University of South Florida
Sarasota-Manatee

Meeting Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM, Room B226

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Sociology
COURSE NUMBER: SYG 2000, CRN 93870

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:
The textbook is available in print or e-text (from Course Smart)

INSTRUCTOR: Gary M. Voelkl, Ph.D.
gvoelkl@usf.edu
Department Telephone: (941) 359-4454

Dr. Voelkl holds a Ph.D. and a Master’s Degree in Sociology from Purdue University. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the State University of New York. He has held faculty and teaching positions at Indiana-Purdue University in Indianapolis, the State University of New York at Brockport, the University of South Florida, and the State College of Florida. In addition to his teaching, for 15 years Dr. Voelkl served as Corporate Manager of Diversity Initiatives for Kodak. He also served as Manager of Kodak’s Work/Life Programs and as an Employee Assistance Program Counselor for the company.

INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY:
If you have any questions or issues about the course, your performance or circumstances I should be aware of, I am always available before or after class. I can also be reached any day by e-mail. If you would like a more extended face to face meeting, we will set a meeting time.

COURSE GOALS:
The primary goal of the course is for each of you to develop what C. Wright Mills called the “sociological imagination,” or the awareness of the relationship between our personal experiences and the social forces that shape them. Throughout the course, we will explore our role as social beings whose ideas, perceptions, lifestyles, limitations and opportunities are shaped by the various configurations of social structures in our individual lives. It is my hope that, whether you decide to pursue additional sociology courses or stop with this class, you will find it useful to look at situations or issues from a sociological perspective in your future career and everyday life.
It is my hope that you get involved this term. There will be lectures, of course, but please do not spend the entire class period simply listening! Come to class prepared and willing to contribute.

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

The student, at the successful completion of this course, should be able to:

1. Show the relevance and reality of structural factors in social life
2. Categorize an issue in a larger context (identify systemic elements; identify stakeholders; list unintended consequences)
3. Describe, explain, and predict aspects of social problems
4. Critique individualistic explanations of behavior and identify social patterns
5. Recognize the difference between dispositional and sociological explanations
6. Recognize the difference between empirical and normative statements
7. Identify and offer explanations for social inequality
8. Analyze labor force issues
9. Perform a content analysis of texts or news to identify possible sources of bias
10. Critique the media
11. Rewrite a topic of interest into a researchable, sociological question
12. Describe the elements of the scientific method in the social sciences
13. Explain the basic elements of an ethical code of conduct for social scientists
14. Examine the “causal nexus”, e.g., correlation, time order, elimination of alternative explanations
15. Interpret descriptive statistics
16. Evaluate the methodological processes and limits of research (e.g., bias, generalizability)
17. Assess web sites and electronic resources
18. Construct a data table properly and read and interpret a table correctly
19. Distinguish levels of analysis
20. Predict intervening factors and spurious relationships in social life
21. Show awareness of probabilities and contingencies
22. Recognize that counterfactual anecdotes do not invalidate sociology
23. Explain the intersection of biography and history
24. Illustrate the role of the other
25. Describe various career trajectories for sociologists at different degree levels; where sociologists work and what they do
26. Locate personal life choices and chances in a demographic context
27. Compare and contrast one’s own context with those in other parts of the U.S. and the world
28. Describe the tension between generalization and stereotyping; social forces and determinism
29. Evaluate the role of human agency in social change
GRADED ACTIVITIES:

Your final grade in the course will be determined by your performance in five areas. Each is explained in more detail below.

1. Quizzes on Lectures and Reading: 60%
2. Midterm Exam: 10%
3. Final Exam: 10%
4. Reflection Papers: 15%
5. Class Participation: 5%

100%

Therefore, your final grade in the course will be calculated as follows:

1. Quizzes on Assigned Reading: 60% of your total course grade
2. Midterm Exam: 10% of your total course grade
3. Final Exam: 10% of your total course grade
4. Reflection Papers: 15% of your total course grade
5. Class Participation: 5% of your total course grade

Final letter grades will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-97</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96-93</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>86-83</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>82-80</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>79-77</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>76-73</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>72-70</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>69-67</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>66-63</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62-60</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 60</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

As an example, if your final quiz average was 80, your midterm exam grade was 85 and your final exam grade was 70, your reflection papers grade was 90 and your class participation grade was 95 your final course grade would be: (80*60%)+(85*10%)+(70*10%)+(90*15%)+(95*5%) = 81.75. Your grade for the class is B-.

GRADED ACTIVITIES DETAILS:

Quizzes on Lectures and Reading: Four multiple-choice quizzes will be given during the semester. They will cover the assigned chapters from the textbook and lecture material.

Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will be held on week nine and will be multiple choice.

Final Exam: The final exam is multiple choice and will cover all course material.

Reflection Papers: These are one page reaction papers written on questions assigned from the “Reflection Questions” document found in Canvas. Address any five questions of your choice. Your response to each question should be about one, double spaced page.

The papers are due at the end of the semester, on the last day of class: 12/5/2014. A drop-box will be provided in Canvas for you to submit your papers.

You will be using your textbook as the resource to support your responses. As the semester progresses (and your understanding of sociology grows) you should gain the insight to demonstrate your sociological knowledge and thinking in your reflection upon the questions. If someone were to read your response, would they feel it had been written by a college level student who has knowledge of sociology? Or, would it read as if it could have been written by
anyone with an opinion? For each paper, you are required to provide at least one reference to the textbook that support your work.

The best way to do this is to make a folder containing one document in which you will put all of your Reflection Papers. As you complete a paper, copy it and paste it in the document. At the end of the semester, there will be a drop-box where you can submit this document. Do not submit each paper as a separate document – include all papers in one document and submit that document in the drop-box.

To be considered for an “A” your set of papers must total at least 1,500 words (all papers combined). How do you know how many words you have written? If you use Word, there is a running total at the bottom in the task bar. For Word 2003, click Tools in the top toolbar, then Word Count. As a general guideline, with 10 point font, a single page, double spaced is about 375 words. In 12 point, it is about 300 words. This is only a guideline, however. The exact total will be verified by word count. Also, it is your words that are counted. The assignment instructions cannot be included.

Use must use either MLA or APA format in citing your references. If you are unfamiliar with these formats, here is a website that will create a correct citation for you in either style from the information you type in: http://citationmachine.net Click either MLA or APA, then, on the next screen, choose the type of source you are using from the list in the left hand margin. Then, fill in the form provided. Copy and paste the citation provided into your discussion.

To be eligible for an “A” on your Reflection Papers:

1. You must include a citation to the textbook in each paper.
2. You must turn in five papers.
3. The total number of words for all of your Reflection Papers combined must total at least 1,500.

Class Participation: This will be determined by your attendance in class throughout the semester. Attendance will be taken at the end of each class. Students leaving class early will not receive credit for attending unless the instructor is notified ahead of time.

You are required to be in attendance for all quizzes and exams. Make-up quizzes or exams will be available only on the day of the final exam. They cannot be made-up during the semester. If the test is made up, a grade of zero will be recorded.

NOTE: There is no Extra Credit available in this course. Completing all tests and the Reaction Papers will allow you sufficient opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge and ability.

Tests will be given on the days indicated in the syllabus. You are required to be in attendance for all quizzes and exams. Make-up quizzes or exams are only available on the day of the final exam.
## COURSE SCHEDULE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading Due</th>
<th>Class Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course. What Is Sociology?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8/27</td>
<td>Text: Ch 1</td>
<td>The Sociological Perspective</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>9/1</td>
<td><em>Labor Day Holiday – No class</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>Text: Ch 1</td>
<td>The Sociological Perspective</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Social Research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Text: Ch 2</td>
<td>Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>Text: Ch 2</td>
<td>Socialization</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/17</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Quiz 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>Text: Ch 3</td>
<td>Social Structure, Interaction and Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Social Structure, Interaction and Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9/29</td>
<td>Text: Ch 4</td>
<td>Deviance</td>
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<td>10/1</td>
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<td>Deviance</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>10/6</td>
<td><strong>Quiz 2</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>10/8</td>
<td>Text: Ch 5</td>
<td>Social Stratification</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Social Stratification</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/15</td>
<td>Text: Ch 5</td>
<td>Global Stratification</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/20</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Midterm Exam</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>10/22</td>
<td>Text: Ch 6</td>
<td>Race and Ethnicity</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>10/27</td>
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<td>Race and Ethnicity</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/29</td>
<td>Text: Ch 7</td>
<td>Gender and Sexuality</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gender and Sexuality</td>
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<td>11/5</td>
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<td><strong>Quiz 3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>Text: Ch 9</td>
<td>Work, Government and the Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Work, Government and the Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>Text: Ch 8, 9</td>
<td>Education and Religion</td>
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<td>11/19</td>
<td>Text: Ch 8</td>
<td>Families and Intimate Relationships</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>11/24</td>
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<td>Families and Intimate Relationships</td>
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<td>11/26</td>
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<td><strong>Quiz 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>Text: Ch 10</td>
<td>Population and Urbanization</td>
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<td>12/5</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Reflection Papers Due</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12/6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exam Week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Course requirements are subject to change by the instructor as deemed appropriate to meet the needs of the program and students. It is the responsibility of each student to read and comprehend the syllabus and guidelines prior to the end of the first week of class.

### IMPORTANT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

**Missed or Late Assignments:** Quizzes and the Midterm can only be made up, if missed, on the day of the final exam. There is no letter grade penalty, but be aware that you will
taking the make-up quite some time after we have covered that material in class.
Reflection Papers must be submitted via the drop-box in Canvas by the last day of class (12/5). If not, they will receive a grade of zero.

**Academic Honesty:**

Plagiarism is a form of dishonesty that occurs when a person passes off someone else’s work as his or her own. This can range from failing to cite an author for ideas incorporated into a student’s paper to cutting and pasting paragraphs from different websites to handing in a paper downloaded from the internet. Avoid plagiarism by citing sources properly.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. For specific information on the university’s policy, refer to [USFSM Undergraduate Catalog](http://www.usfsm.edu/undergraduate_catalog) or [USFSM Graduate Catalog](http://www.usfsm.edu/graduate_catalog) and the [USF Student Code of Conduct](http://www.usf.edu/studentconduct/).

*The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows student assignments be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to ask students to submit their assignments to Turnitin through Canvas. Assignments are compared automatically with a database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student’s paper was plagiarized.*

*Pursuant to the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), students are requested to maintain confidentiality as a way to keep their personal contact information (i.e. name, address, telephone) from being disclosed to vendors or other outside agencies. By your submission, you are also agreeing to release your original work for review for academic purposes to Turnitin.*

**Additional Information:**

**USF Sarasota-Manatee Policies and Procedures**

**Religious Observances**
The University recognizes the right of students and faculty to observe major religious holidays. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class for a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second week of classes.

**Disabilities Accommodation**
Students are responsible for registering with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Reasonable notice must be given to the SDS office (typically 5 working days) for accommodations to be arranged. It is the responsibility of the student to provide each instructor with a copy of the official Memo of Accommodation. Contact Information: Disability Coordinator: 359-4714; disabilityservices@sar.usf.edu; http://www.usfsm.edu/students/disability/
Academic Dishonesty
The University considers any form of plagiarism or cheating on exams, projects, or papers to be unacceptable behavior. Please be sure to review the university’s policy in the USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog and the USF Student Code of Conduct.
Undergraduate: http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/
Graduate: http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/
USF Student Code of Conduct: http://www.sa.usf.edu/srr/page.asp?id=88

Academic Disruption
The University does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. The policy for addressing academic disruption is included with Academic Dishonesty in the USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog and the USF Student Code of Conduct.
Undergraduate: http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/
Graduate: http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/
USF Student Code of Conduct: http://www.sa.usf.edu/srr/page.asp?id=88

Contingency Plans
In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USFSM to suspend normal operations. During this time, USFSM may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Blackboard/Canvas, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It’s the responsibility of the student to monitor Blackboard/Canvas site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USFSM and College websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information. The USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information during an emergency.

Emergency Preparedness
It is strongly recommended that you become familiar with the USF Sarasota-Manatee Emergency Action Plan on the Safety Preparedness site http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/facilities/SafetyPreparedness.php

Fire Alarm Instructions
At the beginning of each semester please note the emergency exit maps posted in each classroom. These signs are marked with the primary evacuation route (red) and secondary evacuation route (orange) in case the building needs to be evacuated.

Web Portal Information
Every newly enrolled USF student receives an official USF e-mail account. Students receive official USF correspondence and Blackboard/Canvas course information via that address. Therefore it is the student’s responsibility to check their USF email regularly.

Instructor Copyright
Students may not sell notes or other course materials.