SYG2000: Introduction to Sociology

Professor Information

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Office Hours: By appointment
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Phone: (305) 348-2247
Website: Dr. Matthew Marr Biography
(http://gss.fiu.edu/people/faculty/matthew-marr/)

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 activities 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**

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- **Policies**
- **Netiquette**  (https://online.fiu.edu/html/canvas/policies/)
- **Technical Requirements and Skills**
- **Accessibility and Accommodation**
- **Academic Misconduct Statement**
- **Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**

**VERY IMPORTANT:** If you have any technical problems, do not contact the instructor, immediately contact FIU Online Support Services  (https://lmshelp.fiu.edu/) . They are available to assist via email, phone, chat or walk in. Visit their website for hours of operation.

**Course Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

**Textbook and Course Materials**

Essentials of Sociology  
Anthony Giddens, Mitchell Duneier, Richard P. Appelbaum, Deborah Carr  
You may purchase your textbook online at the publisher's website  
https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393674088  or the FIU Bookstore  
VERY IMPORTANT!!! If you are comfortable reading on your computer or another device, I HIGHLY recommend using the more affordable online or downloadable versions of the textbook available on the website.

Useful Websites

- [Countries and Regions](https://data.worldbank.org/country)
- [World Bank Development Data and Statistics](http://www.worldbank.org/data/)
- [International Monetary Fund](http://www.imf.org)
- [IMF World Economic Outlook](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/02/index.htm)
- [United Nations Economic and Social Development](https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/home)
- [United Nations Statistics Division](https://unstats.un.org/home/)
- [United Nations Development Program](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html)
- [Human Development Report](http://hdr.undp.org/en/)

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 Getting Started module 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 Canvas;
- interact online with instructor 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 Communication

Communication in this course will take place within Canvas. See the [Canvas Guide](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10574-4212710325) on communicating with course users for more information.

Visit the [FIU Center for Excellence in Writing resources page](https://writingcenter.fiu.edu/resources/index.html) for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.
Discussions Forums

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

Discussion Forum Posts: 70/60 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 “Reply” tab in the “Discussion” link in each weekly module. You will post your response to the questions for that particular week. There will be web content (in each “Outline” 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. This means that there will be no partial credit. If your post does not meet all of the criteria below, it will receive zero points. These are “all or nothing” grading procedures. 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. I WILL ALSO BE VERY STRICT ABOUT THIS. BE SURE TO DO A WORD COUNT BEFORE SUBMITTING.

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

There will be 6 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: 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 Sunday, 11:59 pm 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. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. For more information, please review the important information about quizzes page.

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

- 40 possible points each; 2840 possible semester points
- The 76 exams will be based entirely on Giddens et al., Essentials of Sociology 7th 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 within the weekly modules.

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 (https://digital.wwnorton.com/essentialsofsoc7), which Use the online resources for the textbook (https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393674088), which includes a variety of study materials (the practice quizzes are probably the best way to prepare for exams).

Extra Credit and Make-Up Assignments

- There will be no extra credit and no make-up assignments without documented justification.
- There will ONLY be one extra-credit assignment on Canvas worth 10 points.

Grading

The graded assignments will be 76 multiple-choice/true-false exams (40 possible points each; 2840 possible semester points) and 76 discussion forum posts (10 possible points each; 760 possible semester points), adding up to 3500 total possible semester points.

Final grades will be computed by the percentage of 3500 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. 270-300 points (90+%)=A; 240-269 points (80-89%)=B; 210-239 points (70-79%)=C; 180-209 points (60-69%)=D; 179 points or less=F.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
<th>Points for Each</th>
<th>Total Points Possible</th>
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### Letter Grade Distribution Table

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<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>315270 - 350000 (90+%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>28040 - 314269  (80-89%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>24510 - 27999   (70-79%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>210180 - 244209  (60-69%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>209479 or less (&lt;60%)</td>
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### Course Calendar Table

Access your Course Calendar for course topics and assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed Jun 19, 2019</td>
<td>Discussion 1 <img src="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/41898/assignments/478095" alt="Discussion 1 Details" /> due by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Jun 26, 2019</td>
<td>Discussion 2</td>
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| Tue Jul 23, 2019  | **Exam 1**  
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Due by 11:59pm |
|                   | **Exam 2**  
[link](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/41898/assignments/478089)  
1 student  
Due by 11:59pm |
|                   | **Exam 3**  
[link](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/41898/assignments/478090)  
1 student  
Due by 11:59pm |
|                   | **Exam 4**  
[link](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/41898/assignments/478093)  
1 student  
Due by 11:59pm |
| Wed Jul 24, 2019  | **Discussion 6**  
[link](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/41898/assignments/478100)  
Due by 11:59pm |
| Fri Jul 26, 2019  | **Exam 6**  
[link](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/41898/assignments/478091)  
Due by 11:59pm |
|                   | **Exam 2**  
[link](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/41898/assignments/478089)  
1 student  
Due by 11:59pm |
| Thu Aug 1, 2019   | **Exam 4**  
[link](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/41898/assignments/478093)  
1 student  
Due by 11:59pm |
|                   | **Mid-Semester Grade**  
[link](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/41898/assignments/478101)  
Due by 11:59pm |