

Introduction to Sociology

SOC 1100

July 12 – August 13, 2021

3 undergraduate credits

Instructor: Dr. Patricia Arend

Office Hours: Use email or course discussion board. If you want to talk to me, we can make a phone appointment. I will be online almost every day.

Telephone: 978-665-3608

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Instructions: Please use your Fitchburg State email account when contacting me.

Course Website: blackboard.fitchburgstate.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

What is the aim of sociological inquiry? What types of issues do sociologists address? How does one do sociology? This course is designed to provide you with an overview of the field of sociology as well as get you excited about sociology! Sociological inquiry has incredible breadth spanning the study of large scale social change including industrialization of economy, the growth of bureaucratic systems of power, urbanization of population, and the small scale social interactions of human beings in everyday life. It is not social work, such as therapy or human services. Over the course of the semester, you will become familiar with sociological theories, methods, and key sociological concepts. We will examine the ways that societies are built, the ways they are maintained and change, and the problems they generate for individuals and communities. In doing so, we will consider how people create, make sense of, reproduce, and/or challenge the meaning and experience of everyday life. The goal of this course is to provoke thought about what we take for granted as “natural” about social order, in order that we may think more critically about the ways our social interactions create, reinforce and challenge the cultural practices and social institutions that shape our lives. Most importantly, you will learn to think with a “sociological imagination.”

COURSE GOALS:

- To learn what a sociological imagination is and be able to use it to make sense of social life, including one’s own experience in society.
- To equip students with a working knowledge of the basic concepts in sociology.
- To introduce students to the central subjects and problems on which sociologists work and how they are studied, especially social inequality.
- To foster and improve critical thinking, reading and writing skills.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Apply your sociological imagination.
- Describe the major theoretical perspectives of sociology and use these theories to examine the various topics.
- Examine and explain systems of stratification.
- Read, reflect on and apply sociological concepts to one’s own life and contemporary society.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Class participation consists of reading other students' discussion board posts and making substantive comments on them. For it to be a "substantive comment" you must include more than "That's a good point." Imagine you are in a physical classroom. What would you want to say to someone who made such a comment? So you agree or disagree with them. Why? What comes to mind for you? Can you connect it to some aspect of your own life or, more importantly, to course material? What sociological questions does it raise for you?

Comments can be posted on any discussion for the first five chapters up to 11:59pm on Tuesday, June 11th. Comments for the last five chapters are due by 11:59pm on Tuesday, June 25th. **The earlier, more frequently, and more substantively you comment, the better your class participation grade will be.** Do not wait until the last minute. When you wait it makes it difficult to have full conversations with your peers. You are not necessarily online at the same time.

Students are encouraged to respond to comments on their posts, so as to foster dialogue with each other. I will count that as part of your class participation. However, everyone must comment on someone else's post at least once per chapter.

TEXTS:

REVEL for *The Sociology Project: Essentials: Introducing the Sociological Imagination* -- Access Card. You cannot take this course without purchasing this online content. REVEL is an online system to which you can connect through Blackboard. It includes a digital textbook (*The Sociology Project: Essentials*) videos, quizzes, and more. You can find the link to REVEL in the sidebar on the left hand side of the Blackboard homepage for our course. When you click on the link for REVEL, another link with "Open REVEL" and a Pearson logo will appear in the main window. Click on that link to open REVEL. You will need to enter an access code here to activate the software. You may also purchase it here with a credit card if you have not already purchased it at the bookstore. If you purchase it at the bookstore you will receive a card with the code on it. You cannot purchase a used code on Amazon or elsewhere. You can find everything you need for the REVEL assignments by clicking on the Assignments tab inside of REVEL on the sidebar to the left. The system allows you to start with a free, two-week trial account. If you do this, note that once you have the code you paid for you will need to link the accounts. Do not start over with a new account or you will lose all of your work. Dr. Arend can help you with this process, so ask for help.

ASSESSMENTS/COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

REVEL Assignments

Within REVEL for *The Sociology Project: Essentials* you are assigned ten chapters total. For each chapter you are required to read the chapter and view all videos embedded within it. You must also take the short module-quizzes as you read, to help with reading comprehension, and then take a final chapter quiz at the end. You are given three chances to answer the quiz questions. Note that there is a one point deduction for

each miss. Deadlines for each chapter can be found in the course outline at the end of the syllabus. Research has shown that it takes students longer to try to cheat the system by skimming or looking for answers online than to complete the assigned reading thoroughly and answer correctly the first time.

Writing

Instead of papers, for this course you will write shared discussion board posts related to each chapter. They should be about 300-400 words in length. Posts should respond to prompts posted to Blackboard (NOT in REVEL). You should take care to write with grammar and spelling appropriate to college level work. This is not casual writing. **Do not use a text message style of writing for anything in this course.** Also, **do not use Wikipedia or other random websites for your writing assignments.** The settings in Blackboard require you to post before being able to view and comment on the posts of other students. Discussion board posts are due before midnight (by 11:59pm) on the day they are due (see schedule below). Do not email Dr. Arend at 12:05am saying that there was a technology failure. It will be obvious that you missed the deadline. Plan ahead and post before you are in a time crunch.

EXAMS:

The exams are essay in format. You will have access to the questions two days before they are due, if not before. You can find them in the Assignments folder in Blackboard, NOT REVEL. **Exam answers that copy or paraphrase an online dictionary, Wikipedia or related source, online or off, or the work of students who previously took the course will receive an automatic zero.** Answer the questions in your own words. The goal is to show what you learned in the course, not what you can memorize or copy and paste from the internet. **IF you do quote or paraphrase your textbook (*The Sociology Project: Essentials* included with REVEL), include the section number in parentheses for the citation. Be sure to explain all quotes.**

Exams will be uploaded through a TurnItIn link within the Assignments folder in Blackboard. It has a built-in plagiarism search engine, so take care not to copy your answers from another source. Make sure you start within Blackboard! Do not look for TurnItIn through Google or REVEL.

When you get to this point in the syllabus, please send Dr. Arend an email with your FSU email account saying hello and that you read this far. Feel free to ask any questions.

COURSE OUTLINE:

All assignments are due ON THE DUE DATE listed, not later than 11:59pm.

Due Date	Topic	Assignments
	Introduction to the Course	
July 12	Course Begins	Buy the access code for <i>Revel-The Sociology Project: Essentials</i> online through Blackboard or at the FSU bookstore (it will be on a card) and login <i>through Blackboard</i> . Do not go through the external Pearson website. Read the syllabus. ALL of it.
July 13	Introduction to the course	Introduce yourself to the class on the discussion board in <u>Blackboard</u> (not REVEL).

July 15	The Sociological Imagination	Read chapter, take module-quizzes while reading, post shared discussion board writing, Take Chapter 1 Quiz in Revel
Part I	Fundamental Concepts	
July 17	Social Theory	Read chapter, take module-quizzes while reading, post shared discussion board writing, Take Chapter 2 Quiz in Revel
July 19	Social Interaction	Read chapter, take module-quizzes while reading, post shared discussion board writing, Take Chapter 3 Quiz in Revel
July 21	Social Structure	Read chapter, take module-quizzes while reading, post shared discussion board writing, Take Chapter 4 Quiz in Revel
July 23	Inequality and Poverty	Read chapter, take module-quizzes while reading, post shared discussion board writing, Take Chapter 5 Quiz in Revel
July 25	Part I Class Participation	All comments on discussion board writing for Part I must be posted by midnight
July 27	Midterm Exam	Submit exam through the TurnItIn link in Blackboard (assignments folder, not REVEL) before midnight.
Part II	Social Inequality & Institutions	
July 29	Race and Ethnicity	Read chapter, take module-quizzes while reading, post shared writing, Take Chapter 6 Quiz in Revel
August 1	Gender and Sexuality	Read chapter, take module-quizzes while reading, post shared writing, Take Chapter 7 Quiz in Revel
August 3	Families and Family Life	Read chapter, take module-quizzes while reading, post shared writing, Take Chapter 8 Quiz in Revel
August 5	Markets, Organizations and Work	Read chapter, take module-quizzes while reading, post shared writing, Take Chapter 9 Quiz in Revel
August 7	Power and Politics	Read chapter, take module-quizzes while reading, post shared writing, Take Chapter 12 Quiz in Revel
August 9	Part II Class Participation	All comments on sharing writing posts for Part II must be posted by midnight
August 11	Final Exam	Submit exam through the TurnItIn link in Blackboard (assignments folder, not REVEL) before midnight.
August 13	Last Day of Class	

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE GRADING POLICY and COURSE EVALUATION

- Writing (discussion board posts) (25%)
- Class participation (comments on discussion board posts) (10%)
- Module and chapter quizzes (15%)
- Midterm Exam (25%)
- Final Exam (25%)

<u>4.0</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>95 – 100</u>
<u>3.7</u>	<u>A-</u>	<u>92 – 94</u>
<u>3.5</u>	<u>A-/B+</u>	<u>89 – 91</u>
<u>3.3</u>	<u>B+</u>	<u>86 – 88</u>
<u>3.0</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>83 – 85</u>
<u>2.7</u>	<u>B-</u>	<u>80 – 82</u>
<u>2.5</u>	<u>B-/C+</u>	<u>77 – 79</u>
<u>2.3</u>	<u>C+</u>	<u>74 – 76</u>
<u>2.0</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>71 – 73</u>
<u>1.7</u>	<u>C-</u>	<u>69 – 70</u>
<u>1.5</u>	<u>C-/D+</u>	<u>67 – 68</u>
<u>1.3</u>	<u>D+</u>	<u>64 – 66</u>
<u>1.0</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>60 – 63</u>
<u>0.0</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>0 – 59</u>
-	<u>IN</u>	<u>Incomplete</u>
-	<u>IP</u>	<u>In Progress</u>
-	<u>W</u>	<u>Withdrawn</u>

CLASS POLICIES:

Submission of Assignments

Please submit all written assignments via Blackboard and REVEL. Assignments may not be submitted by email.

Late Coursework

Due to the condensed nature of the course, no late assignments will be accepted unless there is an extreme circumstance, such as a death in the family that can be verified.

Communication

Email communication will be done through your Fitchburg State email account. Please be sure your account is up to date and check your email regularly.

Modifications to Syllabus

You are responsible for any/all changes to the syllabus announced in an email or posted on Blackboard.

Class Environment

By nature, sociology involves the study of some controversial social issues. Becoming educated people requires that we not shy away from them, but rather learn how to address them tactfully. You are not going to agree with each other on some issues, but you should be respectful in your communication.

POLICY ON DISABILITY

Fitchburg State University encourages the full participation of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of campus living and learning. To support access and inclusion, FSU offers reasonable accommodations to students who have documented disabilities (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, sensory, etc.). If you require accommodations for this class, please provide me with a copy of your Accommodation Agreement as soon as possible so that we can discuss your specific needs. Any information that you share with me will be held in the strictest confidence, unless you give me permission to do otherwise. If you require academic accommodations but do not have an Accommodation Agreement, please contact Disability Services as soon as possible to establish your eligibility for services.

GRADE APPEAL

If you disagree with the evaluation of your work or believe an improper grade has been assigned, an appeal may be followed. Please discuss the matter with the instructor and refer to the Fitchburg State University Grade Appeal Policy in the university catalog.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

This course will adhere to the university's policies on academic integrity, as outlined in the Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Processes Handbook, which may be downloaded as a PDF file from the website of the Office of Student Conduct, Mediation and Education: <http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/offices-services-directory/office-of-student-conduct-mediation-education/academic-integrity/>

Fitchburg State University encourages all Extended Campus students to take advantage of our online student services. We have created a "virtual student center" just for you. Here you will find access to Counseling Services, Career Services, The Student Activity Center, the university bookstore and many other helpful links. You can access our student center by going to the university homepage at <http://www.fitchburgstate.edu> and clicking on Offices and Services. Scroll down and click on Extended Campus Center. You will find links to Library Services, our Virtual Student Center and other important information.

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY DISTANCE LEARNING & EXTENDED CAMPUS LIBRARY SERVICES

The Gallucci-Cirio Library at Fitchburg State University provides a full range of library services including borrowing privileges; document delivery (books and articles mailed to your home); Interlibrary Loan; reference assistance via: phone, email, IM, Blackboard's Collaboration and Elluminate tools, Skype and in-person; library instruction; research help and more. Any questions relating to library services should be directed to the Linda LeBlanc, Access Services Librarian, at 978-665-3062 or dllibrary@fitchburgstate.edu. There is also a special section for Distance Learning and Extended Campus Services at <http://fitchburgstate.libguides.com/dlservices> outlining the wide range of services available to you and how to access them.

Students who are currently registered with the university may access any of the library's subscription databases, including an increasing number with full-text, by visiting the Gallucci-Cirio Library's homepage at <http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/academics/library> and clicking on the Research Databases button in the center of the page. Select the resource you want to access from the alphabetical or subject listing. Once you click on the database title you will be prompted for your Falcon Key logon information; this is the same logon you will use for your Fitchburg State email account and if you have any online Blackboard courses. If you do not know your Falcon Key username and password or if you have any problems logging in, contact the university's Technology Help Desk at 978-665-4500 or helpdesk@fitchburgstate.edu. The Library can issue you a temporary guest Falcon Key to use while the Technology Department is setting up your account: contact us at 978-665-3062 or dllibrary@fitchburgstate.edu