

# SYG1000- Introduction to Sociology

Sociology SYG1000 Sect. 9 &13 (FIG)    Instructor: Dr. Brian Starks    TA: Joanna Stansfield-Hunter  
Introduction to Sociology    Bellamy 513    Bellamy 510  
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Fall (First Semester) 2007    Office Hours: MW 1:30-3:00    Office Hours: TR 3:00-4:30  
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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce you to the central concepts, methods, and perspectives of sociology by developing your *sociological imagination*. We will explore topics ranging from the social construction of race and gender to the social reproduction of social class and inequality. We will also investigate claims about the changing American family and examine contemporary social conflict within various religious faith traditions. Finally, there will be active class discussions examining how the sociological imagination can speak to relevant current events and politics (e.g. globalization, the war in Iraq, democratization in the Middle East, Africa, and South East Asia, global warming, etc).

## Readings for the Course:

The following required books have been ordered through the University and area bookstores:

Lafeber, Walter. Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism. W.W. Norton and Company, 2002.  
**ISBN:** 0393323692

Gedicks, Al. Resource Rebels: Native Challenges to Mining and Oil Corporations. South End Press, 2000. **ISBN:** 0896086402

Davis, Nancy J. and Robert V. Robinson (editors). Sociological Perspectives on American Society (4th edition). New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001. (NOT IN PRINT- ON BLACKBOARD)  
Additional Supplemental Readings will be available on Blackboard

## OFFICE HOURS:

My office is on the Fifth Floor of Bellamy in room 513. My office hours are on Monday and Wednesday from 1:30 to 3:00 in the afternoon. If the listed hours are inconvenient, we can set up another time to meet. I am most easily reached by e-mail at [bstarks@fsu.edu](mailto:bstarks@fsu.edu), but you should recognize that I will not check my e-mail everyday. So, if it is an emergency, please contact me via the phone.

## ACADEMIC HONOR CODE:

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in The Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. Please see the following web site for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Code. <http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/>  
<http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor.html>

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Students must abide by the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a "zero" for that particular assignment or an "F" for the course, at the instructor's discretion. Any student who plagiarizes, cheats on exams, or otherwise behaves in a dishonest way may be reported to the University Judicial Office for official adjudication.

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

### **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.

### **Unacceptable behaviors are:**

(a) Personal attacks. This includes attacks on a person's appearance, demeanor, or political beliefs. (b) Interrupting your instructor or other students. Raise your hand and wait to be called on by the discussion leader or myself to prevent this problem. (c) Using the 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.

## **CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Class attendance is required. Five or more unexcused absences are reason for an F grade for the course. At the very least, there will be an increasing grade reduction for each unexcused absence after the fourth. The following and only the following absences are eligible to be excused: Religious holidays, as specified in FSU policy (see elsewhere in syllabus); 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. You must provide a copy of any documentation to your professor (but maintain a copy for your records). While one is not penalized for excused absences, he or she remains responsible for all content missed, including assignments, knowledge, or skills covered in missed class(es).

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS:**

Because each person in a class contributes to its ultimate success or failure, I expect everyone to attend our class meetings, read and think about the day's readings beforehand, work on the in-class projects, and participate in the give and take of class discussion. Not meeting this expectation is grounds for a lowered grade. Over the course of the semester, there will be (a) three exams covering the substantive topics and readings in that section of the course, and (b) ten diagnostic quizzes over the readings (the lowest two quiz grades may be dropped). The exams will each count 20% toward your final grade (for 60% total) and the 8 highest quizzes will each count 5% (for 40% total). The dates on which you will take the exams are shown below.

First Exam: October 3

Second Exam: November 7

Third Exam: December 13

Exams: Exams will have two parts: (1) Objective: This section will include multiple choice, true false, and matching items. (2) Essay: There will generally be one long essay question on each test, usually focusing specifically on the book read for that section of the class. Failure to be present for an exam will result in a grade of zero for that exam and this grade will be included in determining final grades. If you are unable to take an exam, you must call me with a valid excuse prior to the time of the exam.

**Grading Scale:**

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

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

This outline will give you an idea of how the course will unfold. Please complete the readings by class time on the day that they are listed in the syllabus. This will make information presented in class clearer and will give us as a class the chance to talk about and react to the readings in a more thoughtful way. (This is only a tentative outline and is subject to revision at any time during the semester)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic and Readings</u> (Readings are to be completed by the class date)
Monday, Aug 27	Introduction to the Course

- Wednesday, Aug 29      The Sociological Imagination I: Imagining Society
- Reading: C. Wright Mills, "The Promise" in *The Sociological Imagination*;  
Tobin, Wu, and Davidson, "Socialization in Three Cultures: A  
Difficult Child in a Japanese Preschool" on Blackboard
- NOTE: Aug 30      Last day to Drop/Add and have fees adjusted.
- Monday, Sept 3      Labor Day
- Wednesday, Sept 5      The Social Construction and Meaning of Race
- Reading: Hughes, "Reality as a Collective Hunch: That Powerful Drop;"  
Staples, "Just Walk on By;" Kramer, "A Rescue without Cheers" on Blackboard
- Monday, Sept 10      Racism and Science
- Reading: Szasz, "The Sane Slave;" Gould, "The Finagle Factor" on Blackboard
- Wednesday, Sept 12      The Sociological Imagination II: Consequences of Racism
- Reading: Brandt, "Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis  
Study" on Blackboard
- Monday, Sept 17      Race and Ethnicity
- Reading: Sacks, "How Did Jews Become White Folks?" on Blackboard
- Wednesday, Sept 19      Distributing Wealth and Income in America: Are We Becoming a Less Equal  
Nation? (with a further consideration of global inequality)
- Reading: Preface and Chapter 1 of *Michael Jordan and the New Global  
Capitalism*
- Monday, Sept 24      Poverty and Welfare Myths
- Reading: Chapters 2 and 3 of *Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism*
- Wednesday, Sept 26      The Other America
- Reading: Chapters 4 and 5 of *Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism*
- Monday, Oct 1      The Sociological Imagination III: Examining the Emergence of a McWorld  
Wrap-up and review of "Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism"
- Reading: Chapters 6 and 7 of *Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism*

- Wednesday, Oct 3      **FIRST EXAM**
- Monday, Oct 8      A Sociologist Reflects on the American Dream  
  
Reading: Young, Jr., “Navigating Race: Getting Ahead in the Lives of ‘Rags to Riches’ Young Black Men” on Blackboard
- Wednesday, Oct 10      Demography and Growth: The Pig and the Python and Population Pyramids  
  
Reading: The Pig and the Python
- NOTE: Oct 12      Last day to drop a course without receiving a grade
- Monday, Oct 15      Introduction to Resource Rebels  
  
Reading: Foreward, Introduction, and Chapters 1 of *Resource Rebels*
- Wednesday, Oct 17      Social Movements as a Form of Resistance and Social Power  
  
Reading: Chapter 2 of *Resource Rebels*
- Monday, Oct 22      Case Studies: West Papau and Wisconsin  
  
Reading: Chapters 3 and 4 of *Resource Rebels*
- Wednesday, Oct 24      Silencing the Voice of the People: Theories of Democratization  
  
Reading: Chapter 5 of *Resource Rebels*
- Monday, Oct 29      Resource Rebels- Globalization, Militarism, Power, and the Environment I  
  
Reading: Chapter 6 of *Resource Rebels*
- Wednesday, Oct 31      Explorations in the Social Psychology of Work  
  
Reading: Hochschild, “The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling”; Marx, “The Unintended Consequences of Undercover Work” on Blackboard
- Monday, Nov 5      Religion and Parental Values  
  
Reading: Starks, “Who Values the Obedient Child Now?” on Blackboard
- Wednesday, Nov 7      **SECOND EXAM**
- Monday, Nov 12      Veteran’s Day NO CLASSES

- Wednesday, Nov 14 Growing Up Male and Female in America  
Reading: Hall, "Bully in the Mirror"; Berkowitz and Padavic, "Getting Ahead or Getting a Man" on Blackboard
- NOTE: Nov. 16 Last day to drop a course with Dean's permission.
- Monday, Nov 19 Educational Expectations, Race, and Educational Performance  
Reading: Steel, "Thin Ice: 'Stereotype Threat' and Black College Students" on Blackboard
- Wednesday, Nov 21 Ethics in Sociological Research: The Manipulation of Human Subjects
- NOTE: Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Day
- Monday, Nov 26 Trends in Family Life  
Divorce and Its Consequences for Adults and Children  
Reading: Stone, "Sex in the West"; Stephanie Coontz, "The Way We Wish We Were;" Furstenberg, "The Future of the Family" on Blackboard
- Wednesday, Nov 28 Explaining Crime and Deviance: Biological vs. Social Psychological Theories  
Reading: Murphy, Waldorf, and Reinerman, "Drifting into Dealing: Becoming a Cocaine Seller"; Jankowski, "Islands in the Street: Urban Gangs as Economic Organizations" on Blackboard
- Monday, Dec 3 Crime, Corporations, and the State: Street and Suite Crime  
Reading: Dowie, "Pinto Madness" on Blackboard
- Wednesday, Dec 5 Living with Conviction in a Cynical Time: Can You Make a Difference?  
Reading: Schneider, "Saving Konrad Latte" on Blackboard
- Thursday, Dec 13 **THIRD EXAM (3:00-5:00 PM)**
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**SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:** This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES 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 me 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, Dean of Students, 08 Kellum Hall  
Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4400, (850) 644-9566 (voice), (850) 644-8504 (TDD), [SDRC@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:SDRC@admin.fsu.edu), <http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/>

### **RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

Students will be allowed to miss class due to observance of religious holidays but they are still responsible for all materials assigned outside and covered in class on the day(s) missed. You must talk with your instructor in advance of missing a class for religious holiday observance reasons.

### **USE OF GRADED MATERIALS AS CLASS EXAMPLES**

In this course, all material turned in for a grade is eligible to be used as an example for current and future students of this course. I try to remove names from such examples when I use them, but I cannot promise that all identifying information will be removed in all cases. If you have any concerns about your materials being used in this way for the purpose of future instruction, please let me know ahead of time.

### **INCOMPLETE GRADES**

*Missing work is insufficient reason for a grade of Incomplete (I).* An **I** 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.

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Use of cell phones, ipods, text messaging, etc. is not allowed during class. Please put these electronic devices away and out of sight during the class. If you need a cell phone because you are on-call or in case of emergency, please set the ringer to silent and leave the classroom unobtrusively if you must answer it.