INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

SYG1000, SECTION 02
FALL 2020

Instructor: Rachel Douglas
Email: radouglas@fsu.edu
Office Hours: Mondays 9am-10am
And by appointment

Online Mentor: Nacia Goldberg
Email: nrg16@my.fsu.edu

LIBERAL STUDIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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 engage critically and effectively in their communities. In this way your Liberal Studies courses provide a comprehensive intellectual foundation and transformative educational experience. This course has been approved as meeting the Liberal Studies requirements for Social Sciences and thus is designed to help you become a critical analyst of theories and evidence about social forces and social experiences.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology is the systematic study of human behavior, culture, and society. This course provides an overview of the fundamentals of sociology, including sociological theories, research methodologies, and the social structures of gender and sexuality, race/ethnicity, social class, politics, and social institutions. We explore the relationship between micro-level and macro-level social processes and the consequences of the social construction of difference – uncovering how inequalities are embedded within many aspects of social life. Students will develop a sociological imagination to critically evaluate how individuals’ experiences intertwine with their social worlds in ways that affect their life chances. My goal as an instructor is to encourage sociological thinking and demonstrate how a multitude of social problems reflect and contribute to systems of oppression.
COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will demonstrate the ability to:

- Discuss the role of social/historical factors in contemporary problems.
- Analyze claims about social/historical phenomena.
- Actively engage in thoughtful discussions about sociological topics, including inequalities, social interaction, and the environment.
- Adopt an open awareness and appreciation for the sociological approaches used to help understand the world around us.
- Create an empirically grounded sociological imagination to more insightfully examine the relationship between social structures and individual behavior.
- Independently assess sociological topics through individual reading, research, and examination of sociological theories and frameworks.
- Compose written essays to support or dispute sociological concepts and ideas.
- Evaluate the social world and construct new ideas for social change.
- Interpret data and information as presented (e.g., in tables, graphs, and charts).

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

3. Additional readings and films on Canvas.

CLASS FORMAT

Although this class will not meet face-to-face, you will connect with the instructor, online mentor, and other students over the semester. Within the first few days of class, I’ll have you post an online bio-sketch to get to know you.

The instructor and online mentor will be available through email. Each week, you will receive emails and announcements that provide details about assignments. When you contact us, you should expect a response to your emails within a 24 – 48-hour period (excluding holidays and weekends). In lieu of lectures, I will provide notes or PowerPoints to accompany the assigned readings. Please note that you are responsible for checking the course website at least twice a week. I'll post updates under "Announcements" and within course modules.

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

You must be able to access the internet, read PDF documents, view streaming audio and video, and use basic word processing and spreadsheets. If you do not have a high-speed internet connection at home, you need to set aside time in your schedule to access the online material from a computer with a sufficient connection speed.
COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

ONLINE BIO (2 POINTS EXTRA CREDIT)
So that we can get to know a bit about you, you will create a short bio to post on canvas. Check the course modules for directions. The bio will count as your first-day attendance assignment. Please be sure to make this post so that you are not dropped from the course!

DISCUSSION BOARD (50 POINTS)
Discussion Boards: (10%) We will have 2 online discussions over the course of the semester. Your posting will be in response to a question about a film or reading and should be 2-3 paragraphs long (equivalent to a 1-page single-spaced paper) and include the use of research concepts and ideas found in our textbook that are relevant to the discussion question’s subject matter. In addition to the original comment that you post, you will respond to one other student’s original post with a 1-2 paragraph response so that you can engage in a short dialogue with each other. Our class will be divided into smaller groups for the discussions, and you will be required to make your posts within a set amount of time. See the course calendar for due dates. Initial discussion board posts are due Thursdays at 11:59 pm, and your response post is due 24 hours later, by Friday at 11:59 pm.

The Initial Post will be graded with these 5 questions and criteria in mind: Did you answer the question accurately? Did you use concepts from the readings and clearly define them in your own words and unpack their nuances or variations? Did you go beyond the surface and demonstrate mastery of the material? Is your initial post at least two (real) paragraphs long? Is your post detailed and well written? (15 points)

The Response Post will be graded with these 5 questions and criteria in mind: Did you respond thoughtfully and add something to the discussion (rather than just affirm or reword what someone else wrote)? Did you incorporate ideas and concepts from the reading? Did you go beyond the surface to demonstrate mastery of the material? Did you post a response that was at least one paragraph long? Is your responses detailed and well-written? (10 points)

ASSIGNMENTS (50 POINTS)
- Reflection Papers (10%): These 2-page (double-spaced) papers are due on the dates noted on the syllabus schedule. I will post articles for you to read on canvas. You will summarize each article in 1 page (double-spaced) and reflect on what you read in 1 page (double-spaced). To promote critical thinking, at the end of page 2, I would like you to come up with 1 discussion question. These questions can be general in nature about the article, or you can connect the topic to current events or something else we read. One of your reflection papers is entitled a “journal article paper.” For this particular paper, choose any topic covered in the course that interests you, and find 1 “peer reviewed” academic journal article using FSU libraries “One Search” online database. Similar to your other papers, summarize the article you find in 1 page (double-spaced) and reflect on the article’s findings in 1 page (double-spaced). I will provide detailed directions on how to find these peer-reviewed journal articles.
**EXAMS**

- Exams (80%): Each exam is worth 20% of your grade and may consist of multiple choice, true/false, and 1 short essay question. The exams cover the readings, class discussions, and videos. The material covered on each exam is not cumulative. I will open up the exams in the morning on the day they are due, and you will have until 11:59pm that night to complete your exams.
- Exams are open book and open notes, but they will be timed to last for 60 minutes, so you will not do well on the exam without having read and studied the material first. Make sure that you are fully prepared and have done all the readings prior to taking the exam. If you run out of time, the exam grade will be based on the work completed. If you find yourself continually referring to your notes or book during an exam, this is an indication that you may not have studied thoroughly enough. So please prepare accordingly! Links to each exam will be posted on the course Canvas site. You must complete the exam in one sitting, and you must work alone. Multiple attempts are not allowed.

**GRADING**

**GRADE CALCULATION**

Assignments, Reflection Papers .......................................................... [10%] 50 points
Discussion Boards ............................................................................... [10%] 50 points
Exams ............................................................................................... [80%] 400 points

**LATE ASSIGNMENT/EXAM POLICY**

If you do not have an excused absence, late assignments will be lowered 3 points per day for each day they are late. Papers and discussion boards will be lowered 5 points per day for each day they are late. Exams will be lowered by 10 points per day.

**UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

**FINAL GRADES**

The grading scale is as follows:

- A 93 – 100
- A- 90 – 92.99
- B+ 87 – 89.99
- B 83 – 86.99
- B- 80 – 82.99
- C+ 77 – 79.99
- C 73 – 76.99
- C- 70 – 72.99
- D+ 67 – 69.99
- D 63 – 66.99
- D- 60 – 62.99
- F Below 60
**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics to be Covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (August 24)</td>
<td>Read Chapter 1 Sociological Theory, <strong>Personal Bio due by Wednesday, August 26th at 11:59pm to avoid being dropped (Check Announcements)!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (August 31)</td>
<td>Read Chapter 2 Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3 (September 7)| Read Chapter 3 Culture, Read Chapter 4 Socialization  
*Discussion Board: Initial Post due by Thursday at 11:59 pm, Response Post due by Friday at 11:59 pm* |
| 4 (September 14)| Read Chapter 5 Social Interaction  
*Reflection paper due by Thursday at 11:59 pm*                                               |
| 5 (September 21)| Read Chapter 6 Groups **Exam 1 (Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 discussions, readings, videos) Take on Thursday, September 24th by 11:59 pm**   |
| 6 (September 28)| Read Chapter 7 Deviance, Read Chapter 8 Class                                                                                                          |
| 7 (October 5)| Read Chapter 10 Gender  
*Reflection paper due by Thursday at 11:59 pm*                                                 |
| 8 (October 12)| Read Chapter 11 Race **Exam 2 (Ch. 6, 7, 8, 10 discussions, readings, videos) Take on Thursday, October 15th by 11:59 pm,**                   |
| 9 (October 19)| Read Chapter 12 Aging  
*Reflection paper due by Thursday at 11:59 pm*                                                 |
| 10 (October 26)| Read Chapter 13 Social Movements & Politics  
*Discussion Board: Initial Post due by Thursday at 11:59 pm, Response Post due by Friday at 11:59pm*   |
| 11 (November 2)| Read Chapter 15 Intimate Relationships                                                                                                               |
| 12 (November 9)| Read Chapter 16 Education **Exam 3 (Ch. 11, 12, 13, 15 discussions, readings, videos) Take on Thursday, November 12th by 11:59 pm**      |
| 13 (November 16)| Read Chapter 18 Health & Sexuality  
Read Chapter 19 Environmental Sociology  
*Journal article paper due by Thursday at 11:59 pm*                                           |
| 14 (November 23)| Read: The End of Animal Farming (Chapters 1-5)                                                                                                          |
| 15 (November 30)| December 4-**Last Day of Classes**  
Read: The End of Animal Farming (Chapters 6-9)  
*Reflection paper due by Thursday at 11:59 pm*                                                   |
| 16 (December 7)| **Final Exam: Exam 4 (Ch. 16, 18, 19 discussions, readings, videos) Take on Tuesday, December 8th by 11:59 pm** |
UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy.)

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative formats upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the: Student Disability Resource Center 874 Traditions Way 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/

FREE TUTORING FROM FSU
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 at http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring or 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.

INCOMPLETE GRADES
Incomplete (“I”) grades will not be assigned, except in the case of exceptional unforeseen circumstances that occur within the last three weeks of the semester and your work has otherwise been satisfactory (C average).

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.