Instructor: Jeanne Holcomb

Email: Please use the Inbox in the upper right corner of your screen.

Course Textbooks:


Course Description

“The first fruit of this imagination—and the first lesson of the social science that embodies it—is the idea that the individual can understand her own experience and gauge her own fate only by locating herself within her period, that she can know her own chance in life only by becoming aware of those of all individuals in her circumstances. In many ways it is a terrible lesson; in many ways a magnificent one.”

--C. Wright Mills (1959) *The Sociological Imagination*

“It can be said that the first wisdom of sociology is this: things are not what they seem.”

--Peter Berger (1963) *Invitation to Sociology: A Humanistic Perspective*

The work of sociologists is to “make the familiar strange.” This course explains what we mean by this, how we go about doing such, and why it is both important and necessary to think critically about our social world. We will address several paradoxical questions in our time together:

- Do we create culture or does culture create us?
- How do we know what we know without explicit instruction?
- Why do we need deviants to hold us together as a society?
How do “great equalizers” such as public education create and reproduce some of the
greatest and most persistent social inequalities?
Why is authority lost the moment that force is used?
How is inequality the manifestation of abundance?
How can human inventions such as gender and race be real but not exist? (and yes, as you
will discover, we wily sociologists view these concepts as figments of our collective
imaginations...)

In doing so, this course shall provide you with not just a bunch of random facts and names, but
with a new way of seeing, thinking about, and approaching your social world. As Mills says above,
sometimes the journey to “thinking like a sociologist” is a troubling path, but my hope is that it will
be one that is wonderfully rewarding.

Course Objectives and Outcomes

First and foremost, by the end of the course, you will be equipped with the tools for thinking like
a sociologist. You will gain an understanding of our various theoretical perspectives and analytical
tools for understanding individuals, social groups, patterns in social interaction, and stratification
and inequality related to gender, racial, ethnic, class and sexual identities (among others). In
addition, you should have a healthy start on developing a seasoned “sociological imagination”—a
tool that will enable you to not only understand your own social position and experiences within
a broader historical and social context, but those of others as well. Lastly, my hope is that you will
have an appreciation for the relevance and importance of sociology in effecting social change, and
an appreciation for your own role in this endeavor too.

Course Structure

Course Requirements and Evaluation

You will be required to: 1) read a collection of book chapters and articles to gain insight into the
field of sociology; 2) view a collection of film and documentary excerpts to see sociology “on the
ground”; 3) develop meaningful written responses to these materials to demonstrate your active
engagement of them; 4) prepare for and complete quizzes to illustrate your sociological
knowledge and progress throughout the course; and 5) document a set of activities to display
your budding “sociological imagination.”

Required Readings

Your reading materials come from two sources—a carefully chosen “un”-textbook and a collection
of sociological articles written by sociologists for lay readers and admirers of sociology. Your
textbook is an incredible research-based source of cutting-edge and provocative sociological
information and one of the only texts on the market designed for online students. Its quality is
unparalleled and I hope you thoroughly enjoy it. The additional reader contains a great collection
of articles featuring the best and most up to date research in the field and they complement many of the concepts in the text.


Both books are available for purchase through Flexible Learning.

For each learning module, you will read one chapter from the Conley text and a selection of (usually 2-3) articles from the Contexts reader. Your grasp of the knowledge in the chapter will be evaluated by taking a quiz that consists of 20 questions related to the reading (described further below). Your level of engagement with the articles will be demonstrated by your written responses to questions at the end of each of the articles (also described below).

**Required Film and Documentary Viewings**

For each learning module, you will be required to view a selection of film and documentary excerpts that directly relate to each of the learning module topics. Filmmakers are often better able to capture and bring to life sociological issues and concepts than we can ourselves. For this reason, you will view 2-3 short online excerpts and then provide short responses and reflections about the content you have viewed.

The film and documentary excerpts can be found in the SYG 2000 course menu in canvas in the left navigation under “Modules”.

You are required to view the films/documentaries and the questions that follow each film.

**Written Responses**

For each article and film, you will be required to provide a series of brief responses and/or reflections to the questions at the end of each. There are typically 2-4 questions for each article/film for a total of 12-16 questions for each learning module. To respond, you will identify the article or film and number your responses individuals before answering each. Responses should typically be no longer than a few sentences.

Your content-based responses will be evaluated for their accuracy, clarity, and coherence. Your reflection-based responses will be evaluated on their thoughtfulness and how well you are able to develop a meaningful argument or respond to those of others. All responses will be evaluated for grammar, punctuation, and use of standard written English. You are required to use a spellchecker before submission of all written work. There are no make-ups for written responses.
Each written response contribute 30 possible points toward your written work grade; 15 come from article responses and 15 come from film responses for each learning module. Overall, the collection of your 15 article/film written responses contributes 225 points toward your final grade point calculation.

**Quizzes**

At the end of each learning module, you will be evaluated by taking a 20-question online quiz that covers the chapter you read in the Conley text. It will not cover the material in the articles or the films. The questions are multiple-choice and they will test both your factual knowledge and your ability to apply sociological concepts. Quizzes are non-cumulative.

There are no make-ups for quizzes. If you have an emergency and miss a quiz, you will need to submit full documentation to the course instructor before being able to discuss alternative evaluation formats.

Each question is worth one point. Each quiz contributes 20 possible points toward your quiz grade. Overall, quizzes contribute 300 points toward your final grade point calculation.

**Sociological Imagination Activities**

At the end of five learning modules (2, 5, 6, 8, and 15), you will be asked to complete and document an activity that will allow you to use and display your “sociological imagination.” These activities require you to reflect upon your own identity and social position—or those of others, and write about them in a way that illustrates your own understanding of them in a broader historical and social context.

Your work will be evaluated on the clarity of your documentation, the depth of critical thinking, and the insightfulness of your responses. Again, all responses will be evaluated for grammar, punctuation, and use of standard written English; please use a spellchecker before submission of all written work.

Each activity contributes 50 possible points toward your activities grade. Overall, sociological imagination activities contribute 250 points toward your final grade point calculation. As individual projects, they are weighted heavily. They require more work and should require very careful attention.
# Final Grade Calculation and Distribution

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<th>Maximum Total Points</th>
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<tr>
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<td>15 (x)</td>
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<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Written Responses</td>
<td>15 (x)</td>
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<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>15 (x)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociological Imagination</td>
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<td>250</td>
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<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>870-899</td>
<td>670-699</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>840-869</td>
<td>640-669</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>800-839</td>
<td>600-639</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>770-799</td>
<td>570-599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>740-769</td>
<td>569 or below</td>
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## Course Policies and Procedures

### Email

Email should only be used in the case when you cannot find the answer to your question/concern from any other source. Before emailing, please check the course syllabus, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the e-Learning site, and the Flexible Learning site. If your email pertains to information easily found in any of the above sources, it will not receive a response. For all other inquiries, please allow up to one business day for email responses.

Email in this course is considered professional correspondence and it must include a greeting (e.g., “Dear”), a spelling and grammar-checked body, your full name as it appears in the course roster and UF ID. Also, please put the course name “SYG 2000” and section number in the subject line. Emails written in text or chat language or without these proper identifiers will not receive a response.
Academic Integrity

Students enrolled at the University of Florida are expected to perform with the highest level of academic honesty and integrity. You are responsible for providing proper acknowledgement for any work that is not the product of your own thought (this includes published and unpublished texts and information taken from Internet sources). Failure to properly cite such material will be regarded as plagiarism.

Plagiarism:

“A student shall not represent as the student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
2. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.” Source: Regulations of the University of Florida, UF-4.041. For more information, please go to this link: Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code: Scope and Violations

“For a violation or violations of the Honor Code, a student may receive any of the sanctions that can be imposed for Student Conduct Code violations, including but not limited to conduct probation, suspension and expulsion as well as any educational sanctions. In addition, students may receive the following:

(a) Assignment grade penalty. The student is assigned a grade penalty on an assignment including but not limited to a zero.
(b) Course grade penalty. The student is assigned a grade penalty in the entire course including but not limited to an ‘E’.” Source: Regulations of the University of Florida, UF-4.047.

Course Schedule and Changes

While this is certainly not expected, the instructor reserves the right to make changes at any time to the course schedule, syllabus, quiz or assignment formats. Any changes will be documented in writing with as much advanced notice as possible. Students are solely responsible for keeping their email addresses up to date and on file, keeping up with the course schedule and any announced revisions that may occur on their own.
Counseling Services

College should be a time of fun and learning, however, many of us struggle with issues that interfere with our ability to feel and perform well in our academic and personal lives. The University of Florida offers free counseling services to students who seek services for a range of problems including: test anxiety; study habits; disordered eating and body image issues; personal or family problems; identity-related issues; the aftermath of sexual or physical abuse and assault; and a host of other concerns. You may contact the UF Counseling Center at (352) 392-1575, the Student Mental Health Care Center at (352) 392-1161, the UF Office of Victim Services at (352) 392-5648, and the Center for Abuse/Assault, Recovery, and Education (CARE) at (352) 392-1161.

I definitely encourage all students to seek professional help if you are facing any of these issues.

Learning Services

The University of Florida offers free services to assist students with enhancing individual learning, improving writing skills and increasing performance. I strongly encourage students to contact the UF University Writing Program or by phone (352) 846-1138.

Disability Accommodations:

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides students and faculty with information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. Staff at the Disability Resource Center will assist any student who registers as having a disability. Official documentation of a disability is required to determine eligibility for appropriate accommodations. The professional employees at the Disability Resource Program serve as full-time advocates for students with disabilities ensuring students have physical and programmatic access to all college programs. One of the services provided by the Disability Resource Center includes:

- Testing Accommodations

  Please click on this link for further information: DRC-Testing Accommodations

The Flexible Learning office needs to be notified of any special accommodations required by the student when they begin their course.

Course Deadline and Extension Policy:

The course expires 16 weeks from the date of enrollment. Although there is flexibility in completing the coursework, the course should be started as soon as the course materials are received, and the coursework should be submitted as it is completed. All final coursework needs to be completed and submitted for grading at least 2 weeks prior to the course expiration date.
If the course is about to expire, the student will be assigned a failing grade ("E"). If the student has made sufficient academic progress, which is defined as completing at least 50% of the course, the student may petition the instructor for a course extension. After you have contacted your instructor for an extension, each extension request will be administratively evaluated.

**Course Cancel or Drop:**

### Course Cancel:

- A tuition refund may be granted after a student submits a written request for withdrawal from a course within 30 days of enrollment. This request must be in writing and may be sent by email to **learn@dce.ufl.edu**. All requests will receive written responses. Refunds will be the amount of tuition, less $25.00 per course.

- A refund can be issued on course materials at the time of withdrawal if they are returned within 30 days of sale and are in their original condition. Please call our office (352) 392-1711 for up to date refund policies. No refunds are granted after 30 days. Students with disabilities who need to drop a course due to disability-related reasons are allowed to petition for additional drops. For more information, contact the [Disability Resource Center](#).

### Course Drop:

- To drop/withdrawal from a course, email **learn@dce.ufl.edu**. Be sure to include in the body of your email that you wish to drop/withdrawal. There is a 14 week period to drop from the date of your enrollment. Please use this link for more information: [UF Drop Policies](#).

**UF Students Course Drop/Withdrawal:**

- In order to drop a UF Flexible Learning course, UF students must have an Academic Advisor or Department Chair email the UF Flexible Learning office at **learn@dce.ufl.edu** stating that the student is approved to drop the course.

- UF Students wishing to drop a UF Flexible Learning course after drop/add should contact their college advising office to see if they have a free drop remaining. If they have a free drop remaining, they have 14 weeks from the date of enrollment to drop the course, subject to applicable rules of their college and the university. This action is subject to verification that a grade has not yet been assigned.

- All full-term withdrawals must follow University of Florida policies/procedures. An approved withdrawal form must be submitted to the Dean of Student's Office for review and final approval. Students must also notify the UF Flexible Learning office of this request.
Medical Withdrawals:

Here is the link to start the Medical Withdrawal Process:

Dean of Students Office Medical Withdrawal Process

Retroactive Withdrawals:

Here is the link for retroactive withdrawal information: Petition Information

Course Transfers:

You may transfer from one course to another within 30 days of enrollment. This request must be in writing and sent by fax or e-mail. You will receive a receipt by mail. Any difference in tuition will be collected or refunded. There is a $50.00 transfer fee. After the transfer has taken place, the original enrollment and expiration dates still apply.

The approval and signature of a dean or academic advisor is required for UF students.

Textbook Buy-Back:

Textbooks, except for ones that use an access code, that are in continued use by UF Flexible Learning and are in good condition may be repurchased at 50% of the original purchase price 30 days from withdrawal or completion of a course.

Textbooks can be mailed to UF Flexible Learning. Be sure to include a note which contains your name, UF ID, course and contact information. A check will be issued and mailed to you.

Contact UF Flexible Learning for more details at learn@dce.ufl.edu.

How to Request a UF Transcript:

There are two ways to order a transcript:

1. The online ordering system by going to this link: Ordering UF Transcripts
2. If you cannot use the online system, please contact the UF Office of the University Registrar for instructions to mail in a request with a check or money order. They can be contacted by phone Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at 352-392-1374. Persons with hearing impairments can call FRS # 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).
Please check your “unofficial transcript” first, before ordering your “official transcript”, to make certain that your grade has been posted.

The University of Florida assures the confidentiality of all your educational records in accordance with State University System Rules, State Statutes, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Grades are not given out over the phone.

**UF Flexible Learning Contact Information:**

Email: learn@dce.ufl.edu
Phone: (352) 392-1711
Toll free: (800) 327-4218
Fax: (352) 392-6950
Website: [http://flexible.dce.ufl.edu/](http://flexible.dce.ufl.edu/)

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday
8:00am-5:00pm EST