

## **SYG 3002: Basic Ideas of Sociology**

**Fall 2023 A**

### **Course Description and Purpose**

Welcome to SYG 3002 – Basic Ideas of Sociology. In this course, you'll be learning the basic theories of sociology – the study of human societies. This course will cover basic sociological theories and perspectives, and examine how these theories are used, and applicable, throughout society itself – from large scale systems of economic and political power, to the everyday lives of individuals.

### **Course Goals and Objectives**

This class is a part of the University Core Curriculum

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. It is supported by the following learning outcomes for the course:

During, and after successfully completing this course, students will be able to

- CO1. Investigate the basic concepts of sociological theories, and their general history
- CO2. Analyze the influence of social structures at multiple scales - from the individual to the global
- CO3. Identify how theoretical perspectives influence everything from academic disciplines to large-scale social structures
- CO4. Explain how globalization, media influence, systems of power, and other aspects of the contemporary world in which we live influence our lives, and society in general

## Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course, but some basic knowledge of Anthropology, Sociology, or a similar social science is helpful for exploring these topics, as this is not an introductory course.

## Required Readings and Technology Use

The textbook for this course is Collins, Randall & Michael Makowsky. ***The Discovery of Society***. McGraw Hill. 8th edition  
ISBN: 9780070118836

Since this is a online course, you'll also need to use the Canvas Learning Management System. Your syllabus, video links, additional readings, assignments, and any other materials beyond the textbook that you'll need for the course will be found on the class Canvas site.

(Difficulties with, or lack of access to, the technologies needed for this class will not be accepted as a reason for not completing an assignment or accessing course materials. If you need assistance with required technologies, please speak with the instructor and/or technology specialists at FIU via the link to Technical Support provided.)

## Expectations for Students and Course Policies

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [Policies](#)
- [Netiquette](#) (Links to an external site.)
- [Technical Requirements and SkillsSD:\courses\130154\pages\accessibility-and-accommodation](#)
- [Accessibility and Accommodation](#)
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- [Academic Misconduct Statement](#)
- [Inclusivity Statement](#)

## Course Work:

### **Webcam Discussions: 7 points x 7**

There will be a total of 7 discussions during this course, each of which will be worth 7 points. These discussions will require you to respond to questions presented by the instructor based on audio-visual materials or on articles from additional sources. In general, you should plan on contributing one original embedded Webcam post of approximately 2 minutes' length per Module and Webcam responses of 15-seconds to two of your classmates' posts. These responses should contribute to furthering the discussion in a substantive way by building on the ideas presented by your classmate. Your contribution to the discussion board will be graded based on the rubric provided below.

Keep in mind that discussion forums are open to all members of the class for the duration of the term, so care should be taken when determining what to post. If you need to send a private message to the instructor or a fellow classmate, the Canvas Message function should be used (<http://lms-help.fiu.edu/>)

### **Written Textbook Appreciations: 7 points x 7**

There will be a total of 7 written textbook appreciations during this course, each of which will be worth 7 points. Respond in 400 to 800 words, to one of the questions provided, by making a **coherent argument** that harnesses **sociological concepts** from the specific Module's textbook reading (with in-text citations included: e.g. Jones, 1998, p. 8). This argument should constitute **three quarters** of your paper. A Bibliography and/ or Endnotes section should also be added at the bottom of your paper. Please do not use a cover page as in an online forum, this just means more scrolling for the reader.

These textbook appreciations must be in your own words and demonstrate how the course material has led you to a deeper and more meaningful understanding of your own and/ or your close family or friends' experiences in dealing with the issues highlighted in the Module.

Giving only your opinion is not sufficient. **One quarter** of your appreciation must consist of **empirical evidence** that substantiates your argument. This can be accomplished by providing and citing anecdotal evidence obtained through first-hand interviews (e.g. citing: last name *or initials if promised confidentiality*, Personal Communication, date), direct participant observations (e.g. citing: place of observation, date), diary/letter entries (e.g. citing: last name *or initials if promised confidentiality*, diary/ letter, date) or archival material (see link below for citation recommendations as per type

of document). Check with the professor if you would like to use any alternate materials that could be taken as evidence for this course.

**Citations:** You are free to use whichever format you like (MLA, APA, Harvard, etc.) However, every outside resource such as statistics must be cited with Author's Last Name, Year Published, & Page Number. **No Use of Quotes:** Quotes are not allowed. Instead, summarize ideas in your own words and cite the sources. **Original Content:** Using a paper or material from a previously submitted paper from another course is not allowed. All content must be original.

**Grammar:** Grammar is part of your grade, so I expect proper grammar and sentence structure.

For further citation formatting, see <https://library.fiu.edu/citation>

### Rubric for Textbook Appreciations and Webcam Discussions

Category of Grading	1 Point	2 Points	3 to 4 Points	5 to 6 Points	7 Points
Content:	Minimal references to Textbook/	Some references to Textbook/	Referenced the Textbook/		Reviewed major theories/scholars of assigned
Textbook pertains to the Written Appreciation and Additional Resource pertains to the Webcam Discussions	Additional Resource, skipped most of the major theories/scholars of assigned chapter/additional resource, no critical analysis	Additional Resource, covered some of the major theories/scholars of assigned chapter/additional resource, little critical analysis	Additional Resource, demonstrated average critical thinking, went over most of the major theories/scholars of assigned chapter/additional resource	Referenced all the major theories/scholars of assigned chapter/additional resource to show understanding and synthesis of knowledge	chapter/additional resource, critically analyzed & synthesized course knowledge, and demonstrated a sociological perspective & globalized thinking

## Course Overview Breakdown

- Webcam Discussions: 50%
- Textbook Appreciations: 50%

## Course Policies

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

- **Deadlines:** You are given the due dates beforehand; this means you are responsible for making appropriate accommodations. The ***due dates for discussions and assignments may not be extended as you must keep pace with the materials in each module*** to finish on time, especially in this intensive course. Since this is a fully online course and many of you work full-time and have other responsibilities where flexibility is the key to success, make sure to pace yourself by submitting weekly, both a textbook appreciation and a webcam discussion for each module by the due date. All assignments/discussions must have been submitted by the last day of the course.
- **Readings/Assignments ( Textbook Appreciations and Webcam Discussions) :** Success in this course requires familiarity with the readings and additional resource materials. The student is responsible for reading the Textbook, listening to and/or reading Additional Resource materials and responding to Module questions.
- **Be respectful.** There will be diversity of opinions within the discussion boards. This does not mean that you have to agree with everything being said or read. In fact, I highly encourage you to challenge, question, and explore the course through multiple perspectives. You must, however, be respectful and courteous of each other's opinions and in your emails to the professor. This should be a safe space to learn and grow as academics.
- **Review** and follow the course calendar.
- **Expect emails from the professor** regarding assignments and/or schedule changes. (The professor reserves the right to modify the syllabus.).
- **Academic Integrity** Plagiarism is a serious offense. If you use the work of other authors without giving them credit you may receive a '0' and be reported to Academic Affairs. Hence, always submit original work. You are expected to be honest in all academic work, consistent with the academic integrity policy as outlined in the [Code of Student Conduct](#) and any additional syllabus language. All work is to be appropriately cited when it is borrowed,

directly or indirectly, from another source. Unauthorized and/or unacknowledged collaboration on any work, or the presentation of someone else's work, is plagiarism. Content generated by an Artificial Intelligence third-party service or site (AI-generated content) without proper attribution or authorization is another form of plagiarism. If you are unsure about whether something may be plagiarism or another form of academic dishonesty, please reach out to me to discuss it as soon as possible.

- **Accommodations:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations must contact the Disability Resource Center. The DRC will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please communicate with me as soon as possible regarding this matter. Please visit our ADA Compliance webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course. Please visit Canvas's Commitment Accessibility webpage for more information. For additional assistance please contact FIU's Disability Resource Center.

### Notes:

- Detailed instructions for Textbook Appreciations and Additional Resource Webcam Discussions are provided within the modules.
- All assignments are due before Sunday, 11:59 PM of the respective week.

N.B.: I reserve full right to amend, alter, and otherwise change this syllabus at any time

### Grading:

Letter Grade Distribution Table					
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

### Week 1

- Review the Academic Honesty Policy
- Get Webcam Ready
- Read the Course Syllabus
- Chapter 2: Sociology of the Underground: Karl Marx > complete Textbook Appreciation and Additional Resource Webcam Discussion

## **Week 2**

Chapter 6: Dreyfus Empire: Emile Durkheim > complete Textbook Appreciation and Additional Resource Webcam Discussion

## **Week 3:**

Chapter 7: Max Weber: The Disenchantment of the World> complete Textbook Appreciation and Additional Resource Webcam Discussion

## **Week 4:**

Chapter 9: The Discovery of the Invisible World: Simmel, Cooley, and Mead > complete Textbook Appreciation and Additional Resource Webcam Discussion

## **Week 5:**

Chapter 11: The Emergence of African-American Sociology: Du Bois, Frazier, Drake and Cayton> complete Textbook Appreciation and Additional Resource Webcam Discussion

## **Week 6:**

Chapter 13: Hitler's Shadow: Michels, Mannheim, and Mills > complete Textbook Appreciation and Additional Resource Webcam Discussion

## **Week 7**

Chapter 14: Erving Goffman and the Theater of Social Encounters > complete Textbook Appreciation and  
Additional Resource Webcam Discussion