



# Syllabus

## Introduction to Sociology

### GENERAL INFORMATION

### PROFESSOR INFORMATION

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### 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 action 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.

### 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;
- make sense of the interrelationships between society and self;
- grasp the foundations of global inequalities; and
- develop viewpoints on how to promote constructive change in societies at the local, national/regional, and global levels.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

#### POLICIES

Please review the [FIU policies page](#) as it contains essential information regarding

guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU and additional information on the standards for acceptable netiquette important for online courses.

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS & SKILLS

One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer.

Please go to the "[What's Required](#)" page to find out more information on this subject. Please visit our [technical requirements page](#) for additional information.

## ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

Obtain more detailed information about the [specific limitations with the technologies](#) used in this course.

Review [Blackboard's Accessibility Commitment](#) for more information.

For additional assistance please contact our [Disability Resource Center](#).

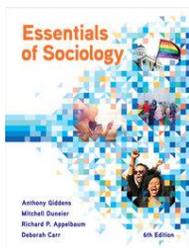
## COURSE PREREQUISITES

There are no required prerequisites for this course.

## PROCTORED EXAM POLICY

This online section does not require an on-campus exam.

## TEXTBOOK



### **Essentials of Sociology, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition**

Anthony Giddens, Mitchell Duneier, Richard P. Appelbaum, Deborah Carr  
Norton, W. W. & Company, Inc.; 2014  
ISBN 978-0-393-61429-9

You may purchase your textbook online at the publisher's [website](#) or the [FIU Bookstore](#).

VERY IMPORTANT!!! If you are comfortable reading on your computer or other device, I

HIGHLY recommend using the more affordable online or downloadable versions of the textbook available at the [Norton eBooks website](#).

## EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE

This is an online course, meaning that all of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as for a traditional course; in fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills that can make them more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **Review the How to Get Started information** located in the course content;
- **Introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self introduction in the appropriate discussion forum;
- **Take the Practice Quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard;
- **Interact** online with instructor(s) and peers;
- **Review** and follow the course calendar; and
- Check the course website 3-4 times per week for any updates and notification from the instructor or T.A.

## COURSE DETAILS

### COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via **messages** through the course website.

Messages are a private and secure text-based communication that occurs within a course and among course members. Users must log on to Blackboard to send/receive/read messages. The Messages tool is located on the left side course menu (Blackboard user interface). It is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

Visit our [writing resources page](#) for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

### DISCUSSION FORUMS

Keep in mind that forum discussions are public, and care should be taken when determining what to post.

Discussion Forum Posts: 70 possible semester points

Students are required to post to the discussion forum in response to the instructor's discussion questions. **These can be accessed by clicking on the "Post" link in each**

weekly module. You will post your response to the questions for that particular week. There will be web content (under each “part” of the course on the syllabus/calendar) that you will need to consider when writing your post. ALSO, you will need to read the assigned chapter readings before posting. Use these postings to maximize discussion with your classmates and instructors.

As described below, each post will be graded pass/fail, and a student's semester grade for the discussion forum will be based on the percentage of the discussion assignments that the student posts and passes.

Students are encouraged to post multiple commentaries for each discussion forum topic: only the first post that each student makes will be evaluated according to the discussion forum rubrics, as presented below. Each student's initial post will be graded pass/fail according to these rubrics:

- Relevance to assigned material: the posted ideas indicate that the student has read the assigned material.
- Clarity, coherence: the ideas are stated clearly and coherently.
- Critical thinking: there is evidence that the student has adequately analyzed, synthesized, and evaluated the assigned material.
- Poses a discussion question about the assigned material or draws a connection between a current event and the assigned material
- Spelling, grammar: the posting must meet university-level standards of spelling and grammar. THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. I WILL BE VERY STRICT ABOUT THIS SO PROOFREAD YOUR POSTS!
- Length: the initial posting for each weekly module must be no less than 500 words.

After posting in response to a discussion forum question, students are encouraged to continue posting informally to continue the dialog with each other and with the instructor.

There will be 7 assigned discussion forum posts. Each post will be graded pass/fail, according to the above rubrics. Each student's semester grade for discussion participation will be based on the percentage of the semester's 6 discussion assignments that the student posts and passes: 7=70 points; 6=60 points; 5=50 points; 4=40 points; 3=30 points; 2=20 points; 0-1=0 points.

Discussion forum posts are due by Wednesday, 11:55pm the week assigned, unless otherwise indicated in the course syllabus/calendar.

## EXAMS

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirements](#).

Please note assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Online Support Services](#).

### Multiple-choice/true-false exams & final grade:

40 possible points each; 280 possible semester points

The 7 exams will be based entirely on Giddens et al., Essentials of Sociology 6<sup>th</sup> Edition.

Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions; will cover the textbook's assigned readings; and will have 20 questions, worth 2 points each. Thus, each exam will count up to a possible 40 points. **The exams will be available under the "Assessments" tab in Blackboard.**

To prepare for each exam, in addition to reading each chapter carefully, study the following for each assigned chapter:

- The PowerPoint lecture slides
- Emphasize broad concepts and examples of such concepts, rather than narrow facts.
- Review the textbook's "The Big Picture" in each assigned chapter: Exercises; Key Concepts; and Terms to Know, and Concept Checks (the DIY exercises in the chapters are also good)
- Explore and do exercises on the textbook's [StudySpace website](#), which includes a variety of study materials (the practice quizzes are probably the best way to prepare for exams).

### GRADING

Note: All required assignments must be completed to be eligible to earn a passing grade.

The graded assignments will be 7 multiple-choice/true-false exams (40 possible points each; 280 possible semester points) and 7 discussion forum posts (10 possible points each; 70 possible semester points), adding up to 350 total possible semester points.

Final grades will be computed by the percentage of 350 total possible semester points earned: 315-350 points (90+%)=A; 280-314 points (80-89%)=B; 245-279 points (70-79%)=C; 210-244 points (60-69%)=D; 209 points or less=F.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	NUMBER OF ITEMS	POINTS
Exams	7	280 (6 @ 40 pts. each)
Discussion Posts	7	70 (6 @ 10 pts. each)
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>350</b>

LETTER	RANGE	LETTER	RANGE	LETTER	RANGE
A	315-350 (90+%)	B	280-314 (80-89%)	C	245-279 (70-79%)
D	210-244 (60-69%)	F	209 or less (<60%)		

## COURSE CALENDAR MODULE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

Familiarize yourself with the course web site, syllabus, and calendar. Be sure to find PowerPoint Lectures; Discussion Forum Questions/Posts; Exams; & Practice Quiz (under the "Assessments" tab). TAKE THE PRACTICE QUIZ. Introduce yourself in the discussion board (use the link in the Week 1 preparation module).

Some more resources on your major - FIU's Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies: <http://gss.fiu.edu/> and your career - American Sociological Association study on careers of sociology majors:

<http://www.asanet.org/research/BachelorsinSociology.pdf>

### Weeks 1-2: January 8 - 20

#### Read:

Chapter 1, "Sociology: Theory and Method"

Chapter 2, "Culture and Society"

#### Tattoo Culture:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/magazine/7034500.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/7034500.stm)

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/tattoos/>

<http://www.pbs.org/skinstories/stories/index.html>

#### Tasks:

Discussion Post 1 (due by Friday, Jan 12, 11:55 pm)

Exam 1: Jan 18 (12am) – Jan 19 (11:55pm): Chs. 1 & 2

### Weeks 3-4: Jan 21 - Feb 3

#### Read:

Chapter 3, "Socialization, the Life Course, and Aging"

Chapter 4, "Social Interaction and Everyday Life in the Age of the Internet"

#### Language as a Social Interaction:

<http://www.pbs.org/speak/words/sezwho/socialsetting/>

<http://www.homestar.org/bryannan/tannen.html>

#### Tasks:

Discussion Post 2 (due by Friday, Jan 26, 11:55 pm)

Exam 2: Feb 1 (12am) – Feb 2 (11:55pm): Chs. 3 & 4

### Weeks 5-6: Feb 4 - Feb 17

#### Read:

Chapter 5, "Groups, Networks, and Organizations"

Chapter 6, "Conformity, Deviance, and Crime"

**Corporate Strategies: Surveillance, Marketing:**

<http://video.pbs.org/video/2365374362/>

**Tasks:**

Discussion Post 3 (due by Friday, Feb 9, 11:55 pm)  
Exam 3: Feb 15 (12am) – Feb 16 (11:55pm): Chs. 5 & 6

**Weeks 7-8: Feb 18- Mar 3**

**Read:**

Chapter 7, "Stratification, Class, and Inequality"  
Chapter 8, "Global Inequality"

**Fair Trade, Ethical Consumption:**

<http://video.pbs.org/video/2365372072/>

**Tasks:**

Discussion Post 4 (due by Friday, Feb 23, 11:55 pm)  
Exam 4: Mar 1 (12am) – Mar 2 (11:55pm): Chs. 7 & 8

**Weeks 9-10: Mar 4 - Mar 24 (Spring Break Mar 10-18)**

**Read:**

Chapter 9, "Gender Inequality"  
Chapter 10, "Ethnicity and Race"

**Sex Work:**

<http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/india304/thestory.html>  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/slaves/>

**Tasks:**

Discussion Post 5 (due by Friday, Mar 9, 11:55 pm)  
Exam 5: Mar 22 (12am) - Mar 23 (11:55pm): Chs. 9 & 10

**Weeks 11-12: Mar 25 - April 7**

**Read:**

Chapter 11, "Families and Intimate Relationships"  
Chapter 12, "Education and Religion"

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

**Tasks:**

Discussion Post 6 (due by Friday, Mar 30, 11:55 pm)  
Exam 6: April 5 (12am) – April 6 (11:55pm): Chs. 11 & 12

**Weeks 13-14: Mar 8 - Mar 21**

**Read:**

Chapter 15, "Urbanization, Population, and the Environment"  
Chapter 16, "Globalization in a Changing World"

**Water, Gold and People:**

<http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/bolivia/thestory.html>

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/episodes/gold-futures/introduction/969/>

**Tasks:**

Discussion Post 6 (due by Friday, April 13, 11:55 pm)

Exam 6: April 19 (12am) – April 20 (11:55pm): Chs. 15 & 16