SYG 2000 Introduction to Sociology

Section: RVD

Internet/Fully Online

Fall Term 2024

Professor Information

Katie Rainwater

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Office: SIPA 316B

Office Hours:

3 - 4 PM Wednesday

Additional Notes:

Office hours are held in my personal meeting room on Zoom.

Course Description and Purpose

This course serves as an introduction to the discipline of sociology. You will be introduced to sociology in three respects. First, and most importantly, you'll learn what it means to think sociologically or deploy the sociological imagination. Sociologists search for patterns in human behavior and seek to understand the cultures, history, policies, social forces, and institutions that give rise to these patterns. Second, you'll be introduced to the methodologies and theories that sociologists use to make sense of the social world. Third, you'll be introduced to areas of sociological inquiry including race, class, sex, gender, collective behavior, social movements, family, global and transnational sociology, inequality, poverty and mobility, labor and labor movements, and political sociology.

Sociologists study all facets of the social world. We can't possibly cover everything in a single semester! This course will focus on inequality in education. We will consider how inequality is produced and reproduced in educational institutions along axes of class, race, immigration status, gender, and sexual orientation. We'll also consider social movements that are attempting to address these inequalities through collective action. While educational inequality will be our focus, this is not a sociology of education course. Instead, we'll use educational inequality as a theme with which to learn how to think sociologically and to explore different areas of sociological inquiry. Sociology offers new ways to think about the familiar or the taken-for-granted. Together, we'll reconsider our experience in educational institutions (both at FIU and those which we attended prior to FIU) through the sociological imagination and through a reflection on sociological scholarship.

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

Course Goals

This course satisfies the following University Core Curriculum requirement for Social Science Group Two (university-required):

Students will demonstrate the ability to examine behavioral, social, and cultural issues from a variety of points of view. Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavioral, social, and cultural issues, past and present, local and global.

UCC Category Description

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social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavioral, social, and cultural issues, past and present, local and global.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

Student learning outcomes allow faculty to assess the level of proficiency in content knowledge and skills that their students acquire in a course.

If the objective meets a special designation, you will see the code after the objective:

> University Core Curriculum: UCC
> Gordon Rule Writing: GRW
> Global Learning: GL
> Civic Literacy: CL

- Employ the sociological imagination to analyze society

- Explain, critique, and interpret complex written arguments about inequality

- Identity key substantive areas of sociological inquiry

- Analyze social movements in K-12 and higher education

- 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).

- Global Engagement: Students will be able to propose solutions to a global problem taking into account multiple perspectives.

Expectations of the Course

Required Co-curricular Activity

As with other Global Learning courses, this course has a required co-curricular activity. For your co-curricular activity, you will be required to attend one event outside of class and write a response paper connecting the event to course content. More details will be offered on the relevant assignment page.

A Note on Reading Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings are available to download on Canvas. I recommend downloading and printing the readings. Research demonstrates that students generally attain higher levels of reading comprehension when reading from printed texts than from digital texts. Required readings reflect multiple and diverse perspectives on sociology. Examples include:

- CW Mills (1959). "The Promise". The Sociological Imagination.

- J. Calarco. (2018). "Coached for the Classroom". In Negotiating Opportunities: How the Middle Class Secures Advantages in School.

Assignments

Weekly Assessments - Each week you will be given an assessment to demonstrate your engagement with the course material. The assessments may take the form of multiple choice or short answer or short essays exercises. Rubrics will be provided.

Participation Exercises - To give you a chance to work through the course materials with your classmates, assignments falling in this category will have a participatory component although you will often be graded individually for some components of the assignment. Rubrics will be provided.

Co-curricular Activity - You will be required to attend a co-curricular activity outside of class this semester. You will attend an event in the area where you live or an online event. A rubric will be provided.

Short Essays - You will be required to submit three 2-3 page short essays this semester. A rubric will be provided.

- Essay One Due (Oct 13)

- Essay Two Due (Nov 17)

- Essay Three Due (Dec 14)

Assessments

Rubrics for all assignments will be posted on the relevant assignment page on Canvas.

Grading

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Weight
Weekly Assessments	About 14	40 %
Participation Assignments	About 5	20 %
Short Essays	3	30 %
Co-curricular Activity	1	10 %
Total		100%

Textbook and Course Materials

No items needed

Required/Recommended: No items needed

Authors: No items needed

Publisher: No items needed

Publication Date: No items needed

Copyright Date: No items needed

ISBN 10: No items needed

ISBN 13: No items needed

Panther Book Pack

FIU has implemented the Panther Book Pack rental program, which provides your required print and digital course materials at a flat rate of $20 per undergraduate credit hour. When you registered for your classes this session, you were notified via email of the required course materials that are included in the Panther Book Pack. The Panther Book Pack program applies to all undergraduate credit hours per academic session. I recommend that you review the pricing for all materials across your classes this session compared to the Panther Book Pack flat rate. If the Panther Book Pack is not your best option, you may opt-out up to three days after the add/drop deadline. You may opt back into the Panther Book Pack up to three days after the add/drop deadline. If you do not opt out of the Panther Book Pack rental program, you will be charged $20 per credit hour and the course materials will be reserved for you for the undergraduate courses for which you are registered. For more details, visit onestop.fiu.edu/bookpack.

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.

Technical Requirements and Skills

One of the greatest barriers to student success is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy, we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily.

Privacy Policy Statements for some of our Partners and Vendors

- [Canvas](#)

- [Microsoft](#)

- [Adobe](#)

- [YouTube](#)

- [LinkedIn](#)

- [ProctorU](#)

- [HonorLock](#)

- [Turnitin](#)

- [OpenStax](#)

- [Zoom](#)

- [Respondus LockDown Browser](#)

Accessibility and Accommodation

The Disability Resource Center collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at 305-348-3532 or visit them at the Graham Center GC 190.

For additional assistance please contact [FIU's Disability Resource Center](#).

Web Accessibility Statements for Partners and Vendors

- [Canvas](#)

- [Microsoft](#)

- [Adobe](#)

- [YouTube](#)

- [LinkedIn](#)

- [ProctorU](#)

- [HonorLock](#)

- [Turnitin](#)

- [OpenStax](#)

- [Zoom](#)

- [Respondus LockDown Browser](#)

Please visit [accessibility.fiu.edu](#) for additional information about accessibility at FIU.

Academic Integrity

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the University's educational mission. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Conduct and Honor Code.

Academic Misconduct includes:

 Cheating

- The unauthorized use of any materials, information, study aids, or assistance from another person on any academic assignment or exercise unless explicitly authorized by the course Instructor;

- Assisting another student in the unauthorized use of any materials, information, or study aids, unless explicitly authorized by the Instructor; and

- Having a substitute complete any academic assignment or completing an academic assignment for someone else, either paid or unpaid;

Plagiarism

- The deliberate use and appropriation of another work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the Student's own.

- Assisting another student in the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student's own.

Learn more about [Student Conduct and Academic Integrity](#).

Instructors Statement on Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is a serious offense. **Don't do it**. The minimum penalty for plagiarism will be a zero on the assignment. I will pursue the case with the Office of Academic Integrity. The reason I take this so seriously is that plagiarism completely undermines our educational aims. You are expected to think for yourself in this class and passing off someone else's work as your own is the worst way to fail at this.

Not knowing what plagiarism is does not count as an excuse. Even quoting someone's definition of a term can count as plagiarism. Whenever you use someone else's wording, *you must put it in quotation marks and cite the source*. Do not use someone else's words as if they were your own.

If you are unsure, you should familiarize with the definition and the university's policy. Here is a list of things that count as plagiarism (the list is not exhaustive):

1. Using someone else's words without attribution (even for something as small as a definition). You are welcome to use someone else's words. Quoting other people is fine. Just put those words in quotation marks and *cite the source*.

2. Paraphrasing someone else's words. This even applies to assigned readings. Do not simply paraphrase something or replace words with synonyms. That's plagiarism.

3. Using someone else's ideas and arguments. Let's say you consult a secondary source. You do not steal their words or paraphrase them (so you are not breaking the rules mentioned above). But you take the structure of their argument and their ideas and you present them as your own. That's plagiarism.

4. Using text from a chatbot like ChatGPT. If I suspect that you have used a chatbot to write your paper, I will ask you to meet with me to explain the paper. If you cannot explain the paper to me, you will not receive credit for it.

Avoiding plagiarism is not hard. All you have to do is give credit to the source. Be very careful about consulting outside materials. If you do decide to use an outside source you **must** tell me about it by citing the source.

Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

If you are looking for help for yourself or a fellow classmate, Panthers Care encourages you to express any concerns you may come across as it relates to any personal behavior concerns or worries you have, for the classmate's well-being or yours; you are encouraged to share your concerns with [FIU's Panthers Care website](#).

[Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)](#) offers free and confidential help for anxiety, depression, stress, and other concerns that life brings. Professional counselors are available for same-day appointments. Don't wait to call (305) 348-2277 to set up a time to talk or visit the online self-help portal.

Core Principles of this Course

This course will serve to embrace the diversity and inclusivity found within Florida International University. We appreciate and respect diversity, equality, equity, cooperativeness, community, and sustainability within our online courses. We are committed to the ongoing education of our students and their participation within the course regardless of gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, geographical location, religion, and disability. We strive in encouraging collaboration by preparing our students to value the differences in others. At the core of our intentions is the encouragement of acceptance and appreciation of differences within our student population and community.

This course will serve to embrace academic freedom, a core principle of the university as stated in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Board of Trustees and the United Faculty of Florida.

"Academic freedom and responsibility are essential to the integrity of the University. The principles of academic freedom are integral to the conception of the University as a community of scholars engaged in the pursuit of truth and the communication of knowledge in an atmosphere of tolerance and freedom. The University serves the common good through teaching, research, scholarship/creative activities, and service. The fulfillment of these functions rests upon the preservation of the intellectual freedoms of teaching, expression, research, and debate. The University and UFF affirm that academic freedom is a right protected by this Agreement in addition to a faculty member's constitutionally protected freedom of expression and is fundamental to the faculty member's responsibility to seek and to state truth as he/she sees it."

Copyright

The following conduct is prohibited by the Student Conduct and Honor Code. A lack of familiarity with University policy is not a defense to a violation of this Code. Unless specifically noted, the intent is not a required element to establish a policy violation. The following conduct violation or any attempt to violate the Code will be used in charging all Students or Student Organizations;

Section 5 | Conduct Violations - g. Computer Misuse

- vii. Unauthorized distribution or downloading of copyrighted materials, including but not limited to, unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing. This is a violation whether the user is using their own personal computer or the University's information technology system for unauthorized distributions.

Copyright Statement: The materials and content in this course are provided solely for student use during the course. Course materials may not be shared outside of the course or with any third party without the explicit permission of the instructor or content publisher. Visit FIU [Library's Copyright Lib Guide](#) to learn more about copyright law and restrictions.

Additional Resources:

- [Student Conduct and Honor Code](#)

- [Digital Millennium Copyright Act Policy](#)

- [FIU - Copyright Guidance for Students](#)

- [FIU Library's Copyright Lib Guide](#)

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.

State General Education Course Description and Outcomes

This course aligns with the state-mandated course description and student learning outcomes specified below.

SYG 2000 - Introduction to Sociology

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.

Student learning outcomes:

- Students will apply multiple sociological perspectives.
- Students will identify methodological tools used to evaluate sociological research questions.
- Students will understand dynamics between individual agency and social influences.