

Selected Studies in Sociology Syllabus

SYG2931, Summer 2021, May 17 - June 18

Course & Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Joshua Kane

Office Hours: By Appointment

Contact Hours: 15

Credits: 1

Course Description

This course is scheduled for individual students who wish to explore topics supplementary to the curriculum in Introduction to Sociology (SYG2000).

Prerequisites

To be taken in conjunction with Introduction to Sociology (SYG 2000).

Textbook Information

There are no textbooks required for this course.

Measurable Course Objectives

Measurable Course Objectives are outcomes students are expected to achieve by the end of the course.

- Understand, interpret and summarize a specific sociological literature.
- Communicate thoughts, ideas, opinions, information and messages in writing.
- Identify a problem or argument and ask appropriate questions.

- Gather and analyze data relevant to a problem.
- Consider diverse perspectives and alternative points of view when generating and assessing solutions to a sociological problem.
- Locate and use appropriate and relevant information from print and/or electronic information sources to match informational needs.
- Identify, analyze and evaluate information for relevancy, accuracy, authority, bias, currency and coverage.
- Synthesize collected ideas and materials into original work in appropriate formats.
- Use information ethically and legally.
- Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures, including global and historical.

Collegewide Student Learning Outcomes

The Collegewide Student Learning Outcomes assessed and reinforced in this course include the following:

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Sociological and Quantitative Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Global Sociocultural Responsibility

Attendance/Makeup Policy

The College recognizes the correlation between attendance and both student retention and achievement. Per College Policy 3.060 **Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.**

Course Content

Migrations, politics and culture in a global age

On a planetary level, an estimated 270 million people are annually involved in international migration, moving from their own country in order to reach another on the same continent or other less developed areas of the planet (located mostly in the South), as well as the more developed ones. These population movements can be understood in the context of a search for reterritorialization connected to the processes of globalization

(Sassen, 1998; Withol de Wanden, 2012).

Migrations thus develop within complex communication networks. On the one hand, movements take place from countries of origin to destination countries. Meanwhile, contacts are activated between immigrants in host countries as well as between immigrants and their regions of origin. As a result, contacts are maintained as well as increased. These networks are established through direct individual as well as group contact, and resort to diverse means of transport and traditional techniques of communication, as well as new information infrastructures (Castells, 1996; 342-403; Appadurai, 1996).

Consequently, cultural, economic, social, and political issues arise that relate not only to the motives and means of journeys, but also in terms of how the location of immigrants in host countries maps out, and how communication flows take shape with regard to their regions of origin.

The migration experience begins as an attempt to create better living conditions and economic prospects for the migrant and his/her family. It involves journeys and the crossing of frontiers - at times legal, but also not, when the migrant is often then exposed to the intervention of criminal organizations. It develops through contacts and relationships fed by information flows whose networks also influence host country placement. Migrations stemming from less developed areas, as well as new powerful countries such as China and India, raise a wide range of disputes and problems in reception areas. In the wake of situations of instability in Africa and the Middle East, the European Union, in addition to a constant flow of economic migrants, is now facing a refugee crisis, especially as a consequence of the prolonged civil war in Syria. Similar causes lead to other refugee and humanitarian crisis in Asia and Middle East. In an attempt to regulate massive migration flows, new restrictive policies are characterizing the political agenda of those countries that have been traditionally hosting and integrating immigrants, such as the USA.

You are required to write an essay – at least 750 words, references not included – in which you will consider one or several contemporary issues related to one of the following topics – **Friday, Week 5:**

1. Immigration (first, second or third generation) within a specific country of your choice.
2. Global migration.
3. Asylum seekers and refugees.
4. Integration issues and cultural differences.

Grading Scale

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = Below 60%

“A” grades are given for outstanding work. You are doing extremely well. The student has exceeded expectation.

“B” grades are given for above average work. You are doing very well. Improvements will be toward higher refinements of concept.

“C” grades are given for average work. You are meeting an acceptable level or expectation. Improvements will be towards acceptable levels of project requirements.

“D” grades are given for below average work. You are under-achieving in quality and/or motivation. Improvements will be towards acceptable level of project requirements.

“F” grades are given for failure. You are not reaching the expected level for college work. Improvements are to review goals, seek assistance and increase efforts.

Academic Integrity

As members of the Seminole State College of Florida community, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic coursework and activities.

Academic dishonesty, such as cheating of any kind on examinations, course assignments or projects, plagiarism, misrepresentation and the unauthorized possession of examinations or other course-related materials, is prohibited.

Plagiarism is unacceptable to the college community. Academic work that is submitted by students is assumed to be the result of their own thought, research or self-expression. When students borrow ideas, wording or organization from another source, they are expected to acknowledge that fact in an appropriate manner. Plagiarism is the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without identifying the source and trying to pass-off such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give full credit for ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized.

Students who share their work for the purpose of cheating on class assignments or tests are subject to the same penalties as the student who commits the act of cheating.

When cheating or plagiarism has occurred, instructors may take academic action that ranges from denial of credit for the assignment or a grade of "F" on a specific assignment, examination or project, to the assignment of a grade of "F" for the course. Students may also be subject to further sanctions imposed by the judicial officer, such as disciplinary probation, suspension or dismissal from the College.