Florida State University  
SYG 1000 (Cohorts) – Introduction to Sociology  
Fall 2020  
Online Asynchronous

**Instructor:** Dr. Gloria Lessan  
**E-mail:** glessan@fsu.edu (Contact me via email only)

**Office Hours (Zoom):** Wed. 12pm – 1:15pm  
**Phone:** (850) 644-6416 (Sociology Dept.)

*Zoom meetings are optional. Yet I will use them to review course materials. Zoom reviews will be recorded.*

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**Teacher Assistants**  
**E-mail**  
**Office Hours**

Kristen Amaya  
kma14d@my.fsu.edu  
TBA

Metin Guven  
mg18k@my.fsu.edu  
TBA

Jordan Scott  
jws20ej@my.fsu.edu  
TBA

**NOTE:** All communication in this will ONLY be done via FSU email. Communication in Canvas is NOT supported.

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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 requirements and thus is designed to help you become a critical appraiser of social science theories and the facts that support them.

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Sociology is the scientific and systematic study of human associations called societies; it is an understanding of how these associations are organized and the reasons for their formation. Sociology examines how we and others create and change the world in which we live as well as how we are influenced and changed by the society around us.

This course is an overview of the fundamentals of sociology, theories and methodologies; basic concepts, such as status, roles and groups; and research on structures of gender, race/ethnicity, social class, and social institutions, such as the family, education and religion. As students learn about the above issues they will develop a sociological imagination to critically evaluate how
their personal lives intertwine with the history of the society in which they live in ways that affect their life chances and their lifestyles.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Identify, define, and illustrate basic sociological concepts, including the dominant theoretical perspectives and major research methods used in sociological research.
2. Apply these sociological concepts and theoretical frameworks to personal experiences, popular media, and current events in order to recognize the difference between sociological reasoning and personal opinion.
3. Articulate the strengths and limitations of competing sociological theories and research methodologies.
4. Critically examine, interpret, and explain how structures of inequality shape the past and present lives of gender, racial/ethnic, and class groups.
5. Critically examine, interpret, and explain how large-scale social institutions such as the family, economy, education, work, politics, and religion shape our lives and the social world in which we live.
6. Critically examine, interpret, and explain how our lives and the decisions individuals and groups make change the large-scale social institutions such as the family, economy, education, work, politics, and religion.
7. Synthesize and report on widely accepted sociological research findings to evaluate causal arguments and analyze assertions and assumptions about social issues in terms of their explanatory evidence.
8. Gather and analyze data from appropriate online databases for the social sciences to critically evaluate assertions on key sociological issues.

NOTE: Please note that there are three Teaching Assistants for the course: Kristen Amaya, Metin Guven, and Jordan Scott. Information regarding email address and office hours for each of them is listed above. Your TAs will hold Zoom office hours and grade students work. You will know your TA by navigating to the People tab on Canvas and finding your name in one of the three groups. Your mentor will show in your group on Canvas. Please contact your mentor or myself for any questions on the course materials or attend your mentor’s (or my) Zoom office hours.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required texts:

- Supplemental Readings marked with * are posted on your course Canvas Modules/Course Topics for a specific exam as PowerPoint slides (Pp), Journal articles, or Word documents

Supplemental readings are organized by the topic under discussion in the Course Outline below.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION
Study-Guide Questions
All assigned readings and lectures are potential exam materials. To facilitate the learning process, you will be given a set of study-guide questions to work on before each test. There are four study-guide questions (one for each exam). **Answer these questions in your own words and cover all parts of each question. Do not google or copy-and-paste answers from sources other than your own brain. Answering in your own words will help you understand the material and thus, meet the course objectives.**

The questions are in essay format, cover the materials from different angles, relate issues in a way that complement the text, and hopefully, enable you to grow a sociological imagination. **The study guide is NOT a contract that defines the exam!**

**Only** the answers to each study-guide will be submitted on Canvas Turnitin before or on the due date indicated in the Course Schedule below. The submission site is available in Canvas Assignments for the specific period of the semester since publication of the study guide. Do not wait until the eve of the due date to answer the study-guide questions and to submit the work. It will be a stressful day and evening. In fact, answer the study guide questions according to the scheduled dates for each topic; this means each week for several hours.

Each study guide is worth 10% or a total of 40% contribution to the final grade. The grade for the study guide will be based on:

1. Timely submittal and full/correct/complete original answers (in your own words) of each and every question (100% or 10 points)
2. Correct original answer to each and all questions BUT one day delay* (90% or 9 points); each delay is 10% penalty per day
3. Meets criterion 1 BUT work has spelling/grammar problems and/or misses no more than 10% of the questions (80% or 8.0 points)
4. Timely upload, correct original answers BUT misses 20-35% of the questions (6-7 points).
5. Timely submittal, correct answers BUT misses over 35% of the questions (1-5 points)
6. Failure to submit (0%)

The grade for the study guide will be posted on your canvas gradebook on scale of 0-100. Expect 1-2 weeks for the TA to post the grade. See policy on late work below (pg.6). *

Exams
The course has four exams; three during the semester and a final test given during the FSU final examination week. The dates for each exam are listed in the class schedule below. The formats of the questions are multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and true-false.

About one week preceding the test date and up to the eve before the test time/date, there will be an opportunity to review the material via an open-book **bogus test** posted on the course Canvas. The bogus test enables you to conduct a self-evaluation and assess your readiness for the test. Your answers to the bogus test have a limited time for completion (60 minutes). The bogus test will earn you 0-5 extra-credit points proportional to the number of correct answers; this score will be added to your upcoming exam score. The bogus test cannot be made up unless you are
representing FSU on an off-campus event and with the proper documentation to legitimate the missing of the bogus test during the time of its availability). Hence, it is to your advantage to be updated with the reading materials and to keep track of relevant dates (exams and bogus tests). Otherwise, you will miss the opportunity to earn the extra credit from the bogus test or lose time trying to find the answer to a question as you spend time flipping pages from one reading to another.

The first three exams cover material discussed in the immediately preceding units. The final exam includes material that is not already evaluated plus the basic tenets and proponents of dominant sociological theories, comparison among theories, and strengths and weaknesses of each to explain society.

The four exams constitute 60% of the final grade; each is worth 15%. As stated above, all work is graded on a scale of 0-100. Your score on each test, thus, will be multiplied by 0.125 to compute its respective contribution to the final grade.

Below is the equivalence between numeric and letter grades that will be used to record your grade in the course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numeric Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent, creative and superb command of the subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-94</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Creative and outstanding command of the subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Above average level but not outstanding grasp of the material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Above average but thin understanding of some readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-83</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>Above average but misses some parts of the readings and thus is unable to apply subject matter at all levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Average level of achievement with some mastering yet narrow application of the material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-76</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Average level of achievement; refers to the readings in a superficial way suggesting spotty understanding of the material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-73</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>Close to average due to spotty understanding of the material and inability to apply readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>Below average understanding, showing little knowledge of the material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64-66</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Below average level with multiple contradictory arguments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-63</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>Below average understanding thus failure to apply readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fails to understand and address the readings on the subject matter</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
When scores include decimals, the rule is to round up from .45 and above; and to round down from .44 and below.

Grades throughout the semester will be posted in the SYG 1000 cohort course site in Canvas. Check this site on a regular basis and notify the TA of any problems regarding your grades as soon as these are posted.

As a general rule talk to your TA or me when you need help. Do so immediately, preferably via email or in my Zoom office hours during the semester. Do not wait to contact us until the last two weeks of the semester. Practically, doing so around or after THANKSGIVING is TOO LATE!

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.

UNEXCUSED MISSED COURSEWORK
Missed assignments will be accepted IF and ONLY IF there is a legitimate reason (appropriate documentation is required as indicated below) for missing to turn in the assignment on the due date. It is your responsibility to turn in the assessment on the due date along with the proper documentation; failure to turn in appropriate documentation incurs in non-acceptance of your assignment.

Midterm makeup exams will be given IF and ONLY IF there is a legitimate reason (appropriate documentation is required) for missing the test. It is your responsibility to notify me and the TA why you are not taking the test. Do so prior to, on, or immediately after the exam date.

In order to justify the absence from a test, students need to show documentation of its reason. This may include an obituary, court order, doctor-signed prescription/bill, or a document from an agency signed by a legitimate authority that fully describes the emergency causing the student’s missing the test. Turn in this documentation to the TA before taking the makeup exam. Contact the TA to learn about the date, time, and location of the makeup exam. The makeup exam may have a different format from the original i.e., essay questions.

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.)

ADA STATEMENT
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. This should be done during the first week of class. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format 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 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.

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).

STUDENT CONDUCT
My many years of college experience, both as student and instructor, have shown me that for the most part students are bright, good-natured and amiable toward others. In general you are expected to comply with the FSU Code of Conduct at all time while participating in FSU-related activities. Your behavior during class should be courteous, respectful and professional. In a nutshell, anyone who ignores my authority to protect the integrity of the classroom will be asked to cease his/her disruptive behavior, may be asked to leave the classroom, and/or drop the course.

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

See more detailed information on FSY student conduct policy: http://e-soc.net/

SEXUAL HARRASSMENT POLICY
It is the policy of the University that its employees and students neither commit nor condone sexual harassment in any form.  http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/grad/info/university_notices.htm

COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Dates</th>
<th>Topics (with assigned readings)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology: Theory, Research, Culture, and Structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 24-Sep.2</td>
<td>First Day Attendance Policy, Theories of Society</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
R&WM. Ch. 1, Ch. 2; 
*Readings: “Assumptions, Arguments and Evaluation of Sociological Theories” WORD.doc; “Comparison among Sociological Theories” WORD.doc

3-4
Sep.3-17 Asking and Answering Sociological Questions
R&WM. Ch. 3.
*Advantages and Disadvantages of Data Gathering Techniques as WORD.doc; Pp “Scientific Method”

4-5
Sep.18-29 Culture and Structure
R&WM. Ch. 4, Ch. 5 pp: 123-124
*Synoptic Chart of Societal Culture-and–Structure Elements

5
9/25-29 Bogus Test #1 posted on Canvas
9/29 Submit Answers to Study-Guide Questions on Turnitin
9/30 Exam #1 online in Canvas Quizzes. Test is available on 9/30, 12AM - 11:59 PM

5-6 The Individual and Society
Oct 1-10 Groups, Networks and Organizations
R&WM. Ch5, pp: 125-128, Ch. 6;
*Readings: “Groups” WORD.; “Bureaucracies” (PP)

6-7 Socialization
Oct. 11-18
R&WM. Ch. 5.
CM *Theories of socialization” as WORD.doc and PowerPoint

7-10 Structures of Power
Oct.19- 24 Structural Inequality: Class, Gender, Race/Ethnicity
M. Ch.10,11,13; 14 CM *“Social Stratification and Poverty: Theory and Research” as WORD.doc

10-11 Bogus Test #2 on Canvas Bogus Tests
10/28 Submit Answers to Study-Guide Questions #2 on Turnitin
10/29 Test #2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Chapter/Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Deviance and Crime</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deviance and Crime Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R&amp;WM. Ch. 7;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Crime Statistics and Etiology of Deviance/Crime</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* “Measurement of Crime Type I” as WORD.doc,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Bogus Test #3 on Canvas Bogus Tests (online)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Submit Answers of Study-Guide Question #3 on Turnitin</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Social Institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>The Family and Intimate Relationships</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R&amp;WM. Ch. 12;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Readings: “Family Patterns,” (PP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Education and Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R&amp;WM. Ch. 13, 14;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Readings: “Family Patterns,” (PP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Bogus Test # 4 on Canvas Bogus Tests (online)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Submit Answers of Study-Guide Answer#4 on Turnitin</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exam or Test #4</td>
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