

**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**  
**SYG 1000**  
**Fall 2007**

**Instructor: DeAnna Gore**  
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**Classroom: HCB 210**  
**Date/Time: MWF 2:30pm-3:20pm**  
**Office Hours: T: 4pm-5pm; W: 1:30-2:15**  
**or by appointment**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will outline the major themes and issues of sociology, both theoretically and empirically. Sociology attempts to describe how things are and explain why things are the way they are. A general overview of sociological topics in the United States, including social institutions, inequality, and social change, will be provided. The following course objectives and goals will be achieved through the use of lecture, class discussions, and assignments.

**Course Objectives and Goals**

Upon completion of the Introduction to Sociology course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Identify, define, and illustrate basic concepts, theories, and research techniques employed in sociology
- 2) Compare and contrast the different theories and methods used to examine and explain varied patterns of social interaction
- 3) Critically examine your social environment and realize that human lives are embedded in and influenced by the structural factors such as gender, race, age, class, etc.
- 4) Acquire an increased awareness and appreciation of the diversity and similarities between and among individuals
- 5) Write and think critically via class discussions, written assignments, and exams about the concepts, theories, and research techniques in the field

## COURSE MATERIALS

### ***Required:***

Massey, Garth (ed.). (2006). Readings for Sociology, Fifth edition. W.W. Norton & Company. ISBN 0-393-92700-8 (RS on course calendar)

Additional readings on Blackboard (BB on course calendar)

### ***Recommended:***

Even though this textbook is not required for the class, it is highly recommended that you purchase it. This will be very useful throughout the course.

Giddens, Duneier, & Appelbaum. (2006). Essentials of Sociology; First edition. W.W.Norton & Company. ISBN 0-393-92774-1 (ES on course calendar)

### **Blackboard**

Course materials will be available online using Blackboard (<http://campus.fsu.edu>). I encourage you to use the discussion board to communicate with your fellow classmates on questions and comments concerning the course. This can also be used as a forum for you to post comments and opinions on class discussions. Grades and additional readings will be posted through Blackboard as well.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Participation:** Student participation is highly valued and encouraged in this class. The more participation we have the more we will all learn. Good, high quality participation will be rewarded in this class. If your final grade is borderline, you will receive the higher of the two grades if you have consistently participated in class discussions and activities. If you are not borderline, your grade may increase by one step if you participate consistently throughout the semester. (e.g., B to B+)

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is a requirement and attendance will be taken at every class session. ***Five or more unexcused absences will result in an F grade for the course.*** The following and only the following absences are eligible to be excused: Religious holidays, as specified in FSU policy; absences due to representing FSU at official functions, including intercollegiate debating or varsity sports events; verified emergencies and/or medical illness. Medical illnesses are serious in nature and require continued treatment by medical professionals and/or surgical or other treatments. Colds, the flu, fatigue, and stress do not qualify as medical illnesses. If you have a chronic illness that could affect your attendance, it is imperative that you alert me to this at the beginning of class. Documentation for an absence to be excused is required. Please

provide a copy of the documentation to the instructor and keep a copy for your own records. While one is not penalized for the absence of excused absences, he or she remains responsible for all content missed, including assignments, knowledge, or skills that were covered in the missed class(es). An attendance sheet will be passed around the beginning of each class period. ***Please note that signing someone's name other than your own and/or having someone else sign your name is cheating and will be punished.*** You will receive a failing grade for the course and be reported to the administration.

**Quizzes:** There will be five short quizzes throughout the semester over the assigned class readings, lectures, and movies. They will vary in format, from multiple choice to short answer questions. They are not meant to trick you, but rather to help you keep caught up on the course readings and ideas discussed in class. The quizzes should not be very difficult if you have done the assigned readings on time and pay attention in class. You will not be able to make up quizzes without a documented excused absence.

**Assignments:** Various assignments are to be completed throughout the semester. They will vary in format depending on the topic. The requirements for each out-of-class assignment will be posted on Blackboard. Late assignments will only be accepted up to two weeks after the due date, with 15% of the maximum grade deducted each week as a late penalty. The due dates for the assignments to be completed outside of the classroom are posted on the course calendar. There will also be in-class assignments, which are unannounced. Therefore, it is important that you come to every class session, as you will not be able to make up in-class assignments without a documented excused absence.

**Sociology in Society Journal:** There will be a final project in the class in which you will make a journal demonstrating how sociology can be found throughout society. This includes, but is not limited to, advertisements, news articles, movies, TV shows, organizations, etc. You will then explain how each aspect of your journal is related to sociology. A more detailed assignment sheet will be provided later in the semester and will be due December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Exams:** There are three exams through the semester. They are not cumulative. The format of the exam will include multiple choice, matching, and short answer. The content will come from lectures, readings, exercises, videos, and discussion. Not everything in the readings will be covered during the lectures, but may appear on the exams. It is your responsibility to complete the readings. Exams are to be taken when scheduled. Requests for make-ups will be granted only for cases described as an excused absence. If you cannot take an exam, I'll arrange for you to take a make-up exam after I see documentation explaining why you were unable to take the exam. Failure to show up for an exam without proper documentation will result in a "0" for that exam and computed as such into your final grade.

**GRADING**

Exams (3)	60%
Assignments	20%
Quizzes	10%
<u>Journal</u>	<u>10%</u>
	100%

A (93-100)	B+ (87-89)	C+ (77-79)	D+ (67-69)	F ( $\leq$ 59)
A- (90-92)	B (83-86)	C (73-76)	D (63-66)	
	B- (80-82)	C- (70-72)	D- (60-62)	

**CLASSROOM COURTESY**

Classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. This means no cell phones, talking during lectures (unless recognized by the professor or discussion leader), reading newspapers, etc. during class. If you must have a cell phone to receive emergency calls about kids or other family members, keep it on vibrate. Entering and leaving is distracting to your instructor and other students. Therefore, you need to be on time for class and stay until the end. If you must enter late or leave early, please inform me before class begins and take the seat nearest an exit and enter or leave as quietly as possible. Please make sure the door does not 'bang' as you enter or leave. Repeated disruption of class may lead to penalties that reduce your final grade (see below). Class discussions of the issues we study can stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussions must be scholarly.

(1) Scholarly comments are:

Respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement; related to the class and course material; advance the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs; are delivered in normal tones and a non-aggressive manner.

(2) Unacceptable behaviors in the classroom are:

(a) Personal attacks. This includes attacks on a person's appearance, demeanor, or political beliefs.

(b) Interrupting your instructor or other students. You must raise your hand and wait to be called on by the discussion leader or myself to prevent this problem.

(c) Using a discussion to argue for political positions and/or beliefs. If political discussions arise, they must be discussed as scholarly endeavors (see above).

- (d) Using raised tones, yelling, engaging in arguments with other students, and being physically aggressive.
- (e) Ignoring your instructor's authority to protect the integrity of the classroom. Anyone who violates these guidelines will be asked to cease and desist and may be asked to leave the classroom and/or drop the course.

Failure to abide by these principles can result in academic penalties ranging from a lowered grade, to dismissal, to failing the course.

### **ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY**

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to ". . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm>.)

Plagiarism – The Provost and legal counsel of Florida State University warn us that any uses of others' copyrighted materials without proper acknowledgement is unlawful and may lead to criminal prosecution. To this end, please be scrupulous in using the work of others by giving full and appropriate credit to the sources and materials that you use. Please use care when taking words and phrases from others. It is plagiarism when you: use another's work from print, web, or other source without acknowledging the source; quote from a source without citation; use facts, figures, graphs, charts or information without acknowledgement of the source.

Cheating – Copying from another student's paper or receiving unauthorized assistance during a quiz, test or examination; using books, notes or other devices (e.g., calculators, cell phones, or computers) when these are not authorized; procuring without authorization a copy of or information about an examination before the scheduled exercise; unauthorized collaboration on exams.

Students in the course will be held to the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a "zero" for that particular assignment or possibly an "F" for the course and may be reported to the University Judicial Office. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated.

### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITES ACT**

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

- (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center;
  - (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type.
- This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact:

Student Disability Resource Center  
97 Woodward Avenue, South  
108 Student Services Building  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167  
(850) 644-9566 (voice)  
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)  
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu  
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

### **INCOMPLETE GRADES**

Missing work or uncompleted assignments are insufficient reasons for a grade of Incomplete. An Incomplete grade will not be given except under extenuating circumstances at the instructor's discretion. Note that College of Social Science guidelines require that students seeking an "I" must be passing the course.

### **SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY**

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Assignments and Quizzes</i>
<b>Week 1</b>			
Aug 27	Hand out syllabus – Intro to Course		
Aug 29	What is Sociology?	Chapter 1 (ES)	
Aug 31	Research Methods	Telling the Truth About Damned Lies and Statistics (RS)	
<b>Week 2</b>			
Sept 3	Labor Day – NO CLASS ☺		
Sept 5	Culture	Chapter 2 (ES) Queer Customs (RS)	
Sept 7	Subcultures (video)		
<b>Week 3</b>			
Sept 10	Culture and Globalization	McDonald's in Hong Kong (RS)	Assignment due
Sept 12	Socialization	Chapter 3 (ES) Children and Civility: Ceremonial deviance and the acquisition of ritual competence (BB) Boyhood, organized sports, and the construction of masculinities (RS)	
Sept 14	Gender Socialization		
<b>Week 4</b>			
Sept 17	Social Interaction	Chapter 4 (ES)	Quiz 1
Sept 19	Social Interaction	On-face work (RS)	
Sept 21	Groups	Chapter 5 (ES) Dynamics of inclusion and exclusion in preadolescent cliques (BB)	Assignment due

Week 5		
Sept 24	Groups	
Sept 26	Organizations	Hanging tongues (RS)
Sept 28	Review for Exam	
Week 6		
Oct 1	Exam 1	Exam
Oct 3	Conformity and Deviance	Chapter 6 (ES) The Saints and the Roughnecks (RS)
Oct 5	Crime	The normalcy of crime (BB)
Week 7		
Oct 8	Class Inequality	Chapter 7 (ES) Uses of the underclass in American (RS)
Oct 10	Class Inequality	Angela Whitiker's climb (BB) Upward mobility through sport? (RS)
Oct 12	Global Inequality	Chapter 8 (ES) The foundations of third world poverty (RS)
Week 8		
Oct 15	Race and Ethnicity	Chapter 10 (ES) My secret life as a black man (RS)
Oct 17	Race and Ethnicity	Quiz 2
Oct 19	Immigration	Assignment due Are Asian Americans becoming White? (BB)
Week 9		
Oct 22	Sex and Gender	Chapter 9 (ES)
Oct 24	Gender Inequality	Assignment due Still a man's world: Men who do 'women's work' (BB)
Oct 26	Sex and Gender (video)	

<i>Week 10</i>		
Oct 29	Gender Inequality	The emotional geography of work and family life (RS)
Oct 31	Review for Exam 2	
Nov 2	Exam 2	Exam
<i>Week 11</i>		
Nov 5	Families	Chapter 11 (ES) Domestic networks (RS)
Nov 7	Marriage (video)	Being single on Noah's Ark (BB)
Nov 9	Family Problems	An Overview of the nature, causes, and consequences of abusive family relationships (BB)
<i>Week 12</i>		
Nov 12	Veteran's Day – NO CLASS ☺	
Nov 14	Education	Chapter 12 pp. 309-321 (ES)
Nov 16	Education	Learning the student role: Kindergarten as academic boot camp (BB)
<i>Week 13</i>		
Nov 19	Mass Media	TBA
Nov 21	Mass Media	TBA
Nov 23	Thanksgiving – NO CLASS ☺	
<i>Week 14</i>		
Nov 26	Work and the Economy	Chapter 13 pp. 357-376 (ES) Job on the line (RS)
Nov 28	Health and Illness	Chapter 14 pp. 379-391 (ES) Blood sport (BB)
Nov 30	Population	Chapter 15 pp. 432-444 (ES) "The Xers" versus "the Boomers" (BB)

<i>Week 15</i>		
Dec 3	Population (video)	Quiz 5
Dec 5	Globalization	Journal Due
Dec 7	Review for Final Exam	
<i>Finals Week</i>		
Dec 14	Final Exam (10:00am – 12:00pm)	Exam

