



SYG 2000

Introduction to Sociology

Section: RVAA

Internet/Fully Online

Fall Term 2026

Course Time Zone | Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates are according to this time zone.

Professor Information

Zachary Levenson

Roles: Primary Instructor

Email: zlevenso@fiu.edu

Response Time: 2 business days

Phone: 305 348 2262

Office Hours: Online by appointment; or Tuesdays 12-2

Office Location: 327 SIPA I

Website: <https://sipa.fiu.edu/people/faculty/global-and-sociocultural-studies/zachary-levenson.html>

Department or Academic Unit: Global and Sociocultural Studies

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

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. An active “sociological imagination” is important in professional fields as diverse as education, social work, health, safety, politics, business, economics, and engineering.

Global Learning (GL) Course Information

Global learning courses engage with essential questions and complex issues that are best understood and addressed through multiple perspectives and provide students with a global view of their discipline of study.

Three specific student learning outcomes are built into each Global Learning course syllabus via course content, assignments and activities:

- **Global perspective:** the ability to construct a multi-perspective analysis of issues
- **Global awareness:** knowledge of the interconnectedness of issues,

trends and systems

- **Global engagement:** willingness to address local, global, international and intercultural issues

Textbook and Course Materials

A Sociological Experiment

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Shamus Khan, Patrick Sharkey, Gwen Sharp

Publisher: CritReview

Publication Date: 2025

Copyright Date: 2025

ISBN 10: N/A

ISBN 13: 9798987326732

Notes: In this course, we will be using textbook chapters and course materials from "A Sociological Experiment." This is an initiative by leading sociologists to provide high quality introductory materials in an accessible manner. All required materials will be available for purchase on their website. You can purchase materials by chapter.

Description: <https://sociologyexperiment.com/chapters/>

Chapters/Pages: Listed in Modules

Panther Book Pack

Get all required course materials for \$22 per undergrad credit hour through Panther Book Pack. You'll be charged automatically unless you opt out within 3 days after the add/drop deadline.

For more details, to compare costs, and to learn how to access your course materials, visit the [Panther Book Pack information page on FIU OneStop](#).

Readings, Materials, and Open Educational Resources (OER)

Useful Websites

- [Countries and Regions](#)
- [World Bank Development Data and Statistics](#)
- [International Monetary Fund](#)
- [IMF World Economic Outlook](#)
- [United Nations Economic and Social Development](#)
- [United Nations Statistics Division](#)
- [United Nations Development Program](#)
- [Human Development Report](#)

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- CLO1: Identify the features of society and their interrelationships, especially those related to race, class, and gender
- CLO2: Analyze interrelationships between society and self
- CLO3: Explain the foundations of global inequalities
- CLO4: Develop evidence-based arguments addressing social issues in policy or advocacy contexts through the application of sociological research

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**
- **take the Syllabus Quiz (you need to take the Syllabus Quiz and receive a perfect score in order to gain access to all the modules, including discussions and exams, in the course);**
- **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.**

The instructor will:

- **grade assignments and/or provide feedback within 7 days of the assignment deadline.**

Grading

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Weight per Item	
Syllabus Quiz	1	1%	
Group Contract	1	2.5%	
Self/Peer Review	1	2.5%	
Total	18	—	

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Weight per Item	
Global Learning Assignments	3	3%	
Discussion Posts	6	0.6%	
Exams	6	12.5%	
Total	18	—	

Letter Grade Distribution Table

Letter Grade	Range %
A	90 to 100
B	80 to 89.99
C	70 to 79.99
D	60 to 69.99
F	0 to 59.99

Proctored Exams

Please note that the information contained in this section applies only if your course requires a proctored exam.

Through a careful examination of this syllabus, it is the student's responsibility to determine whether this online course requires proctored exams. Please visit our [Student Proctored Exam Instructions](#) webpage for important information concerning proctored exams, proctoring centers, and important forms.

Schedule of Topics

- **Module 1**
 - **Exam 1**
 - **Discussion 1**
- **Module 2**
 - **Exam 2**
 - **Discussion 2**
 - **Group Contract**

- **Module 3**
 - Discussion 3
 - Exam 3
 - Global Learning Assignment 1
- **Module 4**
 - Discussion 4
 - Exam 4
- **Module 5**
 - Discussion 5
 - Exam 5
 - Global Learning Assignment 2
- **Module 6**
 - Discussion 6
 - Exam 6
 - Self/Peer Review
- **Module 7**
 - Global Learning Assignment 3
 - Extra Credit (optional)

Canvas Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Academic Honesty Policy	Quiz	0
	Academic Honesty Policy	Quiz	0
	Academic Honesty Policy	Quiz	0

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Hi! Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0
	Mid-Semester Grade (UCC Requirement)	Assignment	100
	Open Forum	Discussion	0
	Practice Quiz	Quiz	0
	Practice Quiz	Quiz	0
	Practice Quiz	Quiz	0
8/28/26	Class Reflection 1	Assignment	10
8/28/26	Exam 1	Quiz	40
8/28/26	Syllabus Quiz	Quiz	10
9/4/26	Class Reflection 2	Assignment	10
9/4/26	Exam 2	Quiz	40
9/11/26	Class Reflection 3	Assignment	10
9/11/26	Exam 3	Quiz	40
9/11/26	First Draft of Group Resources	Assignment	10

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
9/21/26	Class Reflection 4	Assignment	10
9/21/26	Exam 4	Quiz	40
9/25/26	Class Reflection 5	Assignment	10
9/25/26	Exam 5	Quiz	40
9/25/26	Revised Annotated List	Assignment	10
10/6/26	Class Reflection 6	Assignment	10
10/6/26	Exam 6	Quiz	40
10/6/26	Extra Credit: Public Comment Assignment	Assignment	10
10/9/26	Individual Letter or Online Petition	Assignment	20

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via **the Canvas Inbox**. Check out the [Canvas Guide](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using the Canvas Inbox.

I will respond to all correspondence within **2 business days**.

Policies & Resources

Before starting this course, please review the Policies & Resources Page in Canvas which includes comprehensive information on various University and Course Level Policies such as:

- University Policies
- Accessibility and Accommodations
- Online Etiquette
- Technical Requirements and Skills
- Computer & Digital Literacy Skills
- Course Technology Accessibility Statements and Privacy Policies
- Academic Integrity
- Copyright Statement
- Nondiscrimination Statement
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Fair Use Policy

Assignments & Assessments

Syllabus Quiz

Once you are familiar with the syllabus and the course/Canvas expectations, please take the syllabus quiz. You will need to pass this quiz with 100% in order to gain access to the remainder of the course materials and assignments.

This assignment is worth one (1) percent of your final grade for the course.

Discussions Forums

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

There are six (6) discussions in this course. 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.

Students are encouraged to post multiple commentaries for each discussion forum topic: only the first post that each student makes for an assignment will be evaluated according to the discussion forum rubric. 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.

Discussion forum posts are due by Sunday, 11:59 pm the week/module assigned unless otherwise indicated in the course syllabus/calendar. Discussion prompts will be available for the duration of each module.

Students’ posted ideas must indicate that the student has read the assigned material. If you use unassigned materials, you must cite them. You must use and highlight at least two terms or concepts from the assigned readings for that module. Terms in the title of the chapters do not count. You must pose a discussion question about the assigned material or draw a connection between a current event or personal experience and the assigned material. The initial posting for each weekly module must be no less than 500 words. Please use the Discussion Rubric to assist you in completing this assignment.

This assignment is worth 10% of your total grade for the course. Canvas will drop your lowest grade at the end of the semester.

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.

All assessments are taken through Respondus Lockdown Browser and will auto-submit when (1) the timer runs out OR (2) the closing date/time is reached, whichever happens first. For example, if a quiz has a closing time of 5:00 pm, but the student begins the exam at 4:55 pm, the student will only have 5 minutes to complete the quiz.

There are six (6) exams based entirely on the textbook, “A Sociology Experiment.” Each exam consists of twenty (20) multiple choice questions and students will have 45 minutes to complete each.

To prepare for each exam, first read each chapter carefully. The following tips will also help you study.

- **Look over the lecture slides and lecture videos for review.**
- **Emphasize broad concepts and examples of such concepts, rather than narrow facts.**
- **Look over and complete other supplemental materials available in the modules or on the [A Sociological Experiment Links to an external site.](#) website.**

This assignment is worth eighty (75) percent of your total grade for the course.

Group Contract and Self/Peer Review

Group Contract (Group Assignment) & Self/Peer Review Survey (Individual Assignment)

Several groups are available in the course. Students may self-enroll into a group, maximum of 5 people. To do so:

1. Click on “People” in the course left menu;
2. Click on the “Groups” tab;
3. Drag and drop your name into an open group;
4. Introduce yourself and ask how you may be involved.

The working world requires the skills and abilities related to group/teamwork. Group/teamwork is never as perfect as we imagine we could do by ourselves. This will always be the case. Most employment requires a certain level of skill working in teams. Please treat group assignments as an opportunity to build group working skills.

Groups will fill in a contract, identifying each member’s strengths and commitment to tasks. Issues such as timing and scheduling will be outlined and signed by all group members. The Group Contract is a group assignment, is graded as “complete/not completed,” and everyone in the group will earn the same grade.

Also, to help group members to identify their strengths and weaknesses, and hopefully so they improve in future assignments, a survey will be filled out by each member of the group, during the semester. The survey asks each group member to identify the specific strengths and weaknesses in both their own work and for each other group member in accomplishing the assigned tasks. The assignment requires a table to be filled and comments added. The Self/Peer Reviews are individual assignments and will be graded as such.

If troubles arise in the group, students must address these through the group contract and self/peer review assignments. Serious trouble in a group, such as

lack of regular communication/cooperation with one another, may require attendance to a Zoom meeting with me and may involve dissolution of the group and/or loss of points, if the group is found to be outside the bounds of their group contract.

Grading: These assignments are worth (Group Contract) 2.5% and (Self/Peer Reviews) 2.5% of your total grade, respectively.

Global Learning Assignments In these three assignments, you will work with a few classmates to gather online sources that provide data and investigate policies to address a specific social issue. Then, as individuals, you will compose a letter or an online petition to send to local, state, national, and/or international representatives in support of a particular policy or approach. Through this assignment you will sharpen your sociological imagination and, by applying it, you will put into practice sociology's principle that the personal is political.

There will be three total submissions for this assignment. First, your group will submit a draft of the annotated sources to receive feedback from the instructor. Second, your group will re-submit its revised annotated list. Third, you will submit an individual letter or online petition.

Each assignment can be found in the modules of the weeks they are assigned.

These assignments are worth nine (9) percent of your total grade for the course (GL assignment 1=3%; GL assignment 2=3%; GL [Individual] assignment 3=3%). Group members will all receive the same grade on the group assignments.

Extra Credit and Make-Up Assignments

There will be no make-up assignments without documented justification.

There will only be one extra-credit assignment, available to everyone, on Canvas worth 5 points toward your total points for the course.

Zoom Video Conference

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities.

Zoom meetings can be accessed via the Zoom link in the course navigation menu. Once you click on the Zoom link, it will route you to join the meeting for the respective class session. You will also be able to view upcoming meetings, previous meetings that you have already joined, and meeting recordings. Before joining an actual class session:

- Reference the [Zoom Student Tutorials](#) to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting room, and share your screen.
- Access the [Zoom Test Meeting Room](#) to test out the software before joining an actual session.

If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the [FIU Canvas Help Team](#). Please ensure you contact support immediately upon the issue occurring.

Nondiscrimination Statement

The **Office of Civil Rights** (OCR) is responsible for ensuring that FIU maintains a workplace and learning environment free from discrimination, where current and prospective faculty, staff, and students are treated equitably. If any student, employee, or applicant has a sincere and reasonable belief that they have been discriminated against or harassed based on age, color, disability, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the OCR team through report.fiu.edu.