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. *This objective will be evaluated through exams and written assignments*

2. (C3) 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. *This objective will be evaluated through written assignments*

3. Articulate the strengths and limitations of competing sociological theories and research methodologies. *This objective will be evaluated through exams and written assignments*

4. (C1) Critically examine, interpret, and explain how structures of inequality shape the past and present lives of gender, racial/ethnic, and class groups. *This objective will be evaluated through exams and written assignments*
5. (C1) 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. This objective will be evaluated through exams and written assignments.

6. (C1) 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. This objective will be evaluated through exams and written assignments.

7. (C2) 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. This objective will be evaluated through exams and written assignments.

8. (C2, C3) Gather and analyze data from appropriate online databases for the social sciences to critically evaluate assertions on key sociological issues. This objective will be evaluated through written assignments.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required texts:

Supplemental Readings marked with * are posted on your course Blackboard (Bb)/Course Library (Bb/CL) for a specific exam as PowerPoint slides (Pp) or Word documents.

Supplemental readings are organized by the topic under discussion as depicted in the class schedule below.

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. It is imperative that you 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.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Written Portfolio

There are three written assignments in the semester; approximately one for every month of the semester. Each assignment includes an examination of causal arguments, assertions, assumptions, and/or statements regarding social issues which you will have to support or counter using sociological research findings and pertinent data from legitimate online academic sources (i.e. from Census, research center reports, journal articles, newspapers). Each assignment must be typed, spell checked, proof-read; with proper citation and following ASA format.

Your three written assignments contribute 40% of your final grade. Written Assignment#1
2 is worth 20% and the other two are worth 10% each. All assignments are graded on a scale of 0-100 and each score will be multiplied by its corresponding percentage (0.20 or 0.10) to compute its respective contribution to your final score.

The instructions, due dates, and grading rubric for each assignment will be given on a separate handout.

Exams
There are four exams in the semester, three during the semester and a final exam 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 possibly short-answer questions. One class preceding the test date there will be a class review via an open-book bogus test. You will be able to do a self-evaluation by answering the bogus test and assess your readiness for the test. Your answers to the bogus test will earn you 0-5 points that will be added to your coming exam. The bogus test cannot be made up unless you are representing FSU on an event off campus (proper documentation is required to certify the student’s absence). 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 by merely trying to find the answer to a question as you spend time flipping pages.

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 0.15 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>Score Range</th>
<th>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>
</tbody>
</table>
| 74-76       | C     | Average level of achievement; refers to the readings in a superficial
way suggesting spotty understanding of the material

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
</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 1000-002 Blackboard. 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, not at the end of the semester when it is TOO LATE!

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Dates</th>
<th>Topics (with assigned readings)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1-2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Introduction to Sociology: Theory, Research, Culture, and Structure</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 25- Sep. 1</td>
<td>First Day Attendance Policy, Theories of Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>G. et al. Ch. 1, Ch. 5 pp: 98-100; Bb/CL “What is Sociology? *Assumptions, Arguments and Evaluation of Sociological Theories” WORD.doc; “Comparison among Sociological Theories” WORD.doc in Bb/Course Library/Lecture Notes/First Exam Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2-3</strong></td>
<td>Sociological Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 3-10</td>
<td>G. et al. Ch. 2. Asking and Answering Sociological Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Advantages and Disadvantages of Data Gathering Techniques as WORD.doc; Pp “Scientific Method” in Bb/CL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td>Culture and Structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 15-17</td>
<td>G. et al. Ch. 1, pp: 5, 9-12, Ch. 3, Ch. 5 pp: 91-98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Synoptic Chart of Societal Culture-and–Structure Elements in Bb/CL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bogus Test #1 on Bb/Bogus Tests (online)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 21</td>
<td>Exam #1 in classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 22</td>
<td>Submit Written Assignment #1 on Safe Assign, by 11:55 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 24</td>
<td>The Individual and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5-7</strong></td>
<td>G. et al. Ch. 4and 5; Bb/CL Pp “Socialization and the Life Cycle”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Theories of socialization” as WORD.doc and PowerPoint presentation

6- 7 Oct. 1-6 G. et al. Ch 6. Groups, Networks and Organizations
**“Groups” WORD.doc in Bb/CL

7-9 Oct.8-20 Deviance
G. et al. Ch. 7;
* “Measurement of Crime Type I” as WORD.doc, “Deviance” as PowerPoint presentation

10 Oct. 26
10 Oct. 27
10 Oct. 28

Bogus Test #2 on Bb/Bogus Tests (online)
Submit Written Assignment #2 on Safe Assign, by 11:55 PM

Test #2 in classroom

10-13 Structures of Power

10-11 Oct.29-Nov. 3 Stratification, Class, and Inequality
G. et al. Ch. 8;
**“Social Stratification and Poverty: Theory and Research” as WORD.doc

11-12 Nov.5-10 Gender Inequality
G. et al. Ch. 10

12-13 Nov. 12-17 Ethnicity and Race
G. et al. Ch.11

13 Nov. 17
13 Nov. 19
13 Nov. 20

Bogus Test #3 on Bb/Bogus Tests (online)
Submit Written Assignment #3 on Safe Assign by 11:55 PM

Test #3 in classroom

14-15 Social Institutions
14 Nov. 24 The Family and Intimate Relationships
G. et al. Ch. 15;
**“Family Patterns” a PowerPoint presentation

15 Dec. 1-3 Education and Religion
G. et al. Ch. 16 and 175;

15 Dec. 4 Bogus Test # 4 on Bb/Bogus Tests (online)

16 Dec. 9 Final Exam or Test #4 in classroom
12:30-2:30 PM

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) sdr@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/](http://e-soc.net/)

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

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT 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](http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/grad/info/university_notices.htm)