



Course Syllabus

Principles of Sociology

SYG 2000 / CRN: 81416 / Fall 2026

A Session (8/17/26 – 12/10/26)

Credit Hours: 3

Pre-requisites: None

Contact Information

Instructor

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Professor

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Course Information

Important Note

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

Catalog Description:

Students in this course will gain an understanding of the basic sociological concepts and vocabulary, including the methodological tools, sociological perspectives, and scientific procedures used by social scientists to collect data and conduct research. Topics generally include: society and culture, institutions, socialization, influences, crime, change, groups, sex, race and ethnicity, family, class, and population.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- Apply multiple sociological perspectives.
- Identify methodological tools used to evaluate sociological research questions.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the dynamics between individual agency and social influences.

These student learning outcomes will be measured via written assignments, quizzes, and exams. The above outcomes will be completed at the satisfactory level (60% or above) on the associated assignment rubric.

Course Materials & Resources:

There is no textbook for this class. All class content is in the course site – YouTube Video lectures, audio lectures, and written notes and links.

Delivery Method:

This is a web-based course. All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented in the Canvas course site and should periodically check for updates—at least every 48 hours.

Remember: This course is not one in which students may work at their own pace. Each week there are learning modules, assignments, online lectures, online discussions, and/or online exams with due dates. Refer to the schedule within this syllabus and within Canvas for more information.

Attendance and Make-Up Policies for this Course

Attendance Policy:

Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive learning activities is required. Students “attend” class by listening to each of the lectures as assigned and taking thorough notes on each of them.

Make-Up Work Policy:

Missing any part of this schedule may prevent completion of the course. If you foresee difficulty of any type (i.e., an illness, employment change, etc.) which may prevent completion of this course, notify the instructor as soon as possible. Failure to do so will result in failure for an assignment and/or failure of the course. If I have not heard from you by the deadline dates for assignments, exams, or forums, no make-up work will be allowed (unless extraordinary circumstances exist, such as hospitalization). Requests for extensions must be made in advance and accompanied by appropriate written documentation. “Computer problems” is not an acceptable excuse.

AI Policy for this Course

Limited Assistive Use Only

Students may use basic assistive technologies for spelling, grammar, and formatting (e.g., PaperRater or SpellCheckPLUS); however, the use of AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI function, etc.) for generating, rewriting, or enhancing content is not permitted.

All work must reflect the student's original ideas and writing. Representing work created by AI as one's own is a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.

Student Expectations

Communication and feedback within the course will occur through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, Canvas Discussions, Microsoft Teams or Zoom, assignment feedback, and/or instructor office hours.

Additionally, as a student at Gulf Coast State College, you are expected to:

- **Adhere to Course Guidelines:** Follow the instructions within the course syllabus along with any additional instructions provided by the instructor. Be certain you understand the course objectives, grading criteria, and academic policies.
- **Maintain Regular Contact:** Keep in touch with your instructor via your GCSC email or other designated communication channels. Regular contact helps clarify doubts, share ideas, and foster a collaborative learning environment.
- **Active Participation:** Engage actively in the course and submit assignments on time. Your active participation is crucial for your academic success and contributes to a deeper learning experience.

As your instructor, my commitment to you is to:

- **Provide Timely Feedback:** I will review and provide feedback on your assignments and submissions promptly. My goal is to help you understand your strengths and areas for improvement.
- **Respond Via GCSC Email:** I will respond to your emails or messages within 24-48 hours unless otherwise noted. I understand the importance of clear and timely communication in addressing your questions and concerns.
- **Post Regular Announcements:** Announcements will be posted to keep you updated and help you manage your time. These reminders will include important dates, upcoming assignments, and any changes to the course schedule.
- **Maintain Weekly Office Hours:** I will maintain regular weekly office hours, but I can also be available by appointment. This is to ensure I'm available for any questions or concerns that may come up during the week.

Course Requirements:

Students enrolled in this course will be required to:

- Read all of the textbook pages assigned with each Learning Module;

- Listen to and take thorough notes on the digital lectures assigned with each Learning Module—I cannot overstate the importance of the digital lectures;
- Complete the quiz embedded within each lecture;
- Complete all four exams AS SCHEDULED (see the course schedule below).
- Contact the instructor via email at once with any problems or issues. I cannot handle problems unless you make me aware of them.

Assignments/Assessment Instruments

I. Tests

- The five tests will be comprised of multiple choice questions.
- The test will be delivered online via Canvas.
- The test will be timed; each is strictly closed book and closed notes.
- See the exam instructions within the course Canvas page for the time limit.

Each Test will have a weight of 10% each (50% of your grade).

II. Journal Posts and Discussion Board Post

Journal Posts: Students are required to complete two Journal Posts, which will make up 20% of their grade in the class (10% each). These are opinion observations, with an expectation of including sociological concepts, terms, and areas covered in class content.

Discussion Board Posts: Students are expected to complete 5 Discussion Board Posts. Each Discussion Board Post has clear assignment expectations regarding learning examples that may include sociological concepts, terms, theorists, theories, and institutions. Each Discussion Board has word limit requirements and must include interactions with two classmates for full credit. Each Discussion Board is 2% of your grade (10% of total grade)

III. Lecture Quizzes

There are 20 Panopto Videos with embedded Quizzes. Each Quiz is 2% of your grade (20% of your total grade). Be patient once you have completed the quizzes. I have to manually move scores over from the Panopto site to the Canvas gradebook.

Course Schedule

Dates	Module	Module Assignments
17-30 August	1	“Foundation of Sociology” Textbook Readings: Chapters 1 and 2 Welcome Discussion Board Panopto Video 1 (Embedded Quiz 1) - General Overview Panopto Video 2 (Embedded Quiz 2) - Norms, Mores, Folkways Panopto Video 3 (Embedded Quiz 3) - Culture Panopto Video 4 (Embedded Quiz 4) - Research (Part 1)
31 Aug-13 Sept	2	“Foundations of Sociology, Cont.” Textbook Readings: Chapters 1 and 2 Discussion Board 1 – DB interactions and Classical Theorists Panopto Video (Embedded Quiz 5) - Research (Part 2) Panopto Video (Embedded Quiz 6) - Research (Part 3) Panopto Video (Embedded Quiz 7) - Sociological Theory Test 1: Chapters 1 and 2; (and notes from Videos)
13 Sept-4 Oct	3	“Everyday Sociology” Textbook Readings: Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 Discussion Board 2 – Micro/Macro Perspectives Panopto Video (Embedded Quiz 8) - Behavior and Society Panopto Video (Embedded Quiz 9) - Culture Concepts Test 2 – Chapters 3, 4, 5 (and notes from Videos)
4 Oct -25 Oct	4	“Everyday Sociology, Cont.” Textbook Readings: Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 Discussion Board 3 - Connections between Culture and Society Panopto Video (Embedded Quiz 10) - Socialization Panopto Video (Embedded Quiz 11) - Status and Roles Panopto Video (Embedded Quiz 12) - Social Groups Test 3 – Chapters 5, 6, 7 (and notes from Videos)
25 Oct-15 Nov	5	“Social Institutions” Textbook Readings: Chapters 9, 14 and 15 Discussion Board 4 – socialization, groups, status, roles Panopto Video (Embedded Quiz 13) - Family (Part 1) Panopto Video (Embedded Quiz 14) - Family) Part 2) Panopto Video (Embedded Quiz 15) - Family (Part 2)

		Panopto Video (Embedded Quiz 16) - Religion (Part 1) Panopto Video (Embedded Quiz 17) - Religion (Part 2) Test 4 – Chapters 9, 14 and 15 (and notes from Videos)
15 Nov-10 Dec	6	“Social Institutions, Cont.” Textbook Readings: Chapters 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 Journal Post 1 – The Family Journal Post 2 – Role of Education and Religion Panopto Video (Embedded Quiz 18) - The Environment Panopto Video (Embedded Quiz 19) - The Economy Panopto Video (Embedded Quiz 20) - Education Test 5 – Chapters 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

Course Modules and Key Content:

MODULE 1: Foundation concepts for Introduction to Sociology; Early origins and practical uses; Differences between psychology and sociology; Key terms/concepts explored – Norms (everyday behaviors that are customary and common); Mores (norms focusing on morals, ethics, and values, with an emphasis on foundations mores like the 10 Commandments in Judeo/Christian society); Folkways (customs, traditions, lifestyles, beliefs that represent the families and communities we live in); Values (principles and perspectives that are important to us on two levels – personal values and universal values); Laws (a general discussion about misdemeanors and felonies, as well as common laws that effect everyday life)

MODULE 2: Basic review of theory and classical theorists; Micro and Macro Perspectives; Basic Theories (Functionalism; Conflict; Symbolic Interactionism); Basic Theorists - Comte, Spencer, Durkheim, Marx, Weber, Mills, Mead, Cooley, and Goffman; Basic concepts of research in sociology; applications; Qualitative, Quantitative, Validity, Reliability, Verifiability, Replication, Demographic Variables, Ethics.

MODULE 3 – Everyday Sociology – Basic foundations of human behavior that includes genetic frameworks and social learning from environmental forces; Types of Societies with emphasis of rural communities, small towns, and larger cities; Social Control (free-will and the forces of faith and religion coupled with rules and laws enforced by man for the greater good of society; Social Deviance (violations of social norms and laws);

MODULE 4 – Everyday Socialization - Culture (symbols, language, and values – dominant culture, subcultures, and countercultural movements); Socialization (primary and secondary socialization; acculturation, assimilation, amalgamation); Status (master, subordinate, ascribed, achieved, status exit); Roles (strain, conflict, expectations, requirements, confusion, exit); Formal Groups (reporting hierarchy; leadership styles); Informal Groups (open, closed, peers, reference). The scope of everyday life in patterned interactions that shape the foundation of society.

MODULE 5 Social Institutions– This module explores some basic aspects of social stratification and wealth distribution. The remainder of the module covers 2 of the 5 basic social institutions in Sociology – The Family (nuclear; extended; power; theories; changes); Religion (world and US affiliations; trends; theism; historical aspects);

MODULE 6 – Social Institutions, Cont. This module explores Education (basic skills; specializations; workforce; tracking; labeling effect; credentialism; life course; The Economy (capitalism; socialism; formal; informal; global; monopolies; conglomerates; multinationals); and Politics and Government (domestic affairs; external defense; forms of government; power; authority; social influences). Key concepts and terminology will be explored for each institution. Highlights will include the basic sociological goals of education, the shaping of religion throughout the United States and the world, the importance of the family, the economy, and political institutions.

Grading

Grading Scale

All grades will be posted in the student grade book in Canvas and will be assigned according to the following scale:

A	90%-100%
B	80%-89%
C	70%-79%
D	60%-69%
F	59% and below

Calculation of Grades

Test # 1	10%
Test # 2	10%
Test # 3	10%
Test # 4	10%
Test #5	10%
Journal Post #1	10%

Journal Post #2	10%
Discussion Boards (5)	10% (2% each)
Video Quizzes (20)	20% (2% each)

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete in any course can only be assigned to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course. To receive an Incomplete, students must:

- Submit a written request to the instructor prior to the last face-to-face class meeting. For online courses, a written Incomplete request must be received no later than the week before the Final Exam period begins.
- Have completed no less than sixty percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted.

Important Note: The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if all remaining work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an “F.”

General GCSC Course Policies

Accessibility Statement

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. Please visit [GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource \(SAR\) webpage](#) to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

GCSC Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.

You are expected to know the instructor's specific attendance policy as stated in the syllabus for each course. In the event of absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.)

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, your professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially responsible for the course and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

Withdrawal Policy

Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

There are two kinds of withdrawals---student and administrative.

- **Student Withdrawal (W1)** - Students wishing to withdraw must complete the online Student Withdrawal Form before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the College catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.
- **Administrative Withdrawal (W2)** – A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy in which case the student will receive a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

Academic Integrity

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student's records.

Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:

"Cheating" includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

"Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects. It can also include overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructor's guidelines of AI material.

"Self-plagiarism" occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

"Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)" is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function.

Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

Classroom Recording

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member.

Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the GCSC Student Handbook.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of generative AI tools in academic work requires clear guidelines to maintain academic integrity. Please review the policy selected for this course regarding the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI features, and similar platforms for assignments, research, and other coursework.

See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status.

All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

Student Support Resources

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources provided at GCSC on the [Student Services web page](#).

Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- Computer: Up-to-date web browser that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the system requirements for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.
- Internet Speed: Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- Office 365 software: Available for free download through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).
- If you need technical support, contact the ITS Help Desk, available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.