

Introduction to Sociology
SYG 1000-02; M, T, W, R, F (12:30-1:45 p.m.)
HCB 214; Summer 2009

Instructor Information

Instructor: Ms. Sarrah Conn
Office Location: Claude Pepper Center, Office 222
Office Phone: 850-645-2465
Office Hours: Mondays from 11a.m.-12p.m. & by appt.
Email: sgc02@fsu.edu *the best way to contact me.
Blackboard: www.campus.fsu.edu

Required Text

1. *Society: The Basics, 9th Ed.*
(John Macionis; ISBN: 0132284901)

Other Requirements

1. Students should purchase one composition style notebook which will be their research journal over the course of the semester. Students should also purchase (or use if they have one already) a highlighter to note important concepts in the research journal. Although it is not required, students that have completed this course successfully in the past tend to keep a 3 ring binder or something similar to keep track of course notes, handouts, and ppt's.
2. 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/extra credit assignments. There are required online readings that supplement the text as well in this course.

Course Goals, Description, and Student 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 and discussion, quizzes, journaling, and examination, with an emphasis placed 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? Is the material useful in life, or just 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 clearly state what is expected (reading, discussion, and exams), and 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.** I intend to always be respectful towards you as both a professional, and as a person, and I appreciate and thank you in advance for your respect and courtesy.

Content Specific Objectives

1. To understand each topic covered in this class by being able to remember, describe, and apply sociological principles to various issues.
2. To satisfactorily comprehend major differences between sociological theories and explanations of social phenomena, to be demonstrated through examinations which are multiple choice and true/false.
3. To broaden the student's overall knowledge-base by completing all assigned readings.

Overall Course Objective

1. To develop the student's ability to think critically regarding real-world, concrete phenomena.
2. To help students create a cogent philosophy of life that will serve them in their future.

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. ***Homework and In Class Participation:*** Student participation is invaluable for remembering and understanding sociological material. Because of this, students are expected to have read required material beforehand and be able to participate in classroom discussions that involve new concepts and theories. Additionally, homework will sometimes be required in this course to help students better understand sociological principles and prepare them for in-class discussions. Lastly, if the student's grade is on the cusp at the end of the semester and they have regularly and insightfully participated through the course, they will be granted the higher grade. Homework and Participation is worth 10% of the overall grade.
2. ***Quizzes:*** A total of 12 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 10 quiz scores will contribute to the student's final grade (10% of total grade or 10 points possible). There are no quiz make-ups for any reason, as a student may miss up to 2, penalty free. Thus, even if you have an excused absence, a quiz that you might have missed cannot be made up. Each quiz will be worth 1 total point.

3. **Research Journal Assignment:** Students will be required to keep a research journal and write entries over the course of the semester. Students will choose one of five possible lifestyle options which they will augment for a period of 4 weeks. Students will then write about their experiences after changing one aspect of their lives. Additionally, students will address certain questions given by the instructor in some selected journal entries. More information will be given regarding this assignment during Monday, May 18th, after the drop-add period has ended. This assignment is worth 20% of the total grade.

4. **Examinations:** Three exams will be given. Each exam is worth 20% of the final grade. The third exam is a non-cumulative test. There is no final exam or exam during finals week in this course. 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. If documentation cannot be provided and I have not been notified before a missed exam, the student will receive a grade of "0" for that exam. 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.

5. **Attendance:** Students are expected to be in class during every class period they possibly can. A student who misses more than 5 unexcused absences will receive an "F" in this course. Only excuses permitted in the University Bulletin are acceptable and proper documentation is required. For more information on what constitutes an excused absence: <http://facsenate.fsu.edu/attendance.html>. Three exam review classes will be held during the semester in which student attendance is optional—more information about these will be given in class. Lastly, if students are consistently late to class the instructor reserves the right to deduct points from the students overall grade in the course. Additionally, if students are seen texting frequently in class, points will be discretionally deducted from the student's overall grade.

6. **Extra Credit Option:** Three options for extra credit will be offered through the semester. These options may consist of written papers, small research assignments, or social experiments. In total, the extra credit is worth up to 3 percentage points added onto the student's final grade. More information will be given in class.

Rubric

Homework and Participation	10% or 10 points
Quizzes	10% or 10 points
Research Journal	20% or 20 points
Exam 1	20% or 20 points
Exam 2	20% or 20 points
<u>Exam 3</u>	<u>20% or 20 points</u>
Total	100% or 100 points

Grading Scale

Grades for the course will be based on the following point 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

Academic Honor Code and Student Integrity

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, signing a friend's name on the attendance sheet, 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. If a student is found to be engaging in academic dishonesty, they will receive a "0" for the assignment, quiz, or exam in question. At the instructors discretion and depending on the seriousness of the infraction, a student who engages in academic dishonesty may receive an "F" for the entire course.

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.

Help and Tutoring

If you find yourself struggling to complete the requirements for this course or not comprehending the material, please contact me. Students may come by 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.

Reading and Writing Center (644-6495)

Strozier Library (644-3278)/(644-2706)

Retention and Academic Support (644-0387)

Center for Intensive English Studies (644-4797)

Victim Advocate Program (644-7161)

Student Counseling Center (644-2003)

Crisis Hotline (211)

Foreign Student Center (644-1702)

Schedule (Subject to change according to course progress)

Date	Topic	Homework for That Night	Due In Class Today
M, May 11 th 2009	Hello! Introduction to Sociology and First-Day Attendance.	Purchase textbook and read pp. 2-12.	
T, May 12 th 2009	<i>The Sociological Imagination.</i>	Read pp. 18 (Three Ways to Do Soc) – 34.	
W, May 13 th 2009	Research Methodology.	Read pp. 13 (Sociological Theory) – 18.	
R, May 14 th 2009	Three sociological perspectives.	Read pp. 40-50.	

F, May 15 th 2009	Culture. In Class: Body Ritual Among the Nacirema.	Read excerpt (BB): <i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down</i> .	
M, May 18th 2009	Sociocultural evolution; <i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i>. Directions for completing the research journal assignment will be given in class.	Read pp. 52 (Cultural Diversity) – 60.	
T, May 19 th 2009	Ethnocentrism and cultural relativism.	Read pp. 96-99; 103 (Dramaturgical Analysis) – 114.	
W, May 20 th 2009	Interaction and Humor.	Print out your review guide and bring to class tomorrow.	
R, May 21 st 2009	Reviewing first 3 chapters.	Reviewing for exam #1 in small groups. Full class review the last 15 minutes.	Bring Study Guide #1 to Class Today.
F, May 22 nd 2009	Exam #1.	*Read pp. 206-210 (Stop at Caste and Class on pp. 210); 220 (Inequality in the United States) – 238.	
M, May 25th 2009	Memorial Day.	No School. No Work. Life is Good. ☺	
T, May 26 th 2009	Social Stratification.	Read excerpt (BB): <i>Being Black, Living in the Red</i> .	
W, May 27 th 2009	Social Stratification: <i>30 Days on Minimum Wage</i> .	Read pp. 244-254. See chart on pp. 263 as well to prepare for tomorrow's lecture.	
R, May 28 th 2009	Modernization and Dependency Theory. <i>Mining for Bling</i> in class video.	Read pp. 300-308 (Stop at Theories of Prejudice); also read pp. 312-314 on segregation and genocide.	
F, May 29 th 2009	Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.	Read pp. 314-328.	
M, June 1st 2009	Three Levels of Racism and “Racism without Racists.”	Read excerpt (BB) “White Privilege.”	
T, June 2 nd 2009	Racial histories of various groups in the U.S.	Print out your review guide and bring to class tomorrow	
W, June 3 rd 2009	Review for Exam 2.	Reviewing for exam #2 in small groups. Full class review the last 15 minutes.	Bring Study Guide #2 to Class Today.
R, June 4 th 2009	Exam #2.	Read pp. 272-278.	
F, June 5 th 2009	Gender Stratification.	Read pp. 279-287.	
M, June 8th 2009	<i>Tough Guise</i>.	Read excerpt (BB) <i>The Beauty Myth</i>.	
T, June 9 th 2009	The Beauty Myth and Race and Gender Intersectionality. Also, <i>The Rape of Mr. Smith</i> .	Read pp. 146-155 (Stop at Sexual Orientation).	
W, June 10 th	Sexuality and Society.	Read pp. 156-163 (Stop at	

2009		Theoretical Analysis of Sexuality).	
R, June 11 th 2009	<i>Middlesexes: Redefining He and She.</i>	Read pp. 427 (Health and Medicine) – 435 (Stop at Ethical Issues Surrounding Death).	
F, June 12 th 2009	Healthcare in the U.S.	Read pp. 438 (Paying for Medical Care: The United States) – 440 (Stop at Theoretical Analysis of Health and Medicine).	Research Journal Assignments Due
M, June 15th 2009	<i>Sicko</i>	Excerpt (BB) from <i>Tuesday's With Morrie.</i>	
T, June 16 th 2009	<i>Sicko</i>		
W, June 17 th 2009	Sociology in Real Life		
R, June 18 th 2009	Third Exam Review Day	Reviewing for third exam in small groups. Full class review the last 15 minutes.	Bring Study Guide #3 to Class Today.
F, June 19 th 2009	Exam #3.		