

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

SYG 2000

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Spring 2025

T/R – 9:15am-10:45am

Room: TBA

Professor: Bertrand F. Stebbins, M.A.

Email: Bstebbin@fiu.edu

Office hours: After class or upon appointment

Course Description and Purpose

Sociology is one of the most interesting subjects in the world, and one that we can all relate to. I intend to make this an extremely interesting, interactive and FUN class! All I ask is that you participate, show respect for your classmates, inject your experience and interest, and enjoy the class! I am here to help you learn, and I want to also learn from you!

This course offers an introduction to sociology as a way of understanding complex social, political, and economic phenomena in the world. Sociology is a field of study that focuses on social structures, social forces, and group interactions. Specifically, this course will concentrate on several important sociological topics such as culture, the social construction of knowledge, “race,” gender, and economic inequality, as well as political sociology. This is what you might call a “global learning” class.

Course Objectives

Sociologists look at the world, society and how we act from a broader, *sociological perspective* – that is, looking at things from diverse, broader, societal-wide ways (different from how many people traditionally see the world). This is one of the major objectives for this class, where combining and developing critical thinking skills are applied to the understanding of major themes in society. Thus, by the end of the class, students should be able to:

- Understand the main sociological theoretical perspectives.
- Apply these perspectives to contemporary social problems.

- Develop insight into the critical link between social structure and individual circumstances.
- Acquire analytical skills for understanding and evaluating social phenomena and the interactions from which they emerge.

Important Information

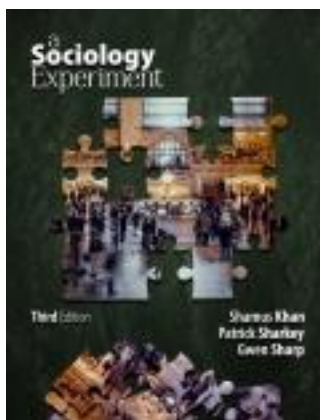
Sociologists look at the world, society and how we act from a broader, *sociological perspective* – that is, looking at things from diverse, broader, societal-wide ways (different from how many people traditionally see the world). This is one of the major objectives for this class, where combining and developing critical thinking skills are applied to the understanding of major themes in society. Thus, by the end of the class, students should be able to:

- Understand the main sociological theoretical perspectives.
 - Apply these perspectives to contemporary social problems.
 - Develop insight into the critical link between social structure and individual circumstances.
 - Acquire analytical skills for understanding and evaluating social phenomena and the interactions from which they emerge.
- Accessibility and Accommodations
 - Academic Misconduct Statement

*The professor reserves the right to change or modify the syllabus at any time during the semester.

TEXTBOOK

(available to all on our CANVAS page - Panther Book Pack 1.3)



A Sociology Experiment: Third Edition

ISBN: 9798987326725

By: Shamus Khan, Patrick Sharkey,...

Grading:

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 – 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 – 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

ASSIGNMENTS: 70% of final grade

PARTICIPATION: 30% of final grade

*Course/Departmental Policies

- **Academic Honesty & Library link:** Students that are found responsible for academic misconduct will be subject to the Academic Misconduct Procedures and Sanctions outlined in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook: [Academic Integrity - Get Support Student Affairs - Florida International University - FIU](#) . For more information on what FIU classifies as Academic Misconduct, you can also consult the short videos and other resources pasted here: [Resources - Plagiarism Prevention - FIU Libraries at Florida International University](#)
- **Cell Phone Policy:** ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONE USE IS ALLOWED IN THE CLASSROOM. ANY USE OF CELLPHONES OR TEXTING IN THE CLASS WILL RESULT IN THE AUTOMATIC LOSS OF POINTS FROM THE PARTICIPATION GRADE. LAPTOPS WILL BE ALLOWED ON OCCASION TO PERSUE E-TEXT OR COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS.

Global Learning Outcomes

This is a Discipline-specific Global Learning course that counts towards your FIU Global Learning graduation requirement.

- 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

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND MATERIAL COVERED IN COURSE

We will cover approximately one chapter of our textbook per week. (Due dates/assignments/and overall schedule is announced as the semester progresses). Use this only as a general guideline for the semester. The professor will indicate and assign all assignments and give test date information in class and via email/CANVAS as we move forward. We will also discuss CURRENT EVENTS/NEWS at the beginning of every class - because much of what sociology covers is extremely topical in our world today!

There will be occasional quizzes which will count towards your participation grade.

There will be approximately 10 take home assignments

There will be one weekly in-class assignment each Monday.

Unit 1: Introduction and the Sociological Perspective (Beginning August 17)

Introduction to class:

- Review syllabus and class assignments
 - Clarify expectations for class and instructor
 - Discuss basic concepts of sociology and challenges to the class
- Each student must have already ordered the textbook (hard copy). Short video assignment will be due

The Sociological Perspective

- Class Lecture and Discussion

UNIT 2 –CULTURE & INDIVIDUAL IN SOCIETY

Culture

- *Class Lecture and Discussion*

Due

- Read: Text chapter 1 & 2

- HW 2 due (Professor will give assignment in previous class)
- Discussion

Session 3 **Socialization and Social Interaction**

- Class Lecture and Discussion
- Film: *TBA*

Due

- Read: Text, chapters 3, 4, 5
- HW 3

Session 4 **Social groups and Deviant Behavior**

- Class Lecture and Discussion

Due

- Read: Text, chapters 6, 7
- HW 4

UNIT 3 – SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Session 5 **Class Stratification**

- Class Lecture and Discussion
- Film: *Waging a living*

Due

- Read: Text, chapter 8

Session 6 **Global Inequality**

- Class Lecture and Discussion

Due

- Read: Text, chapter 9
- HW 5

- Session 7** **Race and Ethnicity** **Due**
- Class Lecture and Discussion
 - Film: *MissRepresentation*
- Read: Text, chapter 10
 - HW 6

- Gender Stratification** **Due**
- Class Lecture and Discussion
- Read: Text, chapter 11
 - HW 7

UNIT 4 – INSTITUTIONS AND GLOBALIZATION

- Session 9** **Marriage and Alternative Family Arrangements** **Due**
- Class Lecture and Discussion
 - Film: *Every Good Marriage Begins with Tears*
- Read: Text, chapter 13

- Session 10** **Religion** **Due**
- Class Lecture and Discussion
- Read: Text, chapter 14
 - HW 8

- Session 11** **Education** **Due**
- Class Lecture and Discussion
- Read: Text, chapter 15
 - HW 9

Sessions (weeks) 12-16 will follow text chapters that have not been covered by this time, including social and geopolitical issues of interest to the students.