“It can be said that the first wisdom of sociology is this: things are not what they seem.”
–Peter Berger

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Course Description:
Marijuana is on the verge of legalization; what will be the societal consequences? Should Miami's official language be made Spanish, and why does such a possibility make some members of society uncomfortable? Why are female college students more vulnerable to sexual assault than most other groups of U.S. women? Why is it that the largest group of consumers of "gangsta rap" are white adolescent boys? These questions are a small sampling of the challenges that we’ll explore together this semester. In this course, you will conduct research and develop grounded sociological theory from the study of "real life." The sociological experience will facilitate your skills for achieving success by learning to work with fellow students to achieve goals as a team, a skill employers seek. You will also learn to practice sociology as a martial art, a means of self-defense against oppressive ideologies. Sociology will help you combat the assumptions and stereotypes that impact your life chances, as well as others'. Ultimately, you will become a social historian of your own life, able to trace the forces that led you to your present circumstances and identity.
Learning Goals- upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1) Apply theories of sociology to real-world situations and scenarios.

2) Assess researchers’ employment of sociological research methods.

4) Interpret and assess sociological journal articles and compare them with popular media.

5) Consider the causes and consequences of inequalities by employing sociological evidence and theory.

6) Trace the societal forces that led you to be who you are presently; you will do the same for other groups of people.

7) Gain empathy for other groups of people (as well as your own group) through assessment of how power affects all human beings.

Required Textbook: Sociology: The Essentials Edition 9
Author: Margaret L. Andersen, Howard F. Taylor
ISBN: 9781305503083
Publication Date: 01/01/2016
Publisher: Cengage Learning

Grading Scheme

Exams: You will have a midterm during Week 3 and a Final Exam during the university’s scheduled exam time. Your exams will be administered via Blackboard, outside of class time. The exams will cover lecture materials, class discussions, and textbook readings. To make high scores on the exams, you must attend each class. The exam will require approximately one hour of time to take. Each exam is worth forty points for a total of eighty points.

Final Paper: Critical Assessment of a Sociology Journal Article - You will write an assessment of one sociology journal article, of your choosing. The research paper requires students to write a review of a sociological study that has been published either in book form OR in article form as a peer-reviewed sociology journal. You must state the title and author of your article, the name of the Journal or book, and the date of publication on the title page of your paper.
The review will include a summary of the focus of the research, the research methods employed, and the findings, as well as the student’s explanation of why this research is important. The paper is required to be 5-7 pages, typed, double-spaced, 1” margins, 12 point font.

**How the paper should be organized:**

- **Cover Page:** NO NUMBER APPEARS ON THIS PAGE, Student’s Name and Student’s ID#, Author/s and title of article, title of Journal, publication date.

- **Summary of article or book:** minimum 1-2 double-spaced pages.

- **Description of research methods:** minimum 1 double-spaced page.

- **Description of findings:** minimum 1-2 double-spaced pages.

- **Student’s explanation as to why this research is important:** minimum 2 pages.

- **The Last Page is the Works Cited Page,** where you will write the full citation of the article in either APA or MLA.

**Other paper Requirements:** You may only use one direct quote of no longer than two sentences in your paper. More than one direct quote will result in deduction of points from your grade. The purpose of this paper is, in part, to encourage you to learn to translate research into your own words. The paper must be submitted to Revel prior to the class deadline for submission. APA or MLA formatting is acceptable.

**To find a full-text academic sociology article:**

Go to: FIU Libraries, catalogue search, search, Academic Onefile. Then run an advanced search of sociology journals. Be patient and be prepared to run several searches before you find an article that interests you. You must check the box “full text” to get full text articles.

You will upload your paper into the Blackboard for our class. It will be checked for plagiarism.
Grading Scale: A 3,000-2,851; A- 2,850-2,701; B+ 2,700-2,551; B- 2,550-2,401; C+ 2,400-2,251; C 2,250-2,101; D+ 2,100-1,951; D 1,950-1,801; D- 1,800-1,650; F 1,649-0

Grading Criteria:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Assessment of a Sociology Journal Article Paper</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
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Extra Credit Opportunities: There are no Extra Credit Opportunities.

Course Policies:

Students are expected to be in class during class times.

1. **Attendance:** Attendance will be taken during class.

2. **Readings/Assignments:** Success in this course requires familiarity with the textbook. The professor will not cover all material in the text, because the student is responsible for reading the text and posing questions in class. Students are expected to read all assigned chapters **before** the class period, so that they can pose questions and engage in discussion.

3. **Conduct in the Classroom:** If students disrupt the teaching/learning process or act in a disrespectful, threatening, or intimidating way toward the professor or other students, they will be asked to leave the class.

Weekly Class and Readings Schedule
Week 1 06/20, 22
- Ch. 1 What is the Sociological Perspective?
- Ch. 2 What does culture do in society?
- Ch. 3 How sociological research is conducted.

Week 2 06/27, 29
- Ch. 4 Socialization
- Ch. 5 Social Structure
- Ch. 6 Groups.

Week 3 07/4 (Holiday- No Class), 07/6
- Ch. 7 Deviance.
- Ch. 8 Class in the United States.

Week 4 07/11, 13
- Ch. 9 Global Stratification.
- Ch. 10 Race & Ethnicity
- Ch. 11 Gender.

Week 5 07/18, 20
- Ch. 12 Sexuality.
- Ch. 13 Families & Religion.
- Ch. 14 Education & Healthcare.

Week 6 07/25, 27
- Ch. 15 Economy & Politics.
- Ch. 16 Population, Urbanization, & Social Change.