



**SYG 2000**

## **Introduction to Sociology**

**Section: U03**

**In Person**

**Fall Term 2026**

### **Course Meeting Information**

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**Classes are scheduled from MoWe 12:30PM - 1:45PM in PC 211.**

### **Professor Information**

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**Alfonso Matas**

**Roles: Primary Instructor**

**Email: [Use Canvas Inbox](#)**

**Phone: N/A**

**Office Hours: Via Zoom upon request**

**Office Location: N/A**

**Department or Academic Unit: GSS**

## **Course Prerequisites**

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Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

## **Course Description**

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In this course, students will gain an understanding of the basic sociological concepts and vocabulary, including the methodological tools, sociological perspectives, and scientific procedures used by social scientists to collect data and conduct research. Topics generally include: society and culture, institutions, socialization, influences, crime, change, groups, sex, race and ethnicity, family, class, and population.

This is a Global Learning Foundations course that counts toward your FIU Global Learning graduation requirement.

## **Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives**

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- 1. Students will apply multiple sociological perspectives. 2. Students will identify methodological tools used to evaluate sociological research questions. 3. Students will understand dynamics between individual agency and social influences.
- Employ the sociological imagination to analyze society
- Identity key substantive areas of sociological inquiry
- Global Awareness: Students will be able to explain how globally diverse values, beliefs, and behaviors are influenced by social forces
- Global Perspective: Students will be able to examine social processes from diverse perspectives (e.g. conflict, functionalist, and symbolic interactionist approaches).

- **Students will apply multiple sociological perspectives.**
- **Global Engagement: Students will be able to propose solutions to a global problem taking into account multiple perspectives.**
- **Students will identify methodological tools used to evaluate sociological research questions.**
- **Students will understand dynamics between individual agency and social influences.**

## **Expectations of the Course**

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### **A Note on Modality**

This **in-person** sociology course at Florida International University is designed for students who value consistent, face-to-face interaction and are prepared for a rigorous academic workload.

Because we meet in person two times a week for 75 minutes each session, the structure of the course relies on a steady, continuous rhythm of both classroom engagement and independent study.

It is a common misconception that a frequent meeting schedule makes independent preparation less important; in reality, keeping up with this fast-paced format requires a high level of self-regulation and a proactive approach to learning.

To succeed, you must possess strong personal discipline and exceptional time management skills.

The regular seat time ensures deep coverage of the material, but it also means the burden of daily preparation, review, and engagement remains critical in your own study environment.

You are expected to arrive to every class fully prepared, staying on top of all readings and assignments between our frequent sessions.

Ultimately, this course demands a consistent, day-to-day commitment to the material and a high degree of accountability to ensure you meet the same high academic standards as any other offering at FIU.

### **A Note on Reading Materials**

The textbook required for this book Intro to Sociology Reader which is a book produced by a working group composed of sociology faculty in the Florida State University System (FLSUS) faculty convened by the Florida Board of Governors and Florida Department of Education in Fall, 2025.

Be reminded that the use of AI technology and plagiarism in any form is strictly forbidden. As stated in the assignment instructions:

It is critical to understand that if any member of a group uses AI or engages in plagiarism, the entire group will be held accountable. This means that the integrity of the assignment is a shared responsibility, and it is up to each group to ensure that their work is original and compliant with the guidelines.

To help avoid such situations, the assignment instructions explicitly state:

**"Before turning in the assignment, the person making the submission should send a copy to all group members and obtain the OK from everyone in the group"**

This step is not optional—it is a requirement designed to protect everyone in the group and ensure that all members are fully aware of and agree with the final submission.

- There is a 5% penalty per day past the due date and assignments may not be submitted after the third day.

For more information, please review the [important information about the assignments](#) page.

**This is an outline of the course. It is subject to change with written notice.**

## Grading

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| Course Requirements                           | Number of Items | Weight |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| Exams                                         | 6               | 25%    |
| Class Reflections                             | 6               | 25%    |
| Group Assignments                             |                 |        |
| 1. First Draft of Group Resources             |                 |        |
| 2. Revised Annotated List                     | 3               | 50 %   |
| 3. Individual Letter (Submitted Individually) |                 |        |
| Total                                         |                 | 100%   |

## Textbook and Course Materials

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### Intro to Sociology Reader

**Subtitle:** Reader produced by a working group composed of sociology faculty in the Florida State University System (FLSUS) faculty convened by the Florida Board of Governors and Florida Department of Education in Fall, 2025.

**Required/Recommended:** Required

**Authors:** Multiple

**Publisher:** Provided via Canvas

**Publication Date:** 2025

**Copyright Date: 2025**

**ISBN 10: N/A**

**ISBN 13: N/A**

**Description:** This course leverages open-source textbook materials that have been written to explicitly meet the Florida state statutes. The chapters introduced for each learning unit provide foundational information for students to learn the conceptual, theoretical, methodological, and applied aspects of sociological sciences. This textbook has been approved by the Florida Board of Governor's Sociology Working Group (2026). Introduction to Sociology. Adapted from Introduction to Sociology 3e by OpenStax, licensed under CC BY 4.0. Access the original OpenStax textbook for free at [openstax.org](https://openstax.org).

**Chapters/Pages: N12**

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](#).

## **Schedule of Topics**

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### **Module Outlines**

#### **Module 1 Outline**

##### Module Learning Objectives

This module is a comprehensive introduction to the discipline of sociology. It

begins by exploring the field's origins, its place among other social sciences, and the unique systematic methods it uses for studying human societies. The focus is on both theoretical understanding and practical applications, including career paths. Furthermore, the module examines the foundational knowledge of sociological research practices, encompassing qualitative and quantitative methodologies. The module emphasizes the scientific method, ethical standards, and data accuracy. Finally, the module examines deviant behavior, presenting it as a socially constructed concept influenced by cultural norms and institutional responses.

Textbook: Introduction to Sociology

Readings: Preface – Introduction to Sociological Sciences; Chapter 1 – Understanding Sociology; Chapter 2 – Sociological Research and Methods of Inquiry; Chapter 7 – Groups and Organizations

Assignments:

Class Reflection 1

Exam 1

## **Module 2 Outline**

Module Learning Objectives

This module explores the concept of culture as a shared set of practices, values, symbols, and norms that guide behavior within social groups. Students analyze how culture is formed, transmitted, and modified across different social contexts and time periods. In addition, the module uncovers and analyzes the issues

surrounding poverty in the U.S.

Textbook: Introduction to Sociology

Readings: Chapter 3 – Culture and Society; Chapter 9 pgs. 167-177 – Poverty in the US

Assignments:

Class Reflection 2

Exam 2

### **Module 3 Outline**

Module Learning Objectives

This addresses the factors that influence health and wellbeing as people move through the life course. Students will learn about different life stages and behaviors and the behaviors and resources that modify health trajectories over time. Students will also learn about the influence of healthcare and medicine in treating people at different phases of life. The module also delves into and critically examines the institutions of family and marriage.

Textbook: Introduction to Sociology

Readings: Chapter 5 – Healthy Aging; Chapter 9 – pgs. 154-160 - Private Institutions: Family and Work

Assignments:

Class Reflection 3

Exam 3

## **Module 4 Outline**

Module Learning Objectives

This module examines how individuals acquire societal norms, beliefs, and behaviors through interaction with various socializing agents. This unit focuses on the stages of development and the influence of family, education, peers, media, and other social forces that shape human behavior. The module also provides a structured look at various private and public institutions that shape social life, religion, education, and government. Each institution is studied in terms of its structure, roles, and functions.

Textbook: Introduction to Sociology

Readings: Chapter 4 – Socialization; Chapter 10 - Public Institutions: Religion, Education, and Government

Assignments:

Class Reflection 4

Exam 4

## **Module 5 Outline**

### Module Learning Objectives

This module explores how societies define and respond to deviant behavior. This unit presents deviance as a socially constructed concept, shaped by cultural norms and institutional responses. In this module students also examine how societies evolve over time through demographic shifts, technological innovation, cultural transformation, and collective action. The course introduces several historical theories and frameworks and explores their application to real-world contexts. Finally, this module explores various concepts related to population and urbanizations dynamics.

Textbook: Introduction to Sociology

Readings: Chapter 8 - Deviance and Crime; Chapter 11 - Population and Urbanization; Chapter 12 - Social Change and Collective Behaviors

Assignments:

Class Reflection 5

Exam 5: March 25th

Revised Annotated List

First Draft of Group Resources

## **Module 6 Outline**

## Module Learning Objectives

This module examines the social dynamics of health, healthcare and medicine. The social construction of health and the social construction of the illness experience topic are critically engaged. The module also explores the differences in health outcomes across different groups in the United States when evaluating people based on race and ethnicity. The module also delves into economic sociology and specifically into topics related to work and the economy.

Textbook: Introduction to Sociology

Readings: Chapter 6 - Health, Healthcare, and Medicine; Chapter 9 – pgs. 160-164 - Private Institutions: Family and Work

Assignments:

Class Reflection 6

Exam 6

Revised Annotated List

## **Module 7 Outline**

### Module Learning Objectives

This final module constitutes a comprehensive course wrap-up, providing a vital opportunity for structured class discussion where we will collaboratively review core themes, share diverse personal insights, and reflect on the key sociological concepts covered throughout the term to ensure a deep, practical understanding

before concluding our academic journey together.

Textbook: Introduction to Sociology

Assignments:

Individual Letter

## **Policies & Resources**

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### **University-Wide Policies**

As a member of the FIU community, you are expected to be knowledgeable about the behavioral expectations set forth in the [FIU Student Conduct and Honor Code](#).

In addition, the [FIU Policies and Procedures Library website](#) serves as the official repository for university-wide policies and procedures.

### **Course Policies on Late Work**

**All assignments will be assessed a 5% late submission penalty per day.**

- This policy extends only for 3 days, after which time no more assignment submissions will be accepted and will receive a final assignment grade of "0".
- Exceptions will only be granted to students that provide proper and timely official FIU required documentation concerning their own hospitalizations and other major health issues.

**Exams** - Late work is subject to penalties. However, I will drop the lowest unit assessment grade.

**Class Reflections** - Late work is subject to penalties. However I will drop the lowest reflective assignment grade. The submission should contain a minimum of 500 words, double-spaced.

## **Group Project Assignments**

In this assignment, your group will submit your **final, revised list of resources with summaries**. The purpose is to show that you can take constructive feedback and use it to strengthen your academic work.

Here is what is expected of you:

1. **Review your Module 5 feedback.** Go back to the comments you received on your draft summary. Pay close attention to suggestions about clarity, accuracy, use of evidence, or writing style.
2. **Revise your summary.** Rewrite or expand the sections that need improvement. For example, you might add more explanation of the data, clarify how the source supports its position, or address weaknesses you missed the first time.
3. **Highlight your revisions.** Any portion you change must be clearly marked (for instance, with highlighting). This shows exactly how you responded to feedback.
4. **Submit as part of your group's list.** Your group will turn in one complete list of sources, with each member's revised summary attached to the correct source.

The goal in this assignment is not only to improve your summaries, but also to practice the essential academic skill of responding to feedback. By clearly showing what you changed and why, you will demonstrate your growth as a researcher and communicator.

## **Technical Support**

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

occurring.

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## Assignments & Assessments

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### ASSIGNMENTS

**Exams** - These are bi-weekly assessments where you will demonstrate your engagement with and understanding of course content.

**Reflective Assignments** - These are bi-weekly assessment that will give you a chance to engage with sociology in practice through various exercises.

**Projects** - Details are available on the assignment page.

Bi-weekly Assessments - Due Every Other Wednesday (See Modules)

Bi-weekly Reflective Assignments - Due Every Other Wednesday (See Modules)

Group Project 1 and Project 2 due Feb 22nd and March 22nd

Individual Assignment - Individual Letter due April 15th

### ASSESSMENTS

| Letter | Range (%) |  | Letter | Range (%) |  | Letter | Range (%) |
|--------|-----------|--|--------|-----------|--|--------|-----------|
|--------|-----------|--|--------|-----------|--|--------|-----------|

|           |               |  |           |              |  |          |                     |
|-----------|---------------|--|-----------|--------------|--|----------|---------------------|
| <b>A</b>  | <b>100–95</b> |  | <b>B</b>  | <b>85–83</b> |  | <b>C</b> | <b>75–70</b>        |
| <b>A-</b> | <b>94–90</b>  |  | <b>B-</b> | <b>82–80</b> |  | <b>D</b> | <b>69–60</b>        |
| <b>B+</b> | <b>89–86</b>  |  | <b>C+</b> | <b>79–76</b> |  | <b>F</b> | <b>59 and below</b> |

## **Nondiscrimination Statement**

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The **Office of Civil Rights Compliance and Accessibility** (CRCA) 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 CRCA team through [report.fiu.edu](https://report.fiu.edu).