

**FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY**  
**College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities**  
**Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice**

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**Syllabus for**  
**SYG 2000E**  
**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY ONLINE**

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Why do people  
do what they  
do?

How does  
society shape  
behavior?

What role do  
institutions  
have in society  
and on  
behavior?

How do social  
characteristics  
shape life  
chances?

Term: Fall 2023 | Section: 501 | Credit Hours: 3 | Modality: Online

**ONLINE COURSE:** This is a fully online, asynchronous course. That means that the course will be delivered entirely online through the course management system CANVAS. We will not have required, face-to-face or virtual class meetings. Instead, you will work independently, within given time frames, to complete your assignments.

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Cynthia Davis, PhD  
Email: [cynthia.davis@fam.u.edu](mailto:cynthia.davis@fam.u.edu)  
Phone: (850) 739-2790 (Google Voice)  
Office Hours: Mondays 5:30 – 7:00 PM & Wednesdays 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM  
Other times by appointment (email instructor)

Zoom Link: To meet with me during office hours or a scheduled alternative meeting time, please use the following link or meeting ID: <https://fam.u.zoom.us/j/97923459130> (Meeting ID: 979 2345 9130)

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

Sociological concepts and theoretical perspectives; methods of research; substantive areas in sociology; social institutions; social change and disorganization, urban ecology, demography, and social stratification.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This introductory sociology course will help you to answer these questions by engaging your sociological imagination, which is the ability to see the relationship between personal troubles and public issues. Over the course of the semester, we will grapple with these and other questions that will help us to understand how the social world influences the way we think, act, and feel.

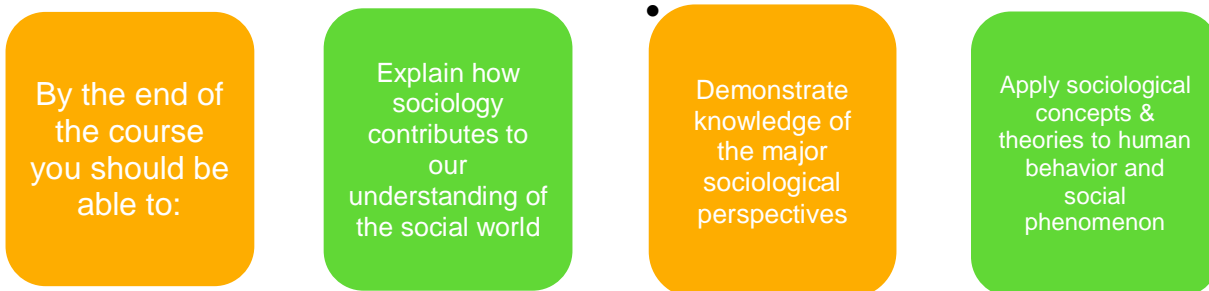
As we explore sociology, the scientific study of society, we have three goals in mind: 1) to become familiar with the sociological perspectives, concepts, and methods of research; 2) to explore contemporary American society — our culture, deviance, economic stratification, and inequality of race, gender, and age; 3) to practice using our sociological imagination.

## ACADEMIC LEARNING COMPACT & GOALS

The learning outcomes for this course are organized around the [Sociology Program's Academic Learning Compact](#).

- *Communication Skills* – written and oral communication that demonstrate an understanding of sociological topics. These skills will be illustrated through discussion board postings and written assignments.
- *Critical Thinking Skills* - analysis and evaluation of sociological issues, theoretical perspectives, and social problems. These skills will be demonstrated through readings, discussions board postings, written assignments, and examinations.
- *Content Knowledge* - the ability to recognize and apply sociological theories, concepts and principles to the study of social phenomena. These skills will be demonstrated through discussion board postings, written assignments, and examinations.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES



- Understand and apply the sociological imagination to social behavior.
- Trace the origins of sociology.
- Explain the steps of research methods.
- Explain what culture is and how culture provides orientation to life.
- Understand the theories and agents of socialization.
- Explain the significance of social structure.

- Explain what deviance is, why it is relative, and why we need norms.
- Compare and contrast systems of social stratification.
- Explore race and ethnicity and minority and dominant groups.
- Discuss immigration, affirmative action, and a multicultural society.
- Distinguish between sex and gender.

You will meet the outcomes and objectives listed above through a combination of the following activities:

- Participation in discussion boards
- Completion of quizzes
- Completion of exams
- Completion of writing assignments

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

*Pre-requisites:*

None

*Required Textbook:*

Sociology: A Down-To-Earth Approach – Revel Access  
14<sup>th</sup> Edition

By: Henslin, James M.

ISBN 13: 8220117002427

### **Pearson Support**

- Live Chat at <https://support.pearson.com/getsupport/s/contactsupport>
- Phone: 1-855-875-1801

### **Required Technology:**

- Personal Computer/Laptop/Macbook (Chromebooks, iPads, cellphones, will not be sufficient technology to complete this course)
- **Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor** may be required for online quizzes/exams
- Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection desirable)
- Access to Canvas
- Web Camera
- Microphone

### **COURSE STRUCTURE**

This course will be delivered asynchronously entirely online through the course management system Canvas. You will use your FAMNet username and password to login to the course from the FAMU Canvas login page. In Canvas, you will access online lessons, course materials, and resources. At designated times throughout the semester, we will participate in a blend of self-

paced activities using Canvas. Activities will consist of discussion forums, assigned writings, quizzes and exams.

### **FAMU CANVAS ACCESS**

This course will be delivered fully online through a course management system named Canvas. To access this course on FAMU Canvas you will need access to the Internet and a supported Web browser (Firefox, Google Chrome).

### **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Canvas you can:

- Visit the **Office of Instructional Technology** page
- Contact the Office of Instructional Technology at 850-599-3460 or oit@famuedu

### **COURSE OUTLINE/SCHEDULE**

Refer to the course schedule for specific meeting dates and times. Activity and assignment details will be explained in detail within each week's corresponding learning module. If you have any questions, please contact your instructor.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Module</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Assessments</b>
Introduction	1	Syllabus	Discussion Boards "Enjoying A Sociology Quiz"	Syllabus Quiz
Foundations of Sociology	2 – 9	Chapters 1 - 8	Video Clips Discussion Boards Short Papers	Quizzes Exam I
Stratification & Social Institutions	10 - 16	Chapters 7 - 13	Video Clips Discussion Boards Short Papers	Quizzes Exam II

## GRADING POLICY

The course grade will be based on a series of quizzes, exams, and assignments. The components of the course include:

Description	Percentage/Points
Quizzes & Exams	
Chapter Module (Subsection) Quizzes	10%
End of Chapter Quizzes	20%
Exam I (Chapters 1-8)	10%
Exam II (Chapters 9-13)	10%
Discussion Boards	20%
Writing Assignments (Reflection Papers)	30%

## LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the total points earned and are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Total Percent
A	100% - 90%
B	89% - 80%
C	79% - 70%
D	69% - 60%
F	59% - 0%

## VIEWING GRADES IN CANVAS

Grades you receive for assignments will be posted to the Canvas Grade Book. Click on the Grades link on the left navigation to view your weighted grade.

The grade book is generally updated after each unit assignment has been completed. Please allow a minimum of 2 weeks for papers. You have 1 week from the time a grade is posted to let your professor know there is a problem or error in the grade. Please monitor your grades frequently and contact the instructor within 1 week of a grade posting if you have a question about it.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### ***Attendance/Participation***

Students are expected to participate in all online activities as listed on the course calendar. You are required to access and participate in this course at minimum of three times per week.

### ***Attendance Holds***

In order to be removed from your attendance hold you must complete the following assignments no later than Friday of the first week of classes:

- “Common Sense Quiz” assignment
- Introductory Discussion Board

### ***Assignments***

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Canvas unless otherwise instructed. Emailed assignments are not accepted nor graded unless prior permission has been granted by the instructor. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor before the due date. Be aware that all assignments/assessments correspond with the Eastern Time zone. Extensions will not be given unless extreme extenuating circumstances have been communicated to the instructor *prior* to the assignment due date and documentation of the circumstances is provided. When make-up work is assigned it may be of different form and content than the original assignment.

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

Please let your instructor know immediately if chronic health problems (mental or physical) or a personal emergency threaten to interfere with your participation and required work for this class. At that time, we will evaluate whether it makes sense to drop the course and take it at a time when these problems will not significantly impact your performance in this online class environment, or whether enough course work has been completed that an incomplete is warranted. Please do not wait until the last weeks of class to discuss these types of concerns because while the instructor may feel very sympathetic towards you, there will not be enough time to resolve the concerns.

### ***Late Work Policy***

Late assignments, quizzes, exams, discussion board posts, etc. are only accepted upon instructor approval when there are serious and compelling reasons (e.g., death of an immediate family member), documented with an official university excuse. In other words, you must submit your work on time, via the appropriate Canvas link. Assignments, discussion boards,

quizzes and exams will not be reopened after the due date has passed. When late assignments are permitted, once documentation has been provided, they may be of different form and content than the original assignment.

### ***Etiquette***

Some of the topics that we will cover in this course are difficult, both intellectually and emotionally. Some you will not agree with as they push the boundaries of long-held beliefs and values. I urge to have courage in the uncomfortable and I ask that you engage in materials with an open mind as well as care and empathy for others in the course. Aim to disagree without becoming disagreeable. Critically examining and assessing our most basic assumptions and values is part and parcel of academia. I will work to ensure an environment that supports your taking these intellectual and emotional risks.

1. **Respect others and their opinions.** In online learning, students from very different backgrounds come together to learn. It is important to respect their feelings and opinions even when they are quite different from your own.
2. **Watch your language and tone carefully.** When you are communicating online, you have to rely solely on words to get your point across. The other person cannot see your facial expression or hear your tone of voice, so things like sarcasm and humor often don't come across very well. That's why it's important to take your time, choose your words carefully, and be as straightforward as you can.
3. **Consider people's privacy.** Always ask for permission before you forward someone's email messages to somebody else, and if you do reuse somebody else's words (with their permission), make sure to acknowledge them appropriately. Keep in mind that all private email mail is considered copyrighted by the original author.
4. **Avoid inappropriate material.** It's tempting to forward messages you find clever or links to websites you find entertaining to classmates. If they are not directly relevant to the course, please don't do this, especially if the material is sexually suggestive, politically sensitive, or otherwise "edgy." Same goes for frivolous "joke" emails and chain messages. This is not the place for it.
5. **Be forgiving.** If someone writes something that you find offensive, mention it directly to the instructor. He or she is best equipped to address the situation. Remember that the person contributing to the discussion might be new to this form of communication. What you find offensive may have been unintended.
6. **Be concise.** When you are contributing to a discussion, be as brief as you can to get your point across. Adding a lot of unnecessary words just makes your message less clear. Try to stick to the point and not go off on irrelevant tangents.
7. **Read first, write later.** Don't add your comments to a discussion before reading the comments that are already there. And if you are responding to a previous comment, always make clear which comment you are responding to.
8. **DON'T TYPE IN ALL CAPS OR USE EXCESSIVE PUNCTUATION!!!!!!** Most people find this annoying and you may not be communicating your thoughts effectively.
9. **Think before you hit the send button.** Learning to be your own editor is a difficult and important skill. Think carefully about the content of your message before you send or

post it. Once you push the button, there is no taking it back. Grammar and spelling errors reflect badly on you, and misspelled words or poorly constructed sentences can make it hard to decipher your meaning accurately.

### ***Dropping This Course***

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider dropping a course. Refer to the FAMU Course Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student's family.

### ***Incomplete "I" Grade Policy***

An incomplete or grade of "I" is given only in extreme circumstances. A student must meet the following criteria to even be considered for a grade of "I":

- Documented illness, hospitalization, or other circumstance that prevents the student from completing his or her work by the end of the semester.
- A passing grade in the course at the time the "I" is requested; 3) and approval from the instructor and department chairperson.

### ***Accommodation***

If you have a documented disability and verification from the Center for Disability Access and Resources (CEDAR) and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to CEDAR and meet with a CEDAR counselor to request special accommodation before classes start. CEDAR is located at 667 Ardelia Court, Tallahassee, FL 32307 and can be contacted by phone at 850.599-3180.

### ***Mental Health Policy Statement***

Being successful in this course is dependent on many factors, including your personal well-being. As a student you may experience a range of stressors that can cause barriers to learning and impact your overall health. This may include anxiety, high levels of stress, depression, trauma, grief, and strained relationships, to name a few. You are a priority and there are a number of people at FAMU waiting to assist you in your academic journey, including myself. Please reach out to me if you are experiencing any type of difficulty that may impact your success in this course. In addition, the Office of Counseling Services (OCS) offers FREE, confidential, in-person and virtual counseling for enrolled students. They also partner with BetterMynd, an online 24/7 therapy platform. This is also FREE to enrolled students. To learn more about on campus services or BetterMynd, visit the OCS website or call (850) 599-3145. If you need to speak with a licensed mental health professional after hours, during holiday breaks, or even at 3 in the morning, you can call the BetterMynd crisis line at (844) 287-6963.



### ***Policy Statement on Non-Discrimination***

It is the policy of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University to assure that each member of the University community be permitted to work or attend classes in an environment free from any form of discrimination including race, religion, color, age, disability, sex, marital status, national origin, veteran status and sexual harassment as prohibited by state and federal statutes. This shall include applicants for admission to the University and employment.

### ***Academic Honor Policy Statement***

Florida A&M University is committed to academic honesty and its core values, which include scholarship, excellence, accountability, integrity, fairness, respect, and ethics. These core values are integrated into this academic honesty policy. Being unaware of the Academic Honesty Policy is not a defense for violations of academic honesty. Additional detail on FAMU Academic Honesty Violations are provided in University Policy 2.012 (10.)(s). If you have any questions, please see your Academic Advisor.

### ***University Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement***

The Florida A&M University Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement states that “Individuals who need a reasonable accommodation must notify the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs at 599-3076.” It is the responsibility of the FAMU Equal Opportunity Programs (EOP) Office, through the ADA Coordinator, to ensure the Florida A&M University is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you have any questions, please contact your Academic Advisor or the University EOP Officer, Equal Opportunity Programs, 674 Gamble Street, Tallahassee, FL 32307, (850) 599-3076.