Introduction to Sociology
SYG 1000 – Section 0005
Fall 2020
Florida State University

Instructor Information

Instructor: Derek Leach, M.S. (he/him/they)
Office Hours: Zoom Office Hours: Fridays 10:00am – 11:00am and by appointment.
Email: dleach@my.fsu.edu

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the tools sociologists use to examine the social world we reside in. Sociology is a scientific way to measure how society impacts groups and individuals. It provides a working understanding of how people respond to and resist power. As students progress through the course, they will be using a sociological framework to examine topics like race, class, gender, and sexuality in relation to broader social forces (i.e. inequality, institutions, structure).

Course Objectives

By the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:
1. Identify and define basic sociological concepts, including dominant theories and research methods.
2. Understand the strengths and weaknesses of dominant theories and research methods.
3. Critically examine how structural inequality shapes the lives of both individuals and groups along the lines of race, class, gender, and sexuality.
4. Critically examine how social institutions like the economy, family, education, health and medicine, and religion shape perceptions of the social world.
5. Critically examine how individuals and groups change social institutions.

This course also satisfies the hour requirements for Liberal Studies at Florida State University. The Liberal Studies for the 21st Century Program at Florida State University builds an educational foundation that will enable FSU graduates to thrive both intellectually and materially and to support themselves, their families, and their communities through a broad and critical engagement with the world in which they live and work. Liberal Studies offers a transformative educational experience; this course has been approved as meeting the Liberal Studies requirement and thus is designed to help you become a critical appraiser of social science theories and the facts that support them.
Required Materials & Texts

Required Books


ISBN: 978-0-544-58294-1

Student Responsibilities

Quizzes
Students will take 12 quizzes throughout the course. One is a syllabus quiz designed for first day attendance, to test the knowledge of the syllabus, and for introductory purposes. The syllabus quiz will be worth 5 points and will open on August 24th at 8am and close that same evening at 11:59pm. Those who do not complete the syllabus quiz will be dropped from the course.

The remaining 11 quizzes seek to ensure that you are reading and understanding the course material. Each of the remaining quizzes will be worth 10 points, for a total of 110 points. They will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The quizzes will open every Monday at 8am and will be due the next Sunday at 11:59pm. Each quiz is open book and will consist of a one-hour time limit.

Discussion Boards
Students will have to complete three discussion boards throughout the course. Each student will be required to write a response to a documentary film using the course material from that week, and two replies to their peers’ posts. The response to the film must be at least 300 words and include references to the course material. The replies must be 150 words each. The word count must be included at the end of both the response and the replies. The response will be worth 10 points, the two replies will be worth 3.5 points each, and the word count will be worth 3 points,
for a total of 20 points. For each week a discussion board is due, it will open up that Monday at 8:00am, and close the following Sunday at 11:59pm.

Discussion Board 1 is due Sunday, September 27 at 11:59pm.
Discussion Board 2 is due Sunday, October 4, at 11:59pm.
Discussion Board 3 is due Sunday, November 8, at 11:59pm.

Midterm Essay Exam
Students will be required to take one midterm essay exam, which consists of three questions. It is open book and will require the students to draw on course material (i.e. the textbook, fiction, non-fiction, and film) to answer the questions. Each question will be worth 20 points, for a total of 60 points. Students will have a total of five days to answer the questions and complete the exam. The essay exam will open on Sunday, October 11 at 11:59pm and will need to be submitted via Turnitin, no later than Friday, October 16, at 11:59pm.

Final Paper
Intersectionality is a metaphor used to describe how people occupy multiple forms of identity within intersecting systems of oppression. In her book *Intersectionality: A Critical Social Theory*, Patricia Hill Collins proposed the following hypothesis: If researchers are to better understand intersectionality, then they must use a mixture of materials including textbooks (research) and cultural artifacts (fiction, non-fiction, and media) to understand how people respond and resist intersectional systems of power.

For the final paper, students must pick one social institution discussed on Week 8 – Week 11 (political economy, the family, social movements, etc.). Then, students must use concepts from the textbook to explain how this social institution affects people across race, class, and gender. Lastly, using fiction, non-fiction, film, and a sociological imagination, the student must show how people across the lines of race, class, and gender resist and respond to that social institution. The paper must be at least 5 double-spaced pages (not including references), written in 12 pt. Times New Roman font, and be formatted using either ASA or APA format (do not worry about the cover page). It must be submitted via Turnitin no later than Wednesday, December 9 at 11:59pm. Instructions on how to construct a paper using ASA or APA format can be found here: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/asa_style/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/asa_style/index.html)

Grading Scales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Essay Exam</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Boards</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td>335</td>
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To convert your final score to a letter grade, divide your final score by 335, multiply it by 100 to get a percentage, and then use the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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**Extra Credit (Short Story)**

Students will have a single extra credit opportunity which will be made available during week 15. The extra credit opportunity will require students to write a short story relating to a subject discussed in the course. All short stories need to be double-spaced, consist of five pages, and formatted using 12-point Times New Roman font. I will open-up the extra credit opportunity on Monday, November 30, at 8:00am and it must be submitted via Turnitin no later than Friday, December 4, at 11:59pm.

**Late Assignment Policy**

Missed quizzes and essays will be excused with a valid reason. Valid reasons include documented illnesses, deaths in the immediate family and other documented crises, call to active military duty (I will extend this to spouses of service members) or jury duty, religious holidays, official University activities, reasons having to do with work and employment, and legal troubles. Accommodations for these excused absences will be made in a way that does not penalize students who have a valid reason. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

**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://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy](http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy).)

**Americans with Disabilities Act**

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

1. register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services; and
2. request a letter from the Office of Accessibility Services to be sent to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and
3. meet (in person, via phone, email, skype, zoom, etc…) with each instructor to whom a letter of accommodation was sent to review approved accommodations.
This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For the latest version of this statement and more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Office of Accessibility Services
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
oas@fsu.edu
https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas/

Free Tutoring at Florida State University
On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - see http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

Title IX
Since FSU receives federal funds for educational activities, this institution is required by the 1972 Title IX Education Amendments to ensure that all educational programs are free from discriminatory behavior on the basis of sex. Sexual discrimination includes any form of sexual misconduct including:
1. Sexual violence
2. Stalking
3. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)
4. Animosity or stereotyping based on gender.
If there are any other questions about Title IX, or on how to file a complaint, feel free to visit FSU’s Title IX website at https://knowmore.fsu.edu/title-ix/title-ix-signed-statement/. You could also call:

Tricia Buchholz
Title IX Director
(850) 645-2741
tbuchholz@fsu.edu

For additional information with regards to the confidential, on-campus, Victim Advocate Program, please visit the website at https://dos.fsu.edu/yap/.
**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 advance notice.

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
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</table>
| Week 1 (August 24 – August 28) | What is Sociology? How do we make sense of Sociological Theory? | Reading: *Sociology in Action*  
• Chapter 1 “Training Your Sociological Eye”  
• Chapter 2 “Understanding Theory”  
Due: Monday, August 24  
• Syllabus Quiz & Introduction |
|                           |                                            |  
Sunday, August 30  
• Quiz 1 |
| Week 2 (August 31 – September 4) | Research Methods and Methodology | Reading: *Sociology in Action*  
• Chapter 3 “Using Research Methods”  
*The Best American Short Stories 2018*  
• Roxane Gay’s Introduction  
Due: Sunday, September 6  
• Quiz 2 |
| Week 3 (September 7 – September 11) | The Construction of Culture | Reading: *Sociology in Action*  
• Chapter 4 “Recognizing Culture”  
Due: Sunday, September 13  
• Quiz 3 |
| Week 4 (September 14 – September 18) | Identity, Emotions, and the Rules of the Game | Reading: Sociology in Action  
• Chapter 5 “Understanding Socialization and Interaction”  
Due: Sunday, September 20  
• Quiz 4 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 5 (September 21 – September 25) | Understanding Race and Racism: What this means for Identity | Reading: Sociology in Action  
• Chapter 9 “Recognizing the Importance of Race”  
The Best American Short Stories 2018  
• “Control Negro” by Jocelyn Nicole Johnson  
*******Optional*******  
• “Boys Go to Jupiter” by Danielle Evans  
• “Unearth” by Alicia Elliot  
***********************  
Due: Sunday, September 27  
• Discussion Board 1 |
| Week 6 (September 28 – October 2) | Identity, Sexuality, and Gender | Reading: Sociology in Action  
• Chapter 8 “Constructing Gender, Sex, and Sexuality”  
The Best American Short Stories 2018  
• “Los Angeles” by Emma Cline  
*******Optional*******  
• “What Got Into Us” by Jacob Guajardo  
***********************  
Due: Sunday, October 4 |
| Week 7 (October 5 – October 9)  | Poverty: The Mother of Crime | **Reading:** *Sociology in Action*  
|                               |                               | • Chapter 7 “Confronting Economic Inequality”  
| *Mid-term exam opens on Sunday, October 11, at 11:59pm.* |                               | *The Best American Short Stories 2018*  
|                               |                               | • “Cougar” by Maria Anderson  
|                               |                               | **Due:**  
|                               |                               | Sunday, October 11  
|                               | **Quiz 5**                     | **Due:**  
|                               |                               | Friday, October 16  
|                               | **Mid-term Essay**             | Sunday, October 18  
|                               | **Quiz 6**                     | **Optional:**  
| Week 8 (October 12 – October 16) | The Iron Cage: Power, Bureaucracy, and the Political Economy | **Reading:** *Sociology in Action*  
|                               |                               | • Chapter 10  
|                               |                               | “Understanding Institutions: Politics and the Economy”  
|                               |                               | *The Outlaw Bible of American Literature*  
|                               |                               | • “Fight Club” by Chuck Palahniuk *On Canvas*  
|                               |                               | **Due:**  
|                               |                               | Friday, October 16  
|                               |                               | Mid-term Essay  
|                               |                               | Sunday, October 18  
|                               | **Quiz 6**                     | **Optional:**  
| Week 9 (October 19 – October 23) | “The Blood of the Covenant is Thicker than the Water of the Womb”: Understanding Family as a Social Institution | **Reading:** *Sociology in Action*  
|                               |                               | • Chapter 11  
|                               |                               | “Understanding Institutions: Family”  
|                               |                               | *The Best American Short Stories 2018*  
|                               |                               | • “A Family” by Jamel Brinkley  
|                               |                               | *Optional*  
|                               |                               | • “Whose Heart I Long to Stop with the Click of a
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 10 (October 26 – October 30)</th>
<th>Who Benefits?: The Education System as a Social Institution</th>
<th>Reading: Sociology in Action</th>
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<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“Understanding Institutions: Education”</td>
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<td>The Best American Short Stories 2018</td>
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<td>“Good with Boys” by Kristen Iskandrian</td>
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<td>Due: Sunday, November 1</td>
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<td>• Quiz 8</td>
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<th>Week 11 (November 2 – November 6)</th>
<th>Medicalization and Illness: Understanding the Institution of Medicine</th>
<th>Reading: Sociology in Action</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Chapter 13</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“Experiencing Health, Illness, and Medical Care”</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Best American Short Stories 2018</td>
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<td>“The Art of Losing” by Yoon Choi</td>
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<td>“What Terrible Thing it Was” by Esmé Weijun Wang</td>
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<td>Due: Sunday, November 8</td>
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<td>• Discussion Board 3</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 12 (November 9 – November 13)</th>
<th>The Myth of Pluralism: Understanding</th>
<th>Reading: Sociology in Action</th>
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| Religion as a Social Institution | • Chapter 14 “Understanding Institutions: Religion”

*Him, Me, Muhammad Ali*

• “Lost in Freakin’ Yonkers” by Randa Jarrar *On Canvas*

**Due:**
**Sunday, November 15**
• Quiz 9

| Week 13 (November 16 – November 20) | Environment, Climate Change, and International Migration: A Sociological Perspective | **Reading:**

*Sociology in Action*

• Chapter 15 “Saving the Environment”

*The Best American Short Stories Collection*

• “Everything is Far From Here” by Cristina Henríquez

**Due:**
**Sunday, November 22**
• Quiz 10

| Week 14 (November 23 – November 27) | Thanksgiving Holiday
Nothing due for this week.

| Week 15 (November 30 – December 4) |

*Extra Credit opportunity opens Monday, November 30, at 8:00am*

| Collective Behavior and Social Movements: How to Mobilize and the Effects of Mobilization | **Reading:**

*Sociology in Action*

• Chapter 16 “Changing Society through Social Movements”

*The Outlaw Bible of American Literature*

• Excerpt from “N****r” an autobiography by Dick Gregory *On Canvas*

**Due:**
**Friday, December 4**

Short Story Extra Credit

**Sunday, December 6**
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Quiz 11</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finals Week (December 7 – December 11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due: Wednesday, December 9</td>
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