Florida International University
SYLLABUS
SYG 2000 Introduction to Sociology
Fall Term 2014
U03: 9:00-9:50, PG 5 #155
U02: 1:00-1:50, PG 5 #153

“It can be said that the first wisdom of sociology is this: things are not what they seem.”
–Peter Berger

Instructor: Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter
Teaching Assistant:
Office: GSS 302
Office Hours: 4:00-5:00 PM, Mondays (or by appointment with instructor.)
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Course Description:
Marijuana is on the verge of legalization; what will be the societal consequences? Should Miami’s official language be made Spanish, and why does such a possibility make some members of society uncomfortable? Why are female college students more vulnerable to sexual assault than most other groups of U.S. women? Why is it that the largest group of consumers of "gangsta rap" are white adolescent boys? These questions are a small sampling of the challenges that we’ll explore together this semester. In this course, you will conduct research and develop grounded sociological theory from the study of "real life." The sociological experience will facilitate your skills for achieving success by learning to work with fellow students to achieve goals as a team, a skill employers seek. You will also learn to practice sociology as a martial art, a means of self-defense against oppressive ideologies. Sociology will help you combat the assumptions and stereotypes that impact your life chances, as well as others’. Ultimately, you will become a social historian of your own life, able to trace the forces that led you to your present circumstances and identity.

Learning Goals- upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1) Apply theories of sociology to real-world situations and scenarios.

2) Assess researchers’ employment of sociological research methods.

4) Interpret and assess sociological journal articles and compare them with popular media.
5) Consider the causes and consequences of inequalities by employing sociological evidence and theory.

6) Trace the societal forces that led you to be who you are presently; you will do the same for other groups of people.

7) Gain empathy for other groups of people (as well as your own group) through assessment of how power affects all human beings.


**Grading Scheme**

**Content Quizzes**- You will have 5-10 question quizzes during unannounced classes throughout the semester. The purpose of the quizzes is to ensure that you have grasped the key concepts from the previous class. You should be able to do so by reading the assigned pages of the text and through classroom activities. *Total of 5 quizzes per semester. Maximum possible five points for each quiz. 25% of your total grade.*

**Discussion Board Posts**- each week, some students will be chosen to post a discussion question, based on the assigned readings, on the Blackboard discussion page. The rest of the students will be required to respond to one of the discussion questions posted; students must post responses to a total of ten throughout the semester. *Total of 10 posts/responses per semester. Maximum one point per post. 10% of total grade.*

**Five-Minute Essays**- You will write five-minute essays during many classes, based on a topic that is being considered in class. These papers require you to write honestly on the subject for the five minutes provided. The papers will be turned in to me during class, and you will receive feedback as a class on the Blackboard "announcements" section. *Total of 10 papers per semester. Maximum 2.5 points per paper. 25% of your total grade.*

**Team Activities**- Throughout the semester, I will give you a challenge to solve in your teams. The goal of these exercises is to give you considerable practice with the sort of critical sociological thinking that you will be required to do in your sociology journal assessment papers. *Total of five team exercises per semester. Maximum five possible points per team exercise. 25% of your total grade.*

**Critical Assessment of a Sociology Journal Article Paper**- You will create an assessment of one sociological journal article, of your choosing. Having practiced finding an interesting research article, and assessing what makes it "new, true, and important" already in your teams, in this assignment you will create an individual assessment paper of your chosen article. Due
Nov. 7. *Total of one paper per semester. Maximum 15 possible points. 15% of your total grade.*

**Grading Scale:** A 100-94; A- 93-90; B+ 89-87; B- 83-80; C+ 79-77; C 76-74; D+ 69-67; D 66-64; D- 63-60; F 0-59

**Grading Criteria:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content Quizzes (5)</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Posts (10)</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five-Minute Papers (10)</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Activities (5)</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Assessment of a Sociology Journal Article Paper (1)</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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**Extra Credit Assignments:**
There are no extra credit assignments.

**Course Policies:**

Students are expected to be in class during class times.

1. **Attendance:** Attendance will be taken during each class.

2. **Readings/Assignments:** Success in this course requires familiarity with the textbook. The professor will not cover all material in the text, because the student is responsible for reading the text and posing questions in class. Students are expected to read all assigned chapters **before** the class period, so that they can pose questions and engage in discussion.

3. **Conduct in the Classroom:** If students want to listen to music, surf the web, or text, they are free to do so outside of the classroom. If students disrupt the teaching/learning process or act in a disrespectful, threatening, or intimidating way toward the professor or other students, they will be asked to leave the class.
Syllabus for Introduction to Sociology, SYG 2000, Fall 2014, Oueslati-Porter

Schedule and Required Readings for SYG 2000

Week 1. (Aug 25, 27, 29) Henslin Ch. 1. What is the Sociological Perspective?

Week 2. (Sept 3, 5): Henslin Ch. 2. What does culture do in society?
*Labor Day, Sept 1-No Class

Week 3. (Sept 8, 10, 12): Henslin Ch. 3. What is socialization? Would humans exist without it?

Week 4. (Sept 15, 17, 19): Henslin Ch. 4. Hidden in plain sight: Social Structure and Social Interaction. Are you an agent or a victim of social structures?

Week 5. (Sept 22, 24, 25) Henslin Ch. 5. Exploring groups beginning with university groups. Social Groups and Formal Organizations
*Rosh Hashanah begins

Week 6. (Sept 29, Oct 1, 3): Henslin Ch. 6. Deviance and Social Control
*Eid al-Adha begins; Yom Kippur begins (Oct 3)

Week 7. (Oct 6, 8, 10): Henslin Ch. 7. Global Stratification
*Sukkot begins (Oct 8)

Week 8. (Oct 13, 15, 17): Henslin Ch. 8. Class in the United States
*Shemini Atzeret begins (Oct 15)

Week 9. (Oct 20, 22, 24): Henslin Ch. 10. Gender and Age
*Islamic New Year Begins (Oct 24)

Week 10. (Oct 27, 29, 31): Henslin Ch. 12 Why do we marry? Why do we need "the family"? Marriage & Family
*Halloween (Oct 31)

Week 11. (Nov 3, 5, 7): Ch. 9. Why does “Race” still exist and why does Ethnicity matter? Research articles Due Midnight, Nov 7 (submit through Blackboard link to Turn-it-in)

Week 12. (Nov 10, 12, 14): Henslin Ch. 11. Politics, the Economy and how to understand yourself as a political actor, even if you hate politics.

Week 13. (Nov 17, 19, 21) Henslin Ch. 13. What do we mean by Education? What are the impacts of Religion on all of society? Do we have a separation of church and state?
*Thanksgiving (Nov 27)

Week 15. (Dec 1, 3, 5) Henslin Ch. 15. How we all participate in Social Transformations (note: AAA Thurs the 4th & Fri the 5th)

**Week 16 FINAL EXAM WEEK (Dec 8-12)**

Final Exam Time for U02: Mon 12/08, 12-2 PM

Final Exam Time for U03: Fri 12/12, 7:30-9:30 AM