

# Course Syllabus

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## SYG2000: Introduction to Sociology

### Professor Information

**Instructor: Matthew Marr**

**Office Hours: Please email for an appointment.**

**E-Mail: [mmarr@fiu.edu](mailto:mmarr@fiu.edu)**

### General Information

#### Course Description and Purpose

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 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.

### University Core Curriculum

This course satisfies the following University Core Curriculum requirement for Social Science Group One (state-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:

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.


## Important Information

### Important Information

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [Policies \(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/pages/policies\)](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/pages/policies)
- [Netiquette !\[\]\(3dc92c626ede9fa1b47e2e010104b5c4\_img.jpg\) \(https://online.fiu.edu/html/canvas/policies/\)](https://online.fiu.edu/html/canvas/policies/)
- [Technical Requirements and Skills \(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/pages/technical-requirements-and-skills\)](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/pages/technical-requirements-and-skills)


- [Accessibility and Accommodation \(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/pages/accessibility-and-accommodation\)](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/pages/accessibility-and-accommodation)
- [Academic Misconduct Statement \(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/pages/academic-misconduct-statement\)](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/pages/academic-misconduct-statement)
- [Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\) \(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/pages/panthers-care-and-counseling-and-psychological-services-caps\)](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/pages/panthers-care-and-counseling-and-psychological-services-caps)

**VERY IMPORTANT:** If you have any technical problems, do not contact the instructor, immediately contact [FIU Canvas Help](https://fiuhelp.force.com/canvas/s/categories-student)  (https://fiuhelp.force.com/canvas/s/categories-student). They are available to assist via email, phone, chat or walk-in. Visit their website for hours of operation.









## Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## Textbook and Course Materials

In this course, we will be using textbook chapters and course materials from "A Sociological Experiment." This is an initiative by leading sociologists to provide high quality introductory materials in an accessible manner. All required materials will be available for purchase on their [website](https://www.sociologyexperiment.com/)  (https://www.sociologyexperiment.com/). You can purchase the chapters (\$1 a piece) on their website. If that still poses a financial challenge, you can email them to work something out. You will need to purchase 15 chapters for this course (listed in the modules). The textbook is also available through Panther Book Pack.

## Useful Websites

- [Countries and Regions](https://data.worldbank.org/country)  (https://data.worldbank.org/country)
- [World Bank Development Data and Statistics](http://www.worldbank.org/data/)  (http://www.worldbank.org/data/)
- [International Monetary Fund](http://www.imf.org)  (http://www.imf.org)
- [IMF World Economic Outlook](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/02/index.htm)  (http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/02/index.htm)
- [United Nations Economic and Social Development](https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/home)  (https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/home)
- [United Nations Statistics Division](https://unstats.un.org/home/)  (https://unstats.un.org/home/)
- [United Nations Development Program](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html)  (http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html)
- [Human Development Report](http://hdr.undp.org/en/)  (http://hdr.undp.org/en/)

## Expectations of this Course


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-- multiple attempts allowed-- 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.

## Course Detail

### Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place within Canvas. See the [Canvas Guide](#)  (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10574-4212710325>) on communicating with course users for more information.

Visit the [FIU Center for Excellence in Writing resources page](#)  (<https://writingcenter.fiu.edu/resources/index.html>) for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

### 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 in order to demonstrate your knowledge of key concepts.**

*A point about the elephant in the room (AI)...*

I strongly recommend that you do not use AI at all for any assignment in this class (software that helps with grammar is ok). Developing strong analytical and writing skills is crucial for any career and being an informed citizen. My honest opinion is that relying on AI is wasting time in college and I feel a bit disrespected when I read material clearly generated by AI. We really are interested in reading your perspectives, so send your original writing to us proudly!

Each student's reflection will be graded according to the following rubric. Points will be deducted if the post fails to meet the following criteria. If your post fails to meet multiple criteria, or fails to meet a criteria in an extreme manner, you will likely receive 0 to 5 points.

- Originality: **the posts must be written without the use of AI.** If you use unassigned materials, be sure to cite and list them.
- Relevance to assigned material: the posted ideas indicate that the student has read the assigned material. **You must use at least two terms or concepts from the assigned readings for that module and highlight them. Terms in the title of the chapters do not count.**
- 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 or personal experience 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.
- Length: the initial posting for each weekly module must be no less than 500 words. **Be sure to do a word count before submitting it.**

There will be 6 assigned reflections.

Reflections are due by **Sunday, 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.

## 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.** That alone should be sufficient. The following tips will also help you study.

- Focus on broad concepts and examples of such concepts, rather than narrow facts.
- The quizzes are only on the readings, but you can also look over and complete any supplemental materials available in the modules or on the [A Sociological Experiment](https://www.sociologyexperiment.com/)  (<https://www.sociologyexperiment.com/>) website.

Unless otherwise indicated, exams will be available until **Sunday, 11:59 pm**, at the end 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 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 draft annotations of the sources to receive feedback from the instructor or TA (10 points). Second, your group will re-submit its revised annotations (10 points). Third, you will submit an individual letter or online petition (20 points).

## Extra Credit and Late Assignments

Please email the professor if you have any issues.

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

Late work: please contact the professor regarding possibly receiving partial credit. Generally, a late assignment, if accepted, will be deducted 10 percent of total points per day late.

## Grading

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 350 total possible semester points.

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

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Possible
<b>Syllabus Quiz</b>	1	10	10
<b>Exams</b>	6	40	240
<b>Class Reflections</b>	6	10	60
<b>Group Engagement Assignment</b>	1	40	40

<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>350</b>
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# FIU Standard Grading Scheme














**Grade By**  
Percentage













<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Range</b>
A	100% to 95%
A-	< 95% to 90%
B+	< 90% to 87%
B	< 87% to 83%
B-	< 83% to 80%
C+	< 80% to 77%
C	< 77% to 70%
D	< 70% to 60%
F	< 60% to 0%

## Course Calendar

## Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Sun Sep 1, 2024	 <b>Class Reflection 1</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800637">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800637</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 8, 2024	 <b>Exam 1</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800630">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800630</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 15, 2024	 <b>Class Reflection 2</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800638">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800638</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 22, 2024	 <b>Exam 2</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800632">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800632</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 29, 2024	 <b>Class Reflection 3</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800639">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800639</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 6, 2024	 <b>Exam 3</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800635">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800635</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 13, 2024	 <b>First Draft of Group Resources</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800646">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800646</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 13, 2024	 <b>Class Reflection 4</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800640">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800640</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 20, 2024	 <b>Exam 4</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800633">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800633</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 27, 2024	 <b>Class Reflection 5</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800641">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800641</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 3, 2024	 <b>Exam 5</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800634">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800634</a>	due by 11:59pm



Date	Details	Due
	 <b>Revised Annotated List</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800649">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800649</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 10, 2024	 <b>Class Reflection 6</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800642">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800642</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 17, 2024	 <b>Exam 6</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800636">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800636</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 8, 2024	 <b>Extra Credit - PhotoVoice</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800644">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800644</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <b>Individual Letter</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800647">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800647</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <b>Extra Credit - Documentary Reflection</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800643">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800643</a>	
	 <b>Extra Credit - Social Ties and Homelessness</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800645">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800645</a>	
	 <b>Mid-Semester Grade (UCC Requirement)</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2710624">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2710624</a>	
	 <b>Mid-Semester Grade (UCC Requirement)</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800648">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800648</a>	
	 <b>Syllabus Quiz</b> <a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800631">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/210240/assignments/2800631</a>	