKBOARD: ADDITIONAL READINGS and MATERIALS (VIDEOS, LINKS, ETC.) WILL BE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD. CHECK WEEKLY FOLDERS EACH WEEK FOR ASSIGNED READINGS AND REQUIRED WORK TO COMPLETE PRIOR TO CLASS. i.e. Week 2 folder has all required work and assignments that needs to be read, watched, and submitted before Week 2 class.

Login via fiu.blackboard.com and check that you can access the course website. If you encounter any technical problems, then call UTS at 305.348.2284 or go to Green Library Rm. 150. Make sure your computer works well with Blackboard.

REVEL: IN ADDITION TO BLACKBOARD, YOU WILL BE USING REVEL WEBSITE TO READ YOUR E-TEXT AND TAKE CHAPTER QUIZZES PRIOR TO CLASS WHEN ASSIGNED. YOU CAN FIND THE LINK TO YOUR REVEL COURSE ON BLACKBOARD. CLICK ON THAT LINK AND IT WILL BRING YOU TO REVEL DIRECTLY.

CLASS STRUCTURE

This is not a lecture course though I will present some content each week; it utilizes Team-Based Learning (TBL). Most likely you have never been in a course using TBL so please read carefully: TBL help you prepare for classes by doing preparation work outside of class and applying it inside of class. Do not expect the professor to lecture much; instead most class time will involve applying and enhancing knowledge through in-class team projects. Don't confuse teams with groups. You will learn the difference; for now, please do not think this will be a class with group projects. To repeat, you are expected to get exposure to the course content prior to class, will be quizzed on your understanding of this content prior to class (REVEL quizzes-WILL BE COMPELTED THROUGH REVEL), and then you'll spend most class time applying this information via short in-class projects with your team. You will be assessed for both your individual and teamwork – see grading below.

Learning is not the same as reading, watching etc. Research shows that it takes most people several exposures to learn new content. This is the main reason why in this course you start learning material through the required preparation work, then apply the content in class and then you are assessed in different ways. This approach helps knowledge and critical thinking “stick” but it may seem strange to you at first. That's intended. Taking you outside your educational comfort zone is why you're in college in the first place and in my class you'll be outside your cultural comfort zone much if not most of the time. This may be the only SOCIOLOGY course you take in your entire life, so my goal is that key understandings about human and society stay with you for a lifetime – and are not forgotten within six months as is true of most course content.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation and Team Presentations	10%	(IN-CLASS)	I&T
Individual Readiness Assurance Tests (REVEL CH QUIZZES)	15%	(ONLINE)	I
Team Activities	20%	(IN-CLASS)	T
Individual Assignments	20%	(PRIOR TO CLASS)	I
Final Global Learning Project	15%	(OUTSIDE THE C)	I
Final Exam	20%	(ONLINE)	I

I: INDIVIDUAL

T: TEAM

C: CLASS

GRADING SYSTEM: To help you to succeed in the class, grades are always available to you online through Blackboard grade center. You don't need to ask the professor!

The cut-off points (as a percentage) for all work will be:

93 A, 90 A-, 87 B+, 83 B, 80 B-, 77 C+, 73 C, 70 C-, 67 D+, 63 D, 60 D-.

1. PARTICIPATION and TEAM PRESENTATIONS (10 % OF GRADE)

1.a Participation: You are expected to come to every class, arrive on time and come to class having done the work assigned to that week. In addition, you must participate in class and in your team, as in-class activities worth 30% of your final grade (Participation, Presentations, In-Class TEAM Reports). You cannot be a slacker, as your team and group members will evaluate your participation and performance during the midterm and at the end of the semester. Everyone in the class has the responsibility of making the classroom a "safe" environment where everyone feels comfortable expressing their thoughts and in which everyone can feel that their opinions are respected, even when they are not shared by all members of the class. Class discussions and activities will help you to understand the connection between what is being taught in class and how it relates to your everyday life.

1.b Team Presentations: Each week all or some teams will present their work that they complete during class time to other teams. Be ready to present your in-class team activity/report to class. I will ask different teams to present each week. You will earn 10% by presenting your work to others in addition to participating in class in general.

Attendance Policy: You should not miss more than 1 class as it will negatively affect your overall grade. If you need to miss a class due to illness (medical doctor's note), religious observances or team participation (official paper work) you must notify me prior to the class. I will accommodate legitimate, verifiable cases of illness and emergencies in addition to religious holy days (two-weeks in advance notice).

MISSING MORE THAN ONE CLASS WITHOUT AN OFFICIAL EXCUSE WILL BRING YOUR OVERALL GRADE DOWN 2 POINTS PER CLASS MISSED.

2. INDIVIDUAL READINESS ASSURANCE TESTS (iRATS)- REVEL QUIZZES (15%)

Individual Assurance Tests (IRATs) AKA short quizzes: IRATs are short multiple choice, True/false questions on the week's content that you will take individually (iRAT) online through REVEL before class. You are assigned one chapter from REVEL e-text each week. After reading the Chapter, you will take the Chapter Quiz prior to class. See deadlines on the Syllabus and on REVEL.

3. INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS (20% OF GRADE)

There will be several short individual assignments throughout the semester. They will worth 20% of your Final Grade. You will submit them online via Blackboard prior to class and you are also required to bring a hard copy with you to the class. However, if you will have access to it from an electronic device, then you are not required to bring a hard copy to class.

4. IN-CLASS TEAM ACTIVITIES (20% OF GRADE): TEAM-BASED

The weekly class sessions are a main source of learning for the course. Please arrive to class on time and plan to stay for the entire session. There will be multiple activities during class sessions throughout the quarter. These may include quizzes, short reflections, film viewing guides, and other team activities. No make-up or late assignments will be accepted. Missing more than one activity will have a negative effect on your grade in the class. You will mostly work in teams to complete in-class activities. You will submit final reports through Blackboard. You will be assigned to teams during the first (or second) week of the semester. You will assess your team members' individual performances via using ipeer on Blackboard. Your individual teams grades will be calculated by taking the following factors into consideration: number of points collected as a team, your attendance, your team performance, my observation of your team performance and participation, and your participation and performance grade. (Global awareness; Global Perspectives; Global Engagement).

5. FINAL GLOBAL LEARNING PROJECT (15%)

This individual outside class assignment involves more personal challenge, thought and sociological analysis than the short assignments. It will be assigned at the end of the first month of class. You can find further detailed guidelines on Blackboard.

6. FINAL EXAM (20% OF GRADE)

Final exam will be cumulative. It will be multiple choice, short answer, and essay. It will cover materials from text, additional readings, lectures, discussions and films. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to ask fellow students for notes. You can also go to Blackboard to find lecture notes. Some, but not all of the films are available through library.

GENERAL CLASS POLICIES

Attendance: Since every student is entitled to full participation in class without interruption, all students are expected to be in class and prepared to begin on time. Students are expected to treat the instructor and other students with dignity and respect, especially in cases where a diversity of opinion arises. Students who engage in disruptive behavior are subject to disciplinary action, including removal from the course. See above statement for further details on attendance and participation.

Plagiarism/Academic Honesty: As an FIU student, you are always expected to abide by the university's policies particularly those governing academic honesty and plagiarism as they appear in the FIU Student Handbook. If you are not familiar with how to avoid plagiarism, you will receive some instruction and additional guidelines in this course. In sum, should anything you/your team produces cite any data, research or information that you have not generated and which is not general knowledge then you must cite it appropriately following one of the disciplinary conventions of the academic disciplines represented by the faculty teaching this course. More information about citation formatting will be given to you via Blackboard. Please become completely familiar with bibliographic styles and citation conventions. If you do not cite others' work adequately you can be accused of plagiarism and FIU takes these accusations very seriously. Several of your written assignments will be submitted using Turnitin.com to check your work for plagiarism. Finally, I reserve the right to alter the syllabus as needed. You will be notified of any changes.

Academic Conduct: 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 Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Tardiness: Assignments received after the deadline will lose 1/2 or 1 grade; one week and over 1 full grade or more.

Teams: 4-5 students. I will show you how to officially enroll in a team during Week 2. For Week 1, you will be working in a temporary team.

Use of Electronic Devices (Cell Phones, Computers, etc.):

Electronic device and cell phone policies will be debated and announced in class early in the term.

Special Needs Students: Please notify the faculty prior to or immediately upon commencement of this course about your accommodation needs as in accordance with FIU policy. You will be accommodated accordingly.

This **syllabus** is **subject to change** at the discretion of the faculty. Students will be notified of such changes ahead of time via email.

COURSE SCHEDULE

CHECK BLACKBOARD TO SEE THE ASSIGNED WORK YOU NEED TO READ, WATCH, COMPLETE EACH WEEK PRIOR TO CLASS!!!

WEEK 1	Sociological Imagination
Jan 10	Course Overview, Team-based Learning, What is Sociology?, Origins of Sociology, Sociological Imagination TAKE SYLLABUS QUIZ on BLACKBOARD PRIOR to WEEK 2
WEEK 2	The Sociological Perspective, Theory and Methods
Jan 17	Theoretical Perspectives in Sociology, Doing Sociological Research, Research Methods TAKE CHAPTER-1 QUIZ THROUGH REVEL PRIOR TO CLASS COMPLETE INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT & SUBMIT PRIOR TO CLASS
WEEK 3	What does Culture do in society?
Jan 24	What is Culture?, Components of Symbolic Culture, Many Cultural Worlds, Values, Norms, and Sanctions TAKE CHAPTER-2 QUIZ THROUGH REVEL PRIOR TO CLASS COMPLETE INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT & SUBMIT PRIOR TO CLASS

WEEK 4 **Socialization and Social Interaction**
Jan 31 What is socialization? Would humans exist without it? Socialization into the Self and Mind, Agents of Socialization
TAKE CHAPTER 3 QUIZ THROUGH REVEL PRIOR TO CLASS
COMPLETE INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT AND SUBMIT PRIOR TO CLASS

WEEK 5 **Social Structure and Social Interaction**
Feb 7 Are you an agent? Are you a victim of social structures, Macrosociology and Microsociology, Social Structure, Social Interaction in Everyday Life
TAKE CHAPTER 4 QUIZ THROUGH REVEL PRIOR TO CLASS
COMPLETE INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT & SUBMIT PRIOR TO CLASS

WEEK 6 **Groups, Networks, Organizations**
Feb 14 Groups within Society, Bureaucracies, The Power of Peer Pressure, The Power of Authority
TAKE CHAPTER-5 QUIZ THROUGH REVEL PRIOR TO CLASS
COMPLETE INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT & SUBMIT PRIOR TO CLASS

WEEK 7 **Deviance, Law, Social Control**
Feb 21 What is Deviance, Different Theories of Deviance, Reactions to Deviance
TAKE CHAPTER-6 QUIZ THROUGH REVEL PRIOR TO CLASS
COMPLETE INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT & SUBMIT PRIOR TO CLASS

WEEK 8 **Global Stratification, Inequality, Social Class in the U.S.**
Feb 28 Systems of Social Stratification, What determines Social Class, Comparative Social Stratification, Consequences of Social Class
TAKE CHAPTER-7&8 QUIZZES THROUGH REVEL PRIOR TO CLASS
COMPLETE INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT & SUBMIT PRIOR TO CLASS

WEEK 9 **Race and Ethnicity, Immigration**
March 7 Why does Race still exist and why does Ethnicity matter?, Origins, Laying the Sociological Foundation, Prejudice and Discrimination, Consequences of Race
TAKE CHAPTER-9 QUIZ THROUGH REVEL PRIOR TO CLASS
COMPLETE INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT & SUBMIT PRIOR TO CLASS

MARCH 12-18 SPRING BREAK

****** March 19 Monday: Last day to drop a course with a DR grade. ******

****Last day to withdraw from the University with a WI grade****

WEEK 10
March 21 What do we mean by Education? What are the impacts of Religion on all of society? Do we have a separation of church and state? Problems in US Education and Their Solutions, Types of Religious Groups, Religion in the US
TAKE CHAPTER-13 QUIZ THROUGH REVEL PRIOR TO CLASS
COMPLETE INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT & SUBMIT PRIOR TO CLASS

FINAL PROJECT: GLOBAL LEARNING PROJECT DUE by March 25

WEEK 11 **Gender and Age, Gender and Sexuality, Marriage and Family**
March 28 Sex and Gender, Gender Inequality in Global Perspective, Gender Equality in the US, Inequalities of Aging, Why do we marry? Why do we need "the family"?, Diversity and Trends in US Families
TAKE CHAPTER-10 and 12 QUIZZES THROUGH REVEL PRIOR TO CLASS COMPLETE INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT & SUBMIT PRIOR TO CLASS

WEEK 12 **Politics and the Economy**
April 4 Politics, the Economy and how to understand yourself as a political actor, even if you hate politics., Power, Authority, and Violence, Types of Government, The U.S. Political System, The Globalization of Capitalism
TAKE CHAPTER-11 QUIZ THROUGH REVEL PRIOR TO CLASS COMPLETE INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT & SUBMIT PRIOR TO CLASS

WEEK 13 **Population, Urbanization, Social Change and Transformations**
April 11 Social Change and The Environment, Technology and Society
Population Growth, Urbanization, City Life, Urban Problems, Social Policy, Social Change and The Environment, Technology and Society
TAKE CHAPTER-14&15 QUIZZES THROUGH REVEL PRIOR TO CLASS COMPLETE INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT & SUBMIT PRIOR TO CLASS

WEEK 14 **WRAP-UP: Conclusions, Implications**
April 18 WORKSHOP: LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD
INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT: FINAL REFLECTION ESSAY DUE BY CLASS TIME

**ONLINE FINAL EXAM
APRIL 23, MONDAY
TIMED TEST, OPEN SOURCE, WILL BE TAKEN THROUGH BLACKBOARD**

IMPORTANT DATES

In-class activities-Team Activities.....Wednesdays-will be completed in class
Individual Tests-REVEL QUIZZES.....prior to class –by 1pm
Individual Assignmentsprior to class-by 1pm
Final Project-GL Project.....March 25, Sunday (Blackboard)
ONLINE FINAL EXAM.....April 23, Monday (Blackboard)

First read the Syllabus carefully. Then go to Blackboard and take the practice test on Syllabus. It should be taken prior to our Week 2 class! By taking the test you will agree that you read and understand the syllabus.