

## Introduction to Sociology

Sociology SYG: 1000  
Section: 0005  
Time: M-W 9:30-10:45  
Fall 2008  
Building/Room: BEL 0023

Graduate Instructor: Jordan Brown  
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Office Hours: M-W 1:30-2:30  
(or by appointment)  
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**Course Description:** This is an introduction level class that introduces students to sociological ideas, concepts, methods, and research. Over the course of the semester we will apply these ideas and concepts to a range of social phenomena such as culture, socialization, crime and deviance, race, class, and gender inequality, inter-group relations (including prejudice and discrimination), the family, social roles, identity, health, mass media, and religion.

One method of studying society is to analyze popular culture. Throughout the semester, you will view films, T.V. shows, documentaries, as well as listen to music clips and analyze them from a sociological perspective. Sociologists believe that there is a duality in life: social structures affect people and people affect social structures. Additionally, we will examine social stability and social change. We will try to explain who benefits from the present social relationships, and who would benefit from change. Ultimately, this course tries to give you the tools to look at life through the sociological perspective and think critically about your surroundings.

**Course Goals and Objectives:** I have three main goals and objectives for this course. I hope to help you (1) Master basic sociological concepts, including three dominant theoretical perspectives, and major research methods used in sociological research; (2) Increase your understanding of certain substantive social issues; and most importantly, (3) further develop your critical thinking skills. My success in reaching these goals depends on your active participation. With proper preparation and participation this course can be an enjoyable and informative learning experience for all.

### Required Readings:

There is one textbook required for class. The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of Introduction to Sociology by Giddens, Duneier, and Appelbaum (referred to as GDA in the syllabus). This book should be available at the FSU bookstore, Bills Bookstore, or through online vendors.

All additional reading will be posted on the Blackboard course website in the course library. I urge you to complete all reading prior to coming to class. This will help you understand the material, and will help you score better on quizzes and exams.

**Blackboard:** The blackboard course website will allow for fast communication between class members. Please visit blackboard regularly for course announcements. The most effective way to contact me is through e-mail (*jtb04e@fsu.edu*). I regularly check my e-mail.

### Course Requirements:

**I. Exams:** There will be three in-class exams, which will cover material from the lectures, readings, and films (2 in class midterms and one final exam). The exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer, essay, and matching questions. The exams are not cumulative, but you must understand earlier ideas to grasp concepts throughout the course. Each exam will be worth 25 percent of your final grade. Exams must be taken during the scheduled period. Make-ups will only be given under extreme circumstances and must be arranged **prior** to the scheduled exam time. If you are unable to take an exam during the scheduled period because of an

illness, you must provide documentation explaining why you could not be present. Except for a dire emergency, failure to show up for an exam without contacting me in advance will automatically result in an F for that exam and computed as such into the final grade. Students who are unable to provide documentation of why they were not present will receive an F for the exam they missed.

**2. Quizzes/Homework/In Class Assignments:** There will occasionally be short pop quizzes, in class assignments, or homework assignments over the assigned class readings, lectures, and movies. These grades will count towards 25 percent of your final course grade. The quizzes are not meant to trick you, but rather to help you keep caught up on the course reading 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, and if you do not fall behind in your reading should be a good way to bump up your grade. In class assignments will be small exercises that will vary across the course of the semester. These may include short group work projects, minute papers, or worksheets in class. Homework assignments may consist of worksheets, out of class assignments, or short 1-3 page papers. In order to receive credit for homework assignments you must be present in class on BOTH the day the assignment is given AND the day the assignment is due. You will not be able to make up quizzes or assignments without a **documented** excused absence.

**3. Class Participation:** Student participation is highly valued in this class. The more participation we have the more we will all learn. Consistently contributing high quality participation throughout the course of the entire semester will be rewarded. If you are between two grades, but have consistently participated, you will receive the higher grade in this class.

**4. Attendance:** Regular attendance is a requirement of this class and attendance will be taken during every class period we meet (with the exception of optional exam review sessions). You are allowed three unexcused absences. Beginning on your fourth unexcused absence, there will be a penalty of 2 percent off of your final course grade for each additional absence.

## **RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

Students' absences will be excused to observe religious holidays; however, students are still responsible for all of the material covered in class on those days they have missed. It is your responsibility to make sure you make up missed work as quickly as possible. Please inform me ahead of time if you will be missing class to observe a religious holiday.

**5. Arrive On Time:** Please arrive to class on time and plan to stay in class for the entire period. If you must arrive late or leave class early due to extreme circumstances please let me know ahead of time and enter or exit the classroom as quietly as possible. Students will be downgraded for arriving to class late or leaving class early.

**6. Cell Phone and Laptop Use:** Please turn off or silence your cell phone before class. Do not talk on, or send text messages during class. Laptops are permitted only for class activities (i.e. taking notes). Please do not surf the web or IM during class time. I reserve the right to downgrade students for inappropriate cell phone or computer use.

**7. Classroom Conduct:** Professional Behavior is expected in this course at all times. This class will have students enrolled from a variety of backgrounds who hold a variety of differing opinions. This diversity only adds to the enjoyment of the class and our learning experiences. Additionally, we will be covering sensitive subjects that on which students may hold differing views. Your opinions and participation in this class is highly valued, and you are encouraged to share your opinions, so long as it is presented in a respectful way. Students who are unable to act professionally, and treat others with respect will be removed from the class and receive a failing grade.

**Your course grade will be calculated in the following way:**

Exam #1	25%	(100 points)
Exam #2	25%	(100 points)
Exam #3	25%	(100 points)
Quizzes /Homework	25%	(100 points)
Total	100%	(400 points)

**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		

**Office Hours:** I encourage you to come to my office hours if you are having trouble with the course material, or if you would like to discuss any concerns you are having with the class. If you are unable to come during my normal office hours I am more than happy to set up an alternate time during which we can meet.

**Administrative Details:** Incompletes will only be given under extreme circumstances. The FSU student conduct book outlines the circumstances under which a grade of incomplete can be given. In this class we will cover sensitive topics. If you feel that you may have issues with the course material I urge to speak with me as soon as possible. Finally, this syllabus is tentative and is subject to change at my discretion. Please regularly check the course website and your FSU email for announcements of course changes.

**Academic Honor Code:** 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/codes/honor/html>).

**Plagiarism Caution:** 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. If you use a string of three or more exact words from another source, you must place the words in quotes and cite the author, year and page number. Any confirmed instance of plagiarism will result in an F grade for this course.

**Cheating:** Any form of cheating in this course will be immediately reported to the administration and will result in an F for this course and your possible expulsion from the university. Refrain from any form of cheating, including signing others in on the attendance sheet.

**Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:** Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should: (1) register with and provide documentation from the Student Disability Resource Center, and (2) bring me a letter

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: The Student Disability Resource Center, Dean of Students, 97 Woodward Avenue (<http://www/fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/>).

**Important Dates to Keep In Mind:**

Labor Day: No Class	Sept 1st
1st Midterm Exam	Sept 29 <sup>th</sup> , in class
2nd Midterm Exam	Oct 29 <sup>th</sup> , in class
Final Exam	TBA

## Tentative Class Schedule \*

*\* NOTE: this class schedule is tentative and subject to change at the instructor's discretion*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
<i>Day 1</i> Aug 25	Introduction	
<i>Day 2</i> Aug 27	What is Sociology	GDA Chapter 1
Sept 1	<b>No Class</b>	
<i>Day 3</i> Sept 3	Methodological Approaches	GDA Chapter 2
<i>Day 4</i> Sept 8	Methodological Approaches	Stack and Gundlach "The Effect of Country Music on Suicide" <b>BB</b>
<i>Day 5</i> Sept 10	Theoretical Perspectives	GDA revisit chapter 1 pages 18-24, Chapter 5
<i>Day 6</i> Sept 15	Theoretical Perspectives and Culture	GDA Chapter 3
<i>Day 7</i> Sept 17	Culture	Miner, "Body Ritual Among Nacirema" <b>BB</b>
<i>Day 8</i> Sept 22	Socialization	Gracey, "Kindergarten as Academic Boot Camp" <b>BB</b> GDA chapter 4
<i>Day 9</i> Sept 24	<b>Exam Review</b> <b>Attendance Optional</b>	
<i>Day 10</i> Sept 29	<b>Exam 1</b>	
<i>Day 11</i> October 1	Social Control and Deviance	GDA chapter 7
<i>Day 12</i> Oct 6	Social Control & Deviance	Chambliss, "Saints & Roughnecks" <b>BB</b>

<i>Day 13</i> Oct 8	Race and Ethnicity	McIntosh “White Privilege” <b>BB</b>
<i>Day 14</i> Oct 13	Race and Ethnicity	GDA Chapter 11
<i>Day 15</i> Oct 15	Social Stratification Race Inequality	Movie “ <i>Crash</i> ” ( <b>Attendance Optional</b> )
<i>Day 16</i> Oct 20	Social Stratification: Race and Ethnicity	Walton “My Secret Life as a Black Man” <b>BB</b>
<i>Day 17</i> Oct 22	Social Stratification: Class Inequality	GDA Chapter 8 Gans, “The Uses of Poverty” <b>BB</b>
<i>Day 18</i> Oct 27	<b>Exam Review</b> <b>Attendance Optional</b>	
<i>Day 19</i> <b>Oct 29</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>	
<i>Day 20</i> Nov 3	Intergroup Relations	Martin & Hummer, “Fraternities and Rape on Campus” <b>BB</b>
<i>Day 21</i> Nov 5	Social Stratification Gender Inequality	GDA Chapter 10
<i>Day 22</i> Nov 10	Gender and the Family	Hochschild, “When Work Becomes Home” <b>BB</b>
<i>Day 23</i> Nov 15	Family	GDA Chapter 15
<i>Day 24</i> Nov 17	Mass Media	Mantsios “Media Magic” <b>BB</b> Reading Chapter 16 (Pages 520-526).
<i>Day 25</i> Nov 22	Religion	GDA Chapter 17
<i>Day 26</i> Nov 24	Identity & Health	GDA Chapter 18 Rosenhan, “On Being Insane” <b>BB</b>
<i>Day 27</i> Nov 26	Movie	TBA

*Day 28*  
Dec 1                      Social Movements &    GDA Chapter 13  
                                    Collective Behavior

*Day 29*  
Dec 3                      **Final Exam Review**

**Final Exam**        **TBA**