

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
SYG1000, Section 3; Summer 2004, Session B

Instructor: Melissa Barnett
Room: Bellamy 105A
Meeting Time: **12:30pm - 1:45pm**
(It's not to your advantage to be late!
See 'Weekly Pop Quizzes' below)

Office: 265 Pepper Center
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs., 10-11:30
(and by appointment, only if you cannot
make it to office hours)
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REQUIRED TEXTS & READINGS:

1. Newman, David M. 2004. *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life* (5th edition). Pine Forge Press.
2. Charon, Joel M. 2004. *Ten Questions: A Sociological Perspective* (5th edition). Wadsworth / Thomson Learning.
3. Additional readings are available via Strozier's e-reserve site <<http://eres.lib.fsu.edu/courseindex.asp>> or at Strozier's reserves desk (see 'Scheduled Class Readings' below for more detailed information). 1). Access articles via the above URL using my last name or the class prefix. The password is "anakin" OR 2). For articles available from the handbook, *Sociological Footprints*, request by title at Strozier's reserves desk.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & GOALS:

What is sociology? It is not psychology or anthropology; however, both of these disciplines have been influenced by sociology, as well as the disciplines of political science and criminology. By the end of this class, you will be able to answer this question with certainty, have a greater understanding of sociology and your role in society. More importantly, this class aims to expose you to a variety of perspectives and angles on day-to-day topics many may take for granted. Several of the issues discussed within this class may at first appear to be nothing more than pure 'common sense.' This does not mean some of issues discussed will not be 'in your view' common sense. However, everything is not always at it seems. We will dig further into such issues as class, race and gender inequality; politics, the 2004 Presidential Race and other organizations that shape our everyday experience, even though we may not necessarily view such social institutions in that manner; what makes an act deviant and how deviance is determined across different societies and cultures; and other sociological topics that our short time allows us to explore.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Weekly Pop Quizzes (2-3 per week) | 20 percent |
| 2. Two (2) Exams | 25 percent each |
| 3. Final Group Presentation | 30 percent |

Final Letter Grades will be based on the following scale: 100-90 = A; 89-80 = B; 79-70 = C; 69-60 = D; anything below 60 = F

[NOTE: There will be no 'rounding up' or 'curving' in this class. The grade you earn is the grade you will receive. However, if your final grade, for example, is an 89.999, it will be to my discretion to assign an 'A' or 'B' grade. Additionally, if there is a pop quiz or exam question that consistently causes problems for most students, I will consider throwing it out. Finally, if you are concerned about your grade, it is your responsibility to come and see me as early in the term as possible.]

1. **WEEKLY POP QUIZZES:** Each week, I will administer 2-3 pop quizzes covering the prior evening's reading. Quizzes will not be announced nor can they be made up if you miss class. Pop quizzes should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. **If you arrive late to class, you will not be given extra time to complete the quiz. If you arrive later than 12:40, you will not be eligible to participate in that day's pop quiz.**

2. **EXAMS (2):** During the term, I will administer 2 exams, which I will create from our readings to-date for that specific section. Both exams will include multiple-choice questions of my choosing and an essay portion. The essay portion will include 2-3 questions, from which you will pick one question to answer. The day before each exam will be considered a review day for the exam. However, if you do not come to class with prepared questions, class will proceed in the usual manner.
3. **GROUP PRESENTATIONS:** I will create six or seven groups of approximately 6 students each by the end of the first week of class. Also, specific group presentation guidelines, which will outline milestones, member-specific duties and the bases upon which your presentation will be evaluated, will be given to each group at the time of their creation. It is the responsibility of group members to meet outside of class time to coordinate and research a presentation of no less than 30 minutes. Presentations will be scheduled over the course of the last three days of class (Wednesday, June 16th through Friday, June 18th). If your group is not presenting on a given day, you are still expected to attend class. Groups must meet [first meeting to take place no later than Wednesday, May 19th] and decide upon a sociological topic on which the group will present. All final decisions on group topics will be subject to my discretion. While exams are 'section-oriented,' presentations are cumulative. In other words, each group presentation will include one 'expert' for each of the main sections we will cover throughout the class. Each 'expert' will need to address how your group's chosen topic would be influenced by or influence your area or sub-area of expertise (e.g., social inequality (class, race, gender), social institutions (religion, family, politics), etc.).

CLASS CONDUCT & BEHAVIOR:

1. Class Format

This is mainly a discussion-oriented class. I am here to learn with *and* from you just as you are here to learn more about sociology & society from me and the required articles and books. Therefore, from our class discussions additional, sociological issues of interest may arise that the class may decide, pending my approval, if it would like to explore further. Additionally, sociological topics touch upon several sensitive issues. Students may differ in their opinion on specific issues. Therefore, during discussions, inappropriate language that makes others feel uncomfortable or that is derogatory to specific groups will not be tolerated (i.e., if language is not 'toned down,' you may be asked to leave class). This includes remarks that demean others by virtue of race, sex, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, physical appearance, etc. If you are unsure, in any way, as to what this means, please see me and ask for further clarification.

2. Attendance & Participation

Though not graded, daily readings are central to each day's class. It is key that you read the assigned readings *prior* to coming to class. Participation in class discussion is not a choice. You registered for this class; therefore, you do not receive points for attendance or participation. Attendance & participation are expected. However, it is doubtful you will do well if you miss class frequently. Everyone forms his or her own opinions by reading. We meet and discuss so you can learn. Each evening, I aim to assign between approximately 20-30 pages of reading. Sometimes nightly readings will be slightly under 20 pages, while other evenings readings will be slightly over 30 pages.

3. Missed Classes, Missed Exams & Lateness to Class

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to gather the information from another classmate. I will not 're-play' the class for you. However, if you know in advance you will need to miss class, you might want to consider having a classmate tape record the class for you. Others are also encouraged to tape record class discussions, if you believe it will aid you in preparation for exams, quizzes and the final group presentations.

1). Only students who can provide documentation for excused absences, as defined in *The FSU Bulletin* and *Student Handbook*, will be allowed to make-up exams. 2). However, if you know you will need to miss class on an exam day, it is your responsibility to contact me **BEFORE** the scheduled exam and discuss your situation with me to gain permission to take a make-up exam. If you miss an exam for any other than the two reasons listed, you will not be eligible to take a make-up exam.

Lateness to class is not in your best interest, especially due to the high frequency of pop quizzes. See ‘Weekly Pop Quizzes’ above for more details.

4. *Final Notes*

- Talking while others (the instructor or a classmate) is highly frowned upon. Furthermore, it’s just plain rude.
- Cell phones & other electronic devices: I understand the difficulty of always remembering to turn off your cell phone or pagers, etc. before class. However, to the best of your ability, please remember to turn it off before entering the classroom. Nothing is worse than a ringing / ‘singing’ phone while someone is speaking, taking a quiz, etc. Make it a habit to turn off cell phones & any other electronic devices that make noise so your classmates can concentrate on the task at hand.
- For me, discussion-oriented classes take place in a circle, please turn your seat prior to class to face the circle and return it to its original position at the end of class. Ample time will be given for you to return your chair to its original position and leave promptly at 1:45pm. Therefore, I ask you to arrive early enough to be settled in your chair promptly at 12:30pm to begin the day’s discussion, quiz, etc.
- Preparation for exams & pop quizzes: Our main book (Newman) provides on-line quizzes, flash cards, and a variety of other sources to aid you in your studies for this class. Go to www.pineforge.com/newman5study for more information.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC HONOR CODE:

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in *The FSU Bulletin* and the *Student Handbook*. The Academic Honor System of FSU is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility to:

- 1). Uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student’s own work, 2). Refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and 3). Foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. Failure to comply with FSU’s Academic Honor Code is grounds for an F-grade in this course. For further information, refer to www.fsu.edu/~union/honor.htm

ADA POLICY:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should:

- 1). Register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center, 2). Bring a letter to me indicating the need for accommodation and what type of assistance is needed and, 3). This process is to be completed during the first week of class.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Assistant Dean of Students:

sdrc@admin.fsu.edu, Disabled Student Services, Kellum Hall, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4066, (850) 644-9566.

SCHEDULED CLASS READINGS & OTHER DUE DATES*

(NOTE: ALL READINGS ARE TO BE READ *PRIOR TO CLASS* FOR THE DATE INDICATED. UNDERLINED AUTHORS' NAMES INDICATE THE ARTICLE IS AVAILABLE VIA E-RESERVE, WHEREAS *ITALICS* INDICATE THE ARTICLE IS FROM THE HANDBOOK, *SOCIOLOGICAL FOOTPRINTS*, AND IS AVAILABLE AT STROZIER'S RESERVE DESK.)

WEEK 1 -- An Introduction to Sociology & Social Class Inequality

Monday, May 10th: Introduction to the class; Review syllabus
Tuesday, May 11th: Read Newman Chp. 1 & Charon Chp. 10
Wednesday, May 12th: Read Newman Chp. 2 & Charon Chp. 1
Thursday, May 13th: Read Charon Chp. 4 & Charon Chp. 7, pgs. 174-189
Friday, May 14th: Read Newman Chp. 10

WEEK 2 -- Race/Ethnic Inequality & Gender Inequality

Monday, May 17th: Read 1). Amsden & Clark, 2). Gans & 3). Charon Chp. 5
Tuesday, May 18th: Read Newman Chp. 11
Wednesday, May 19th: **NO CLASS -- MEET W/ PRESENTATION GROUPS**
Thursday, May 20th: Read 1). Rawls & 2). Anner
Friday, May 21st: Read 1). Anderson, Chp. 7 & 2). Brodkin

WEEK 3-- Gender Inequality & Socialization of Human Beings

Monday, May 24th: Read Newman Chp. 12
Tuesday, May 25th: Read 1). *Henley, Hamilton & Thorne*, 2). *Franklin* & 3). Levine
Wednesday, May 26th: Read Newman Chp. 5 & Charon, Chp. 7, pgs. 193-96
Thursday, May 27th: REVIEW DAY FOR EXAM #1
Friday, May 28th: **EXAM #1**

WEEK 4 -- Social Institutions: Politics & Families

Monday, May 31st: **NO CLASS -- MEMORIAL DAY**
Tuesday, June 1st: Read Newman Chp. 9
Wednesday, June 2nd: Read 1). *Meyer*, 2). *Clawson, Newstadt & Scott* & 3). *Himmelstein*
Thursday, June 3rd: Read Newman Chp. 7
Friday, June 4th: Read 1). *Elkind* & 2). *Beeghley*

WEEK 5-- Organized Religion & Deviance

Monday, June 7th: Read Charon Chp. 9
Tuesday, June 8th: Read 1). *Durkheim*, 2). *Berger* & 3). *Rosenhan*
Wednesday, June 9th: Read Newman Chp 8
Thursday, June 10th: REVIEW DAY FOR EXAM #2
Friday, June 11th: **EXAM #2**

WEEK 6 -- Sociology of Knowledge & the Individual in Society

Monday, June 14th: Read Newman Chp. 3
Tuesday, June 15th: Read Charon Chps. 2 & 8
Wednesday, June 16th: 1st DAY OF PRESENTATIONS
Thursday, June 17th: 2nd DAY OF PRESENTATIONS
Friday, June 18th: 3rd DAY OF PRESENTATIONS; **FINAL DAY OF CLASS**

***This schedule is tentative. Every effort will be made to adhere to the schedule. However, if changes are necessary, students will be given ample notice.**