

Florida International University
SYLLABUS
SYG 3002: Basic Ideas of Sociology
Spring 2019
M 5:00-7:40
Charles E. Perry (PC) 213

Instructor: Alfonso Matas, GSS PhD Candidate
Office: SIPA 302
Office Hours: by appointment.
Email: Contact me through CANVAS' inbox

Course Description:

SYG 3002, "Basic Ideas of Sociology" introduces the student to the ideas of community, authority, status, alienation, and the sacred, as used in sociological literature. What are the core concepts that undergird sociological thought, and how can they help us in everyday life? We will apply what we study during class sessions with examples from contemporary society. In this class, we will consider social phenomena, including: stereotypes, religious fundamentalism, social identity, cults, city life, social inequality, revolutionary social movements, immigration, marriage and divorce, housework, the "American Dream," capitalism, democracy, school culture, and globalization. Through development of sociological imaginations, they will learn to reconsider their beliefs about the social world.

Course Objectives:

- Describe and evaluate sociological perspectives.
- Trace the influences of social structure and institutions on culture.
- Consider sociologically multiple forms of inequality.
- Analyze the social movements that have and are challenging society.
- Examine the functions of religion in society.

Required Texts:

Charon & Vigilant. The Meaning of Sociology 8th Ed. ISBN 978-0138133283
Charon & Vigilant. The Meaning of Sociology: A Reader 9th Ed. 978-0135157862

REQUIRED WORK:

Canvas administered Quizzes 30%

First exam 15%
Midterm exam 15%
Final exam 15%
Academic paper 25%

GRADING SCALE:

A 100-94; A- 93-90; B+ 89-87; B 86-84; B- 83-80; C+ 79-77; C 76-74; C- 73-70; D+ 69-67; D 66-64; D- 63-61; F 60-0

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance will be taken in each class. Please note: many exam questions will come exclusively from lectures. In this class we will take a short 10-minute brake from 6:20 – 6:30 PM.

INDIVIDUAL (ONLINE) CANVAS QUIZZES (30% OF FINAL GRADE)

CANVAS Quizzes are 20 minutes, short multiple choice, True/false, and/or short answer quizzes on the week's content that you will be taken individually, online at the beginning of the second period of each class, i.e., at 6:30 PM. Quiz dates will be indicated on the Syllabus and on CANVAS. No make-ups are allowed for these quizzes. Even if you are not planning to attend the lecture, you are required to take the quiz online at the designated time.

ACADEMIC PAPER (25%):

You will write an academic paper on one of the key theories of sociology that is covered in this course.

- You will choose a phenomenon of the social world that is of relevance to one of the basic ideas of sociology and analyze it using at least one of the theories presented in the course. Possible examples include: recreational drug use, the rise of a religious movement, sexual assault... there are thousands of possible topics.
- The paper will begin with a title page with the student's name, the course title, date, and paper title. The paper must be five to seven typewritten pages (excluding the title page), 1" margins, 12 point font, Times New Roman, and double spaced.

- The paper must be submitted to turnitin.com prior to the class deadline for submission. March 22nd.
- Refer to the paper rubric on CANVAS.

EXAMS (45%):

The three exams (15% each) may include several types of questions, including multiple choice, true/false, essay, and short answer. All exams are cumulative. Exam questions will come from the assigned readings *as well as from class lectures*.

- Exams will be available to take online through CANVAS, during the last hour of scheduled class time. That is to say, on Mondays at 6:40 pm.
- This means that students should bring a laptop to class to take these in-class exams.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

*The instructor may revise the syllabus at any time.

Week 1 Jan 7: “Common Sense” and Sociological Knowledge
C. Wright Mills and “The Sociological Imagination.”

Week 2 Jan 14: The Discipline of Sociology
Textbook: Chapter One
Reader: Sociology as a Passion to Understand, Peter L. Berger

Week 3 Jan 21: Sociological Thought
Textbook: Chapter Two
Reader: Social Identity, Richard Jenkins

Week 4 Jan 28: Social Organization
Textbook: Chapter Three
Reader: Society, Social Control and the Individual, Peter L. Berger

Week 5 Feb 4: Social Structure
Textbook: Chapter Four
Reader: Gender as Structure, Barbara J. Risman.

First Exam: Monday, Feb 4 (online via CANVAS, available during last hour of class time only)

Week 6 Feb 11: Social Inequalities
Textbook: Chapter Five
Reader: Inequality in Europe and the United States

Week 7 Feb 18: The Culture Concept

Textbook: Chapter Six

Reader: American Culture: Individualism and Community, David A. Karp

Week 8 Feb 25: Social Institutions

Textbook: Chapter Seven

Reader: The Meaning and Origin of Social Institutions, Peter L. Berger and Thomas Luckmann.

Second Exam: Monday, Feb 25 Friday (online via CANVAS available during the last hour class time only)**Week 9 March 4:** Organizations, Societies, and Globalization

Textbook: Chapter Eight

Reader: Globalization, Anthony Giddens

Week 10 March 11: The Social Order **(Spring Brake Week)**

Textbook: Chapter Nine

Reader: Government Programs and Social Cohesion, Theda Skocpol

Week 11 March 18: Power

Textbook: Chapter Ten

Reader: Reader: The Code of the Street & Punishment and Inequality in America
Paper Due: submit through link on CANVAS 11:59 PM Friday, March 22.**Week 12 March 25:** Identity and Selfhood

Textbook: Chapter Eleven

Week 13 April 1: Social Change

Textbook: Chapter Twelve

Reader: Social Movements and Social Change, Cyrus Zirakzadeh

Week 14 April 8: The Family

Textbook: Chapter Thirteen

Reader: Family in Transition, Arlene S. Skolnick and Jerome H. Skolnick

Week 15 April 15: Religion, Religiosity, and Fundamentalism

Textbook: Chapter Fourteen

Reader: The Meaning of Religion, Emile Durkheim

Week 16 FINAL EXAM, 4/22/2019 (Monday) available online via CANVAS during exam. Exam time: 2 hours.