

This is a sample syllabus for SYG1000. Students should reference the section syllabus provided at the beginning of the semester for specifics regarding assignments and grade assignments.



Florida State University
SYG 1000 Introduction to Sociology

Instructor:	E-mail:
Office:	Phone:
Office Hours:	

Teacher Assistant:	E-mail:
Office:	Office Hours:
You can communicate with the TA from the course Canvas	

The Liberal Studies for the 21st Century Program at Florida State University builds an educational foundation that will enable FSU graduate 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.

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 we live in.
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.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required texts:

- ✚ Macionis, John J. 2017. *Sociology*. (16th edition). New York: Pearson Education, Inc. (This book is referred in the class schedule as M.)
- ✚ Supplemental Readings marked with * are posted on your course Canvas Modules /Course Library for a specific exam as PowerPoint slides (Pp) or Word documents.

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

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Attendance

Lectures are organized and presented around the required readings for a specific topic. **You are responsible for completing the scheduled readings prior to coming to class. Attendance will be recorded for every meeting.** It is imperative that you keep updated with the class readings, attend every class in order to keep up with what is being discussed in class, and to ask questions about any aspects of the material you would like to clarify or discuss further. It is during these class discussions that you will practice and hone your **sociological imagination**.

All absences require proper documentation to be deemed legitimately excused and recorded as attendance. Perfect attendance will earn you 10% of the grade. Three unexcused absences will earn you 7.5%; but, **FOUR** unexcused absences entail Zero points for attendance!

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, cover all parts of each question, and submit the answers on Canvas Assignments on the dates indicated in the Course Schedule below.** Doing so 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 develop a sociological imagination. Use the class time and office hours to talk to me and the TA about your progress in answering the questions and preparing for the upcoming test. The study guide is NOT a contract that defines the exam!

As stated above, the answers to each study-guide will be submitted on Canvas Assignments by the due dates/times indicated in the Course Outline/Schedule below. The Assignments site for the specific study guide will be posted in Bb/Assignments for the corresponding exam period in the semester. Do not wait until the eve of the due date to answer the study-guide questions and to submit the work.

Each study guide is worth five percent or a total of 20% contribution to the final grade. The grade for the study guide will be based on:

1. Timely submittal, and complete, and correct* answers stated in your own words for each and all questions (5points or 100%);
2. Correct, complete, and original (in your own words) answer of each and all questions BUT one-day delay (4 points or 80%);
3. Meets timely submittal BUT work has 1-3 incorrect answers, minor spelling/grammar problems, and/or misses fewer than 10% of answers (3 points or 60%)
4. Timely upload, correct original answers BUT Incomplete (2.5 points or 50%).
5. Meets criterion 1 BUT two-to-three-day delay (2 points or 40%)
6. Meets criterion 1 BUT 4-5 days late (1 point or 20%)
7. Failure to submit (0%)

*One in every four students will have their work checked for correct answers due to the large class size. By the end of the semester, however all students will have one study-guide checked for correctness. See policy on late work below. *

Written Assignment

There is ONE written assignment in the semester. Given the size of the class, students will be randomly assigned to three groups; each group will submit on Canvas Assignment at same due date a different yet comparable topic. The assignment involves an analysis of data regarding social issues using sociological arguments presented in class and three outside legitimate sources. The references could be government agencies (US Census), research centers (Pew Research Center reports), journal articles such as *Social Forces*, and/or credited newspapers such as The New York Times.

The instructions, content, due date, and grading rubric for the assignment will be given on a separate handout. The assignment contributes with 20% of the final grade.

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, true-false, and vocabulary-matching.

About one week preceding the test date and up to one hour 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 Quizzes. The bogus test enables you to perform a self-evaluation and assess your readiness for the test. Your answers to the bogus test have a limited time for completion (75 minutes), earn you 0-5 points proportional to the number of correct answers that will be added to your upcoming exam. The bogus test cannot be made up unless you are representing FSU on an off-campus event (proper documentation is required to certify missing the bogus test during the week of its availability). Thus, it is to your advantage to attend every class, be up to date with the reading materials, and keep track of relevant dates (exams and bogus tests). Otherwise, you will miss the opportunity to earn extra credit 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 or fourth 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 50% of the final grade; each is worth 12.5%. 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

95-100	A	Excellent, creative and superb command of the subject matter
90-94	A-	Creative and outstanding command of the subject matter
87-89	B+	Above average level but not outstanding grasp of the material
84-86	B	Above average but thin understanding of some readings
80-83	B-	Above average but misses some parts of the readings and thus is unable to apply subject matter at all levels
77-79	C+	Average level of achievement with some mastering yet narrow application of the material
74-76	C	Average level of achievement; refers to the readings in a superficial way suggesting spotty understanding of the material
70-73	C-	Close to average due to spotty understanding of the material and inability to apply readings

67-69	D+	Below average understanding, showing little knowledge of the material
64-66	D	Below average level with multiple contradictory arguments
60-63	D-	Below average understanding thus failure to apply readings
59 and below	F	Fails to understand and address the readings on the subject matter

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 1000-001 Canvas Grades. Check this site on a regular basis and notify the TAs or me of any problems regarding your grades as soon as these are posted.

As a general rule talk to me when you need help. Do so immediately; to do so at the end of the semester it is TOO LATE!

COURSE OUTLINE/SCHEDULE

Modules/Week/Dates	Topics (with assigned readings)
Module 1 1- 2	Foundations of Sociology: Theory and Research First Day Attendance Policy, Theories of Society M. Ch. 1, Ch. 4, Ch.6 pp: 140-156; *Readings: “Assumptions, Arguments and Evaluation of Sociological Theories” WORD.doc; “Comparison among Sociological Theories” WORD.doc
Module 2 2-3	Asking and Answering Sociological Questions M. Ch. 2. *Readings: “Advantages and Disadvantages of Data Gathering Techniques” as WORD.doc; Pp “Scientific Method”
Module 3 3-4	Foundations of Society: Culture, Structure, and Daily Interactions Culture and Structure M. Ch. 3, Ch. 6 pp: 136-140 *Readings: “Synoptic Chart of Societal Culture-and–Structure Elements”
4	Bogus Test #1 on Canvas Quizzes/Bogus Tests. Site closes on ____ Submit Answers to Study-Guide Questions #1 on Canvas Assignments assign by 11:59PM
	Exam #1 in classroom
Module 4 5-6	The Individual and Society Socialization and the Life Cycle

M. Ch. 5, Ch. Pp: 184-196, 199-208;
*Readings: “Theories of socialization” as WORD.doc and “The Love Attitudes Scale” (PP)

**Module 5
6-7**

Groups, Networks and Organizations

M. Ch. 7;
*Readings: “Groups” WORD.; “Bureaucracies” (PP)

**Module 6
8-9**

Deviance

*Readings: “Measurement of Crime Type I” as WORD.doc; “Deviance” (PP)

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Bogus Test #2 on Canvas Quizzes/Bogus Test #2. Site closes on ___,11:59 PM Submit Answers to Study-Guide Questions #2 on Canvas Assignments by 11:59 PM

Exam #2 in classroom

10

**Module 7
11-12**

**Structures of Inequality
Stratification and Social Class**

M. Ch. 10 and 11;
*Readings: “Social Stratification and Poverty: Theory and Research” as WORD.doc

**Module 8
12-13**

Gender Inequality

M. Ch. 13;

**Module 9
13-14**

Inequalities by Race and Ethnicity

M. Ch.14

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Submit Written Portfolio on Turnitin on or before ___ 11:59 PM

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Bogus Test #3 on Canvas Quizzes/Bogus Test#3. Site closes on ___ Submit Answers of Study-Guide Question #3 on Canvas Assignments by 11:59 PM

Exam #3 in classroom

Module 10
15

Social Institutions
The Economy and Work

M. Ch. 16, pp: 408-421;

Module 11
15

The Family and Intimate Relationships

M. Ch. 18;

*Readings: "Family Patterns," (PP)

Module 12
16

Religion and Education

M. Ch. 19, pp: 482-489, 497-500, Ch. 20, pp: 514-522;

*Readings: "Social Institutions" (PP)

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Bogus Test #4 on Canvas Quizzes/Bogus Test#4. Site closes on ___ Submit Answers of Study-Guide Questions#4 on Canvas Assignments by 11:59 PM

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Final Exam or Exam #4 in classroom

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.

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.

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 ABSENCES*

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 date you resume class attendance 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.

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.

<http://e-soc.net/>

All electronic devices not needed for the class are to be turned off BEFORE entering the classroom

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

SAMPLE