

SYG 2000 - U03 – Introduction to Sociology

Spring 2019 - Class Syllabus

Fri 3:00 pm - 4:50 pm – ZEB 150

Instructor: Connie M. Viamonte, Ph.D.

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

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Course Description

This course offers an introduction to sociology as a way of understanding complex social, political, and economic phenomena in the world. Sociology is a field of study that focuses on social structures, social forces, and group interactions. Specifically, this course will concentrate on several important sociological topics such as culture, the social construction of knowledge, “race,” gender, sexuality, and economic inequality, as well as political sociology.

Course Objectives

Sociologist Peter L. Berger saw sociology as a debunking perspective – that is, looking at things from different ways in which people traditionally see the world. This is one of the major objectives for this class, where combining and developing critical thinking skills are applied to the understanding of major themes in society. Thus, by the end of the class, students should be able to:

1. Understand the main sociological theoretical perspectives
2. Apply these perspectives to contemporary social problems
3. Develop insight into the critical link between social structure and individual circumstances
4. Acquire analytical skills for understanding and evaluating social phenomena and the interactions from which they emerge.

Class Policy for Lecture and Discussion

Class lectures will result from ideas and materials associated with textbook concepts, films, and assigned readings. Thus, lectures are intended to improve your understanding of the readings and topics covered in the class. A great deal of classroom time will be dedicated to group discussion; consequently, students **MUST KEEP UP WITH THE WEEKLY READINGS** and actively participate in class.

- **Required Textbook:** Sociology: The Essentials 9th Ed., Edited by Margaret L. Anderson, Howard F. Taylor, and Kim A. Logio (available on Canvas)

Lectures and Class Discussions

Because not everything will come from the book, I highly recommend that you take notes during class discussions/lectures.

Grading Policy and Procedures

“Active” Viewing/Reading Assignments will be worth 30 points: This course will rely heavily on both reading and videos. I will show a lot of movies (so if you don’t like that, best to turn back now). As such, I will require you to be present, conscious, and paying attention to anything I show or whatever we talk about. Some days I will give you discussion questions, others I will have you answer questions about the movies, and sometimes I will post discussion board questions. This is a large chunk of your grade, so it would be best if you were on-time, prepared (by reading), and present for the duration of the class period, as well as, actively paying attention to Blackboard. This course is a hybrid, so this active learning is a huge part of your responsibility to effectively get the most out of this course.

There will be two exams worth 30 points and 40 points. Topics will range from those covered in readings, to those in the lecture, and films. Exams are not cumulative.

The breakdown of your final grade is as follows:

Item	Points
1 st Exam	30

Attendance/Active Assignments	30
Final Exam	40
Total	100

Classroom Policies

- **If You Miss a Class:** Please do not email your professor to ask if you “missed something important” the day you were absent! Surely you missed something important! Please follow your syllabus closely, do your readings, and call or ask a classmate if you need the notes for that day.
 - Please note that I will not take any assignments through email. If you are not coming to class, you must make arrangements to get the assignment into me, in paper.
- **Cell Phone Policy:** ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONE USE IS ALLOWED IN THE CLASSROOM. ANY USE OF CELLPHONES OR TEXTING IN THE CLASS WILL RESULT IN THE AUTOMATIC LOSS OF 5 POINTS FROM THE PARTICIPATION GRADE AND MAY RESULT IN EXPULSION FROM THE CLASSROOM IF BEHAVIOR CONTINUES AFTER FAIR WARNING!!!!