



## SYG 2000 Introduction to Sociology

Section: RVBB

Internet/Fully Online

Summer Term 2025

### Professor Information

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Lisa Mueller

**Contact:** [lisbrown@fiu.edu](mailto:lisbrown@fiu.edu)

**Office Hours:**

Via Zoom, by appointment. I am generally available Monday through Friday between 10 AM and 12 PM, and then again from 7:30 PM to 8:30. However, if those times don't work for you, please don't hesitate to ask for an appointment anyway! We will work something out.

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### Course Description and Purpose

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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.

## Course Goals

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### Course Objectives

This course seeks to enable students to understand their interrelationships with society in critical and global perspectives.

Students will learn to understand the "sociological imagination" and other basic concepts/methods of sociology and apply these concepts/methods to:

- identify the features of society and their interrelationships, especially those related to race, class, and gender;
- analyze interrelationships between society and self;
- explain the foundations of global inequalities; and
- develop viewpoints on how to promote constructive change in societies at the local, national/regional, and global levels.

### Global Learning Outcomes

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

## **Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives**

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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

- identify the features of society and their interrelationships, especially those related to race, class, and gender
- analyze interrelationships between society and self
- explain the foundations of global inequalities
- develop viewpoints on how to promote constructive change in societies at the local, national/regional, and global levels

## **Expectations of the Course**

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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 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:**

- respond to emails within 24 business hours;
- grade assignments within 7 days of the assignment deadline.

## **Assignments**

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### Class Reflections

Class Reflection: 60 possible semester points

Students are required to post a reflection in response to the instructor's discussion questions. You will post your response to the questions for that particular week. You will need to read the assigned chapter readings before posting.

Each student's reflection will be graded according to these rubrics:

- Relevance to assigned material: the posted ideas indicate that the student has read the assigned material.
- Clarity, coherence: the ideas are stated clearly and coherently.

- Critical thinking: there is evidence that the student has adequately analyzed, synthesized, and evaluated the assigned material.
- Poses a discussion question about the assigned material or draws a connection between a current event and the assigned material
- Spelling, grammar: the posting must meet university-level standards of spelling and grammar. Be sure to break up your post into paragraphs for clarity. This is extremely important. I will be very strict about this so proofread your posts!
- Length: the initial posting for each weekly module must be no less than 500 words. I will also be very strict about this. Be sure to do a word count before submitting it.

There will be 6 assigned reflections. Each post will be graded pass/fail, according to the above criteria.

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

### Group Engagement Assignment

In this assignment, you will work with a few classmates to gather online sources that provide data and propose solutions to a specific social issue. Then, as individuals, you will compose a letter or an online petition to send to local, state, and/or national 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 sources to receive feedback from the instructor (10 points). Second, your group will re-submit its revised annotated list (10 points). Third, you will submit an individual letter or online petition (20 points).

### Extra Credit and Make-Up Assignments

Please email the professor if you have any issues.

There will be at least one extra-credit assignment on Canvas worth 10 points.

## Assessments

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### Exams

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the Syllabus Quiz from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. You need to receive a perfect score in order to gain access to all the modules, including discussions and exams, in the course.

Multiple-choice/true-false exams & final grade:

- 40 possible points each; 240 possible semester points
- The 6 exams will be based entirely on the textbook A Sociology Experiment.
- Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions; will cover the textbook's assigned readings; and will have 20 questions, worth 2 points each. Thus, each exam will count up to a possible 40 points. The exams will be available within the modules.

To prepare for each exam, **FIRST READ EACH CHAPTER CAREFULLY**. The following tips will also help you study.

- Look over the lecture slides and videos in the appropriate module for review.
- Emphasize broad concepts and examples of such concepts, rather than narrow facts.
- Look over and complete any other supplemental materials available in the modules or on the A Sociological ExperimentLinks to an external site. website.

Unless otherwise indicated, exams will be available until Friday, 11:59 pm, at the end of each module.

# Grading

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## Grading

Note: All required assignments must be completed to be eligible to earn a passing grade.

The graded assignments will be 6 multiple-choice/true-false exams (40 possible points each; 240 possible semester points), 6 reflections (10 possible points each; 60 possible semester points), a group engagement assignment (40 possible points), and a Syllabus Quiz (10 possible points) adding up to 300 total possible semester points.

Final grades will be computed by the percentage of 350 total possible semester points earned.

## Letter Grade Distribution

A	315 - 350 (90+%)
B	280 - 314 (80-89%)
C	245 - 279 (70-79%)
D	210 - 244 (60-69%)
F	209 or less (<60%)

# Textbook and Course Materials

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## A Sociology Experiment

**Required/Recommended:** Required

**Authors:** Barlan, Brown, Clair, Cucchiara, Fisher, Halasz, Hicken, Jorgenson, Kaufman, Khan, Lee, Ray, Rojas, Schoepflin, Sharpe, Sikes, Vallejo, Wilde, Wynn

**Publisher:** A Sociology Experiment

**Publication Date:** September 2020

**Copyright Date:** September 2020

**ISBN 10:** 9780578780900

**ISBN 13:** 9780578780900

**Notes:** Each chapter is available for \$1 at [sociologyexperiment.com](http://sociologyexperiment.com).

**Additional Notes:** Panther Book Pack does not apply to courses offered at the high school. Textbooks are facilitated by the school

### **Panther Book Pack**

The Panther Book Pack rental program 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.

Make sure to review the pricing for all materials across your classes this semester and compare the cost 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. The deadline to opt back into the Panther Book Pack is also 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 undergraduate credit hour for which you are registered and the course materials will be reserved in your name. For more details and to learn how to access your course materials, visit [onestop.fiu.edu/bookpack](http://onestop.fiu.edu/bookpack).

## **Course Communication**

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Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) or [Canvas Guide](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox. I will respond to all correspondences within 24 business hours.

## **Technical Requirements and Skills**

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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. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course, but students enrolled in online



courses are expected to have moderate proficiency in using a computer. Please go to the [What's Required webpage](#) to find out more information on this subject

Privacy Policy Statements for Partners and Vendors

- [Canvas](#)
- [Microsoft](#)
- [Adobe](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [ProctorU](#)
- [HonorLock](#)
- [Turnitin](#)
- [OpenStax](#)
- [Zoom](#)
- [Respondus LockDown Browser](#)

Please visit our [Technical Requirements webpage](#) for additional information.

## **Accessibility and Accommodation**

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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](https://accessibility.fiu.edu) for additional information about accessibility at FIU.

## **Academic Integrity**

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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 educational mission of the University. 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, 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's 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 the [academic integrity policies and procedures](#) as well as [student resources](#) that can help you prepare for a successful semester.

## **Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**

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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

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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.

## Copyright

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The following conduct is prohibited by the Student Conduct and Honor Code. 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 online 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](#)

## State General Education Course Description and Outcomes

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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.

## Course Meeting Information

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This is a 3-credit college course offered online through the FIU Dual Enrollment Program.