

**Introduction to Sociology**  
**SYG 1000-06; M, W: 5:15-6:30 pm**  
**HCB 214; Fall 2007**

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**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Ms. Sarrah Conn  
Office Location: Claude Pepper Center, Office 222  
Office Phone: 850-645-2465  
Office Hours: M, W: 4-5 pm  
Email: [sgc02@fsu.edu](mailto:sgc02@fsu.edu) \*the best way to contact me.  
Blackboard: [www.campus.fsu.edu](http://www.campus.fsu.edu)

**Required Text**

1. *Society: The Basics, 9<sup>th</sup> Ed.*  
(John Macionis; ISBN: 0132284901)  
\*if you prefer to buy the 8<sup>th</sup> edition because it is cheaper, then go for it! It's tough to find however and the bookstore might not have enough.

**Other Requirements**

1. To satisfactorily complete the work required in this course, it is essential that you be able to access the internet and the Blackboard site, read .pdf documents, view audio and video online, and use MS Word to complete paper assignments. Papers typed in Word Perfect or in other word processing programs are not acceptable for this course as FSU does not furnish these programs to instructors.

**Course Goals, Description, and Expectations**

This course is designed to allow students a safe academic environment in which to explore modern issues through a sociological lens. What is the sociological imagination? How can sociological thinking help to gain a fuller perspective of the world and complex social issues? What are possible solutions to social problems? These questions, along with many others, will be examined throughout the course.

The course will be a combination of lecture, discussion and assignments, with a strong emphasis on reading all the assigned materials. The overall goal for the course is to get students to think critically about issues presented in the texts. This goal will be achieved by following the content specific objectives, listed below. These objectives were created as indicators of progress throughout the class, which the student may refer back to. Also, these objectives should answer the 'why' questions of this course-- why bother to learn about the sociological perspective? Why read the materials? Are the activities valuable, or are they busy-work? By emphasizing the value of each assignment and reading unit to modern society and future academic pursuits, students will be equipped to sociologically dissect a given argument from their experiential knowledge and better handle more rigorous scholarly endeavors. For all the mentioned reasons, these objectives should clearly state what is expected (debates, discussion and exams), and should state the reason why such are being given/performed.

In my experience students are good natured and typically interested in the material. Sometimes however, sociological discussions will range into the realm of politics and world affairs. Personal politics can become impassioned during these times, but it's important to remember classroom courtesy. This means that students are expected to behave in an academic and professional manner with their peers and with me. Students should raise their hands to speak, unless otherwise specified, and should refrain from making negative personal comments about others, using fighting language, cursing, yelling, or otherwise not behaving appropriately. All proper outlets/authorities will be utilized to ensure that the classroom feels like a 'safe space' where students can explore and learn about new perspectives and material. Additionally, classroom courtesy includes courteousness to me by not texting during class times and notifying me beforehand if you must leave class early for some reason.

### **Content Specific Objectives**

1. To understand broadly each topic covered in this class by being able to remember, describe, and apply sociological principles to various issues.
2. To learn how to properly cite academic evidence and construct an article review through written papers and assignments.
3. To correctly relate sociological concepts to your favorite song.
4. To satisfactorily comprehend major differences between various sociological explanations of given problems to be demonstrated through examinations which are multiple choice and true/false.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

While this syllabus may be considered a contract between me, the instructor, and you, the student, I reserve the right to amend the syllabus at any time, especially according to class progression through the material. If the syllabus is changed, students will be notified in class and via an announcement on the Blackboard platform.

### **Assessments**

1. *Quizzes*: A total of 10 in-class quizzes will be given during the course of the semester. These quizzes will be unannounced, so it is important to stay on top of the reading and assigned materials to effectively answer quiz questions. The top 8 quiz scores will contribute to your final grade (10% of total grade). There are no quiz make-ups, as a student may miss up to 2, penalty free.
2. *Assignments*: Each student should read the assigned material before class meets on a given day. They should be prepared to discuss the material presented in the text in a small group and/or with the larger class periodically. Additionally, two graded assignments will be required—an article review and a song analysis. Individualized directions for each of these assignments will be handed out in class and discussed for clarification.
  - a. *Assignment #1*: Article Review (15% of total grade)
  - b. *Assignment #2*: Song Analysis and Review (15% of total grade)

Late assignments will be docked 5% on the first day (ie, if the assignment is due on a Monday at 5:15 pm when we meet, if you hand it in to me at 6:30 that night, it will be 5% late); each day thereafter is a 10% deduction. Both assignments must be

turned in to the “turnitin” link on the blackboard site, where it is time-stamped and checked for originality and authenticity.

3. *Examinations:* Three exams will be given. Each exam is worth 20% of the final grade. The final exam is not cumulative. I must be notified beforehand if a student needs to miss an exam due to a scheduled reason. Documentation must be provided to be considered for a makeup; doctor’s notices which are photocopied or have any white-out or erase marks on them are not suitable documentation. Makeup exams will be administered during regular office hours. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice and true false questions. Makeup exams may be in a different format from regular exams. More information about the format of the tests will be given in the class before the exams are administered.

### **Rubric**

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Quizzes       | 10%        |
| Assignment 1  | 15%        |
| Assignment 2  | 15%        |
| Exam 1        | 20%        |
| Exam 2        | 20%        |
| <u>Exam 3</u> | <u>20%</u> |
| Total         | 100%       |

### **Grading Scale**

Grades for the course will be based on the following scale:

|           |           |          |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 60-0: F   | 60-62: D- | 63-65: D | 66-69: D+ | 70-72: C- | 73-75: C  |
| 76-79: C+ | 80-82: B- | 83-85: B | 86-89: B+ | 90-92: A- | 93-100: A |

### **Email and Blackboard**

All students should activate and check daily their FSU email account. This account will be utilized through the blackboard platform to notify of syllabus changes, send reminders, and/or transmit other class related information. If there is a problem logging on to blackboard or to access the email account, please notify ACNS to resolve the situation.  
[www.cars.acns.fsu.edu](http://www.cars.acns.fsu.edu)

### **Academic Honor Code**

This course will conform to all the standards set forth in the University Honor Code. This means all students will avoid any violations of academic integrity, such as cheating, plagiarism, hiring others to do work, key logging another student’s computer, etc. Any further questions regarding these matters should be consulted in the University Bulletin outlining student responsibilities. If there are uncertainties, consult the instructor before any questionable work begins.

### **ADA**

Any student with a documented disability or condition which undermines their ability to satisfactorily complete the course requirements or attend class regularly must notify me immediately. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate your needs. If there is any problem with this policy, you must notify me in writing within the first week of class. To register, contact the Student Disability Resource Center: 850-644-9566.

## Schedule

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| Date                     | Topic   | Assignments   |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| <i>WEEK 1</i>            |   |   |
| M, Aug. 27 <sup>th</sup> | Hello! Introductions & syllabus distribution  | Read excerpt from Mill's <i>Sociological Imagination</i> by Wed, Aug. 29 <sup>th</sup> (on BB).                               |
| W, Aug. 29 <sup>th</sup> | What is the sociological perspective?   | Work on buying textbook<br>By the end of this week. Start Reading Chapter 1; Have this Completed by W, Sep. 5 <sup>th</sup> . |
| <i>WEEK 2</i>            |   |   |
| M, Sep. 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | <b>Labor Day, No School.</b>  | Have a fun and safe holiday.  |
| W, Sep. 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Discussion of refereed, scholarly Journals, articles, and proper citations. <u>Go over Assignment #1.</u> | Have Ch. 1 read by today. Start reading Ch. 2: "Culture." Have this done by W, Sep. 12 <sup>th</sup> .                        |
| <i>WEEK 3</i>            |   |   |
| M, Sep. 10 <sup>th</sup> | Finishing the lecture on Chapter 1; Start discussing Ch. 2 on "Culture."                                  | Continue reading Ch. 2  |
| W, Sep. 12 <sup>th</sup> | Continuing discussion of society and Culture.   | Have Ch. 2 finished today.<br>Read excerpt on BB: <i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down.</i>                            |
| <i>WEEK 4</i>            |   |   |
| M, Sep. 17 <sup>th</sup> | Discussion of excerpt and review For Test #1.   | Print out study guide and bring it to class today to prepare for test. Make sure to study tonight.                            |
| W, Sep. 19 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Exam #1.</b>   | Start reading Ch. 4: "Interaction." Have this done by Wed, Sep. 26 <sup>th</sup> .  |
| <i>WEEK 5</i>            |   |   |
| M, Sep. 24 <sup>th</sup> | Discussion of Ch. 4 in text. Watch a clip from <i>Axis of Evil Comedy Tour.</i>                           | Finishing up Ch. 4 reading.   |
| W, Sep. 26 <sup>th</sup> | Continuing discussion of Ch. 4  | Start reading Ch.8: "Stratification" Have this done by W, Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup> .  |
| <i>WEEK 6</i>            |   |   |
| M, Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Discussion of stratification in class. Watch a clip from <i>Walmart: The High Cost of Low Price.</i>      | Continuing reading; make sure to start working on Assignment 1.   |

W, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> Continuing discussion of stratification. Read excerpt from Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed: On Not Getting by in America*.

WEEK 7

M, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> Finishing discussion of stratification. Finish up the Ehrenreich excerpt online.

W, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> Going out of town—**class is cancelled today. Work on finishing assignment #1: Due today at 5:15 pm via turnitin link on BB.** If you turn in the assignment late, please use the "Assignment 1 Late" link, online. Start reading Ch. 11: "Race and Ethnicity." **Listen to audio lecture** on BB, beginning our discussion of race and ethnicity (course library).

WEEK 8

M, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> Continuing discussion of Ch. 11 Keep reading Ch. 11; Have this Completed by W, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>.

W, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> Finishing discussion of Ch. 11 Read excerpt on BB: *There Are No Children Here*. Have this done by M, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

WEEK 9

M, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> Going over any continuing questions Or issues related to interaction, stratification, and race and ethnicity. Also covering study guide. Make sure to print out study guide #2 and bring it to class to go over. Study for Exam 2 tonight.

W, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> **Exam #2.** Start reading Ch. 10: "Gender Stratification." Have this done by W, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>.

WEEK 10

M, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> Covering gender stratification From text. Keep reading Ch. 10.

W, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> Continuing discussion of gender Stratification. Watch part of the movie *Tough Guise*. Read excerpt from Wolf's *The Beauty Myth*.

WEEK 11

M, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> Finishing up gender discussion. Watch the short film: *A Girl Like Me*. Also the Dove short film. Start reading Ch. 15: Population, Urbanization, & Environment. Have this done by M, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>.

|                          |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| W, Nov. 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Beginning discussion of Ch. 15.   | Keep reading...   |
| <i>WEEK 12</i>           |   |   |
| M, Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup> | Continuing discussion of Ch. 15.  | Make sure to have started working on assignment 2 by today. It's due next class. Also read the excerpt on BB about sustainable food (more details to come, there will be an announcement on BB about this). |
| W, Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Assignment #2 Due Online by 5:15 pm.</b>   | Begin reading Ch. 9: "Global Stratification." Have this completed by M, Nov. 26 <sup>th</sup> .   |
| <i>WEEK 13</i>           |   |   |
| M, Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup> | Beginning discussion of global Stratification.  | Keep working on Ch. 9.  |
| W, Nov. 21 <sup>st</sup> | Thanksgiving Holiday starts tomorrow; <b>Class is cancelled.</b> Enjoy some delicious turkey or tofurkey. | Be thankful and enjoy your break!   |
| <i>WEEK 14</i>           |   |   |
| M, Nov. 26 <sup>th</sup> | Finishing up the discussion of Ch. 9  | Have reading done by today. Start reading except online regarding sustainability and agriculture. Have this done by M, Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup> .   |
| W, Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup> | Guest speaker: TBA  |   |
| <i>WEEK 15</i>           |   |   |
| M, Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Discussion of sustainability and Agriculture, as well as sociology Applied to everyday life.              | Make sure to have finished up all the readings for the final exam.  |
| W, Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Review for final exam in class.   | Make sure to print out and bring your study guide to class with you.  |
| <i>WEEK 16</i>           |   |   |
| M, Dec. 10 <sup>th</sup> | Finals Week—No Classes  | <b>Final Exam time and date TBA.</b>  |

## **Help and Tutoring**

If you find yourself struggling to complete the requirements for this course or not comprehending the material, please contact me. You may come by my office hours, schedule an appointment, call or email me, etc. I will work with any student who feels s/he needs additional help. Additionally, there are other resources available to students, listed below. After this course is over, it may also be helpful to keep these numbers on file for your future use while at FSU.

1. Reading and Writing Center (644-6495)
2. Strozier Library (644-3278)/(644-2706)
3. Center for Retention and Academic Support (644-0387)
4. Center for Intensive English Studies (644-4797)
4. International Student Center (644-1702)
5. Crisis Hotline (211)
6. Victim Advocate Program (644-7161)
7. Student Counseling Center (644-2003)