

## **INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY - SYG 2000**

**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

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**Professor: Bertrand F. Stebbins, M.A.**

[Bstebbin@fiu.edu](mailto:Bstebbin@fiu.edu)

**Office Hours: After class (or upon appointment request)**

### **Course Description and Purpose**

HI EVERYONE. Welcome to SYG 2000 - Introduction to Sociology :) My name is Professor Stebbins. I am excited to meet all of you! You picked a great class. 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, topical, important and FUN class!** All I ask is that you participate, show respect for your classmates, inject your experience/opinions/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, group pressure, norms, class structure, sexuality, tradition, education, science, controversial issues today, today's family structure, marriage, sex, economic inequality, religion, age groups, deviance, health, discrimination, acceptance, marginalization, immigration, history, 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.

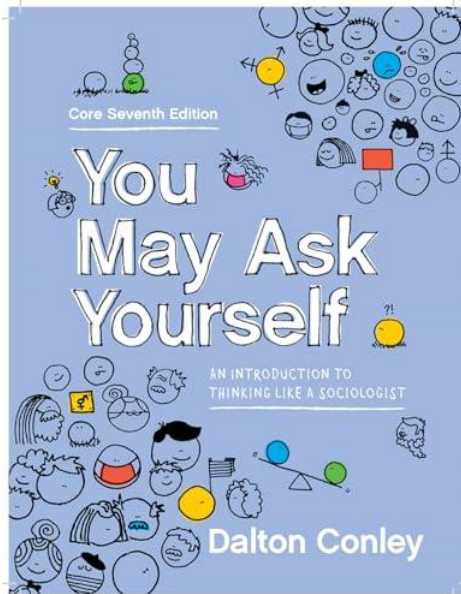
\*The professor reserves the right to change or modify the syllabus at any time during the semester.

## **TEXTBOOK**

E-book edition. (you may use paperback edition if you prefer but it is more expensive)

Available through FIU BOOKSTORE

***You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking like a Sociologist - With Access. 7th Edition (E-BOOK)***



- with Ebook, InQuizitive, and Tutorials
- ISBN: 978-0-393-53777-2

<https://www.norton.com/books/9780393537789>

## **Grading**

<b>Letter</b>	<b>Range%</b>	<b>Letter</b>	<b>Range%</b>	<b>Letter</b>	<b>Range%</b>
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 (approximately 10 non-classroom assignments) will constitute 60% of the final Grade. Exams and quizzes equal 15% of grade. Participation/attendance: 25% of final grade \*\***

**Please remember that this is a very interactive/discussion based course, therefore missing more than 3-4 classes places a student in jeopardy of a having an entire letter grade lowered or even failing the course.**

#### **\*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 Links to an external site.](#) . 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 Links to an external site.](#)
- **Cell Phone Policy:** ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONE USE IS ALLOWED IN THE CLASSROOM (unless directed by the professor for research/news/discussion or in relation to the actual class). ANY USE OF CELLPHONES OR TEXTING IN THE CLASS WILL RESULT IN THE AUTOMATIC LOSS OF POINTS FROM THE PARTICIPATION GRADE. LAPTOPS ARE ACCEPTABLE IF BEING USED TO TAKE NOTES, OR FOR RELATED CALSSROOM RESEARCH AS NOTED ABOVE.
- Any work written, developed, created, or inspired by artificial intelligence **(AI) is considered plagiarism and will not be tolerated.** While the ever-changing (and exciting!) new developments with AI will find their place in our workforces and personal lives, in the realm of education and learning, this kind of technology does not belong. This is because the use of AI robs us all of the opportunity to learn from our experiences and from each other, to play with our creative freedoms, to problem-solve, and to contribute our ideas in authentic ways. In a nutshell, college is a place for learning, and this class is specifically a space for learning how to improve our writing. AI simply cannot do that learning for us.

#### **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 2 comprehensive exams** in total for the term.

**There will be approximately 10 assignments, that are to be completed on CANVAS as scheduled by the professor.**

**There will be a occasional in-class assignments** (tba)

### **Schedule of Semester (weekly)**

- **Week 1: Sociology and the Sociological Perspective**
- - What is Sociology
  - Sociology as a Social Science
  - Theoretical Perspectives in Sociology
  - Review course and Intro to Canvas
- **Chapter 2: Culture and Society**
- - Culture and the Sociological Perspective
  - The Elements of Culture
  - Cultural Diversity
  - The Development of Modern Society
- **Chapter 3: Socialization and Social Interaction**
- - 
  - The Importance of Socialization
  - Explaining Socialization
  - Agents of Socialization
  - Resocialization and Total Institutions

- Social Interaction
- 
- **Chapter 4: Groups and Organizations**
  - 
  - Social Groups
  - Group Dynamics and Behavior
  - Formal Organizations
  - Groups, Organizations, and Social Change
  -
- **Chapter 5: Deviance, Crime, and Social Control**
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  - Social Control and the Relativity of Deviance
  - Explaining Deviance
  - Crime and Criminals
  - The Get-Tough Approach: Boon or Bust?
  -
- **Chapter 6: Social Stratification**
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  - Systems of Stratification
  - Explaining Stratification
  - Social Class in the United States
  - Economic Inequality and Poverty in the United States
  - Global Stratification
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- **Chapter 7: Race and Ethnicity**
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  - Racial and Ethnic Relations: An American Dilemma
  - The Meaning of Race and Ethnicity
  - Prejudice

- Discrimination
- Racial and Ethnic Inequality in the United States
- Race and Ethnicity in the 21st Century
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- **Chapter 8: Gender and Gender Inequality**
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  - Understanding Sex and Gender
  - Feminism and Sexism
  - Gender Inequality
  - Violence Against Women: Rape and Pornography
  - The Benefits and Costs of Being Male
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- **Chapter 9: Aging and the Elderly**
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  - Gerontology and the Concept of Aging
  - The Perception and Experience of Aging
  - Sociological Perspectives on Aging
  - Life Expectancy, Aging, and the Graying of Society
  - Biological and Psychological Aspects of Aging
  - The U.S. Elderly
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- **Chapter 10: Politics and the Economy**
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  - Politics and Government
  - Politics in the United States
  - The Economy
  - Work and Labor in the United States
  - Militarism and the Military
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- **Chapter 11: The Family**

- Marriage
- The Family in Cross-Cultural and Historical Perspectives
- Sociological Perspectives on the Family
- Family Patterns in the United States Today
- Changes and Issues Affecting American Families
- Children and Parental Discipline
- Family Violence
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- **Chapter 12: Education and Religion**

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- Education
- Education in the United States
- Issues and Problems in Education
- Religion
- Religion in the United States
- Trends in Religious Belief and Activity
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- **Chapter 13: Health and Medicine**

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- Understanding Health, Medicine, and Society
- Health and Medicine in International Perspective
- Health and Illness in the United States
- Medicine and Health Care in the United States
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- **Chapter 14: Social Change: Population, Urbanization, and Social Movements**

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- Understanding Social Change
- Population

- Urbanization
- Social Movements
- 
- **Chapter 15: Conclusion: Understanding and Changing the Social World**
  - What Have You Learned from This Course?
  - Public Sociology and Improving Society