Sociology of Education  
(SYO4250)

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Course Description
Social science courses should help us gain a deeper understanding of the social world in which we live.  
Sociologists who study education use various theories and methodologies in order to understand the relationship between schools and society. Accordingly, this course will examine the impact of education as a social institution from a sociological perspective. The course will begin by discussing the history and goals of education, as well as the ways in which sociologists have sought to understand this institution. We will then examine important topics including educational inequality, the dynamics of race, class, and gender in education, school choice, and higher education. This course will require a substantial amount of reading, online assignments, group work, and a research paper.

Course Objectives
1. develop a sociological imagination and adopt a sociological perspective.  
2. define the key questions that have motivated the bulk of sociological research on education.  
3. summarize ongoing debates in the sociology of education.  
4. apply key concepts in the sociology of education literature to current educational issues.  
5. apply a critical awareness of the effect of structural and cultural factors on individual student educational experiences

Student Responsibilities
- Students should log on to Canvas at least every other day to check for course updates.  
- Students are expected to keep up with the class, engage with the course material, and submit assignments by the due dates.  
- Assignments, quizzes, and exams are expected to be products of individual students per the FSU Academic Honor Policy. Students should not discuss any of the questions with each other before or during the actual assignments, activities, quizzes, or exams without instructor approval.  
- To receive maximum points for questions, students need to follow the instructions carefully, follow word limits as instructed, and use spell and grammar checking.  
- To be successful in this course, students need to complete all required assignments and tests.

Required Reading
This is a seminar/discussion course in which you will read, evaluate and discuss scholarly and popular works on a wide variety of topics. Each week before class, you should read, watch, or listen to the assigned material and be ready to critically discuss the assigned materials during class. Assignments/readings are listed on the course calendar. The required text may be supplemented with links or PDFs, made available on Canvas.

Required Textbook

Course Requirements
Your grade is based on the quality of your performance with respect to the course assignments and responsibilities. The allocation of points is as follows:

1. Participation (12 of 15) = 10% Weekly participation is required. Students will be asked to submit weekly assignments (a “weekly exercise”) worth points toward the participation category. Missed
exercises cannot be made up; instead, I offer more than 15 opportunities during the semester (once each week). Twelve are required to receive full credit for the participation category.

2. **Quizzes (8) = 15%**. You will be able to find the answers to each of the quiz questions using the required text and assigned materials. You will be given one hour to take the quiz. You should complete all assigned readings prior to taking the quiz and then utilize the entire hour to answer and verify your quiz responses. *Missed quizzes may be made up only when students meet the makeup work requirements as outlined in this syllabus. Documentation must be provided, and the work must be completed within two weeks of the quiz deadline. There are no exceptions to this policy.*

3. **Course Paper (1) = 15%**. A formal course paper will be required for this assignment. Detailed instructions are posted on the canvas. Course papers are due at the end of the semester. To meet grade submission deadlines, late papers will not be accepted.

4. **Discussion Boards (3) = 30%**. Each student is expected to post a 200-500 word position statement (a formal essay) in response to the topic and post two 75-200 word replies to other students’ position statement postings. Positions must include a citation to the assigned discussion board materials and each post must include a word count. Based on your posts’ quality and relevance, you may earn a possible 10 points for your contribution in each group discussion. There will be no credit given for late postings, non-academic discourse, or other inappropriate postings. Remember, to receive full credit for each group discussion, you must post three (3) times: a minimum 200-word formal position statement (not opinion), with required citation and references, and at least two replies with a 75-word minimum. **There will be no credit given for late postings on the discussion board or non-academic discourse or other inappropriate responses.** *Missed discussion boards may be made up only when students meet the makeup work requirements as outlined in this syllabus. Documentation must be provided, and the work must be completed within two weeks of the assignment deadline. There are no exceptions to this policy.*

5. **Exams (2) = 30%**. Two 100-point exams consisting of 30 multiple-choice questions (worth 90 points) and two short answer essay questions (worth 5 points each).

Makeup work is accepted with documentation of an excused absence. Makeup work must be completed within 2 weeks of the assignment due date.

**Grading Summary**
- Quizzes (8): 15%
- Participation (12 of 15): 10%
- Course Paper (1): 15%
- Discussion Boards (3): 30%
- Exams (2): 30%

**Grading Scale**
- A: 94-100; A−: 90-93; B+: 87-89; B: 84-86; B−: 80-83; C+: 77-79; C: 74-76; C−: 70-73; D+: 67-69; D: 64-66; D−: 60-63; F: 0-59

Student weighted course grades will be rounded to the nearest whole number. For example, a 74.4 score rounds down to a 74. A 74.5 rounds up to a 75.

**Attendance and Makeup Policy**
Attendance will not be graded, and zoom meetings are optional. 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. Makeup work is accepted with documentation of an excused absence. Makeup work must be completed within 2 weeks of the assignment due date.

**Policy for Weekly Exercises/Participation**
**Weekly participation is required.** Students will be asked to submit weekly assignments (a “weekly exercise”) worth points toward the participation category. Missed exercises cannot be made up; instead, I offer more than 15 opportunities during the semester (once each week). Twelve are required to receive full credit for the participation category.
**Zoom**
We will not have zoom lectures. I will hold weekly open office hours via zoom. If you have questions about the material or assignments, feel free to join the zoom.

**Policy for Missed Exams, Quizzes, And Discussion Boards**
Missed quizzes and discussion boards may be made up only when students meet the makeup work requirements outlined in this syllabus. Documentation must be provided, and the work must be completed within two weeks of the assignment deadline. There are no exceptions to this policy.

**Policy for Course Paper**
Course papers are due at the end of the semester. To meet grade submission deadlines, late papers will not be accepted.

**Policy On Responding To Students**
- The Instructor and Teaching Assistant typically respond to emails within 24 to 48 hours - Monday through Friday.
- Graded assignments are typically returned within 2 weeks after the due date.

**Classroom Courtesy and Discourse**
Although this semester will be largely asynchronous interaction through board posts and weekly written exercises, it is important that you read, watch, and listen to the assigned material so that you will be ready to engage the material critically. Assigned readings are listed on the Course Calendar and can be found on the course website. Meaningful and constructive dialogue is encouraged in this class. This necessitates a degree of mutual respect, willingness to listen, and tolerance of opposing points of view. Respect for individual differences and alternative viewpoints will be maintained at all times in this class. One’s words and use of language should be temperate and within acceptable bounds of civility and decency, regardless of the subject under discussion.

**For Discussions:**
- Please use polite, respectful behavior when posting your responses to prompts in the Discussion Boards.
- Be mindful of how you express your emotions and humor and be sensitive to the cultural and ability differences of your online peers.
- Keep postings to the point, and make sure your comments are relevant to the topic of discussion.
- Avoid messages such as, "Wow," "Way to go," or "Ditto," and aim for comments that validate other members’ ideas through careful explanation of why.
- When replying, give a short description in the subject line of what you are replying to, and use correct punctuation and spelling throughout your post.

**For Email Communication**
Students must use an FSU email address for course correspondence. It is critical to remember that E-mail is a professional communication and becomes part of your student record. (Ask yourself whether you would be comfortable if someone other than the intended receiver were to read your message. Remember, email is not a completely secure form of communication.)
E-mails should include the following information:
- the course name (I teach several classes each semester, so be sure to include the course and section),
- who you are addressing ("Hey" is not an appropriate greeting),
- the question, and
- your name.
Incomplete Grades

Missing work or uncompleted assignments are insufficient reasons for a grade of Incomplete. An Incomplete grade will not be given except under extenuating circumstances at the instructor’s discretion. Note that the College of Social Science guidelines require that students seeking an “I” must be passing the course.

Academic Honor Policy

Students are expected to abide by the Academic Honor Policy of the Florida State University, including the statement on Values and Moral Standards published in The Florida State University General Bulletin. The Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of these expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty throughout the process. Please see the following website for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Policy: http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/honorpolicy.htm

Course Collaboration Policy

You are encouraged to study with your peers to understand course concepts. However, for graded assignments, you must work on them without help from others. Students are not allowed to work together or use online resources when completing graded assignments unless otherwise approved by the instructor. This includes things like GroupMe, Facebook groups, Quizlet, etc. Unsanctioned course collaboration may result in a score of zero for an assignment OR a failing course grade, at the instructor’s discretion. See the Academic Honor Policy for more information.

Academic Dishonesty

Students must abide by the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a “zero” for that particular assignment or an “F” for the course, at the instructor’s discretion. Any student who plagiarizes, cheats on exams, or otherwise behaves in a dishonest way may be reported to the university administration for further disciplinary action as specified in the Academic Honor Policy (http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/formshonorpolicy.pdf).

Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (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. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities visit http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/.

Religious Holidays

Students are allowed to miss class due to observance of religious holidays, but they are still responsible for all materials assigned outside of and covered in class on the day(s) missed. You must talk with your instructor in advance of missing a class for religious holiday observance reasons.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus and course calendar are guides for the course and are subject to change with notice.