

Syllabus
Introduction to Social Science
Spring 2023 (January 9-May 4)

I. Course Information

Course Title: Introduction to Social Science
Course No. and Section: ISS 1013 sec. 01
Instructor Name: Jen Moore-Ambrosia
Credit Hours: 3
Course Location: 8-103

Meeting Dates: MW 2-3:15
Office Location: 2-115C
Office Hours:
Telephone No.: 352-854-2322 ext. 1681
Email: ambrosij@cf.edu

Extended Emergency Closure

“For emergency campus closings (natural disasters, etc.) call 352-291-4499 or 800-831-9244 or check our [website](#) (CF.edu).”

II. Course Description: Introduction to the Social Sciences examines major issues facing America and the world today. Topics include human origins, society, culture, demographics, the family, religion, education, social stratification, government, the environment, economics, and international relations.

Course Objectives

You should gain an awareness of and appreciation for the contributions of the Social Sciences to your life as an active participant in the complex culture that comprises contemporary society. Specifically, the objectives of this course are to:

- 1) Promote an understanding of the nature and breadth of the Social Sciences;
- 2) Offer a context in which to appreciate contemporary developments in the Social Sciences;
- 3) Provide an environment conducive to active and shared learning.

Required Text: The textbook is Colander, David & Elgin Hunt, *Social Science: An Introduction to the Study of Society 18th Edition.* Routledge, 2022: ISBN: 9781032150741

III. Student Learning Outcomes

The following list offers students a consistent way to see how CF’s global learning outcomes are assessed in each class. This is for information purposes only and does not change the grading system used in this class. Only those learning outcomes relevant to this course are included below.

| Institutional Learning Outcomes | Exam | Classroom Activity |
|--|-------------|---------------------------|
| Communication: The student will read, write, speak, and listen effectively. | | |
| 1. Read materials and effectively understand essential facts and concepts. | X | X |
| Quantitative and Analytical Reasoning: The student will understand and apply mathematical and scientific principles and methods. | | |
| 3. Interpret and communicate understanding of visual representations of data. | | X |
| Global Socio-Cultural Responsibility: The student will be an informed and responsible citizen in social, cultural, and global matters. | | |
| 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the values and expressions of other cultures that arise from human experience. | X | X |
| 2. Identify scientific principles underlying human influence upon the Earth and its inhabitants. | X | X |
| 3. Recognize complex historical, cultural, economic, and political forces that create societies as well as how these forces shape personal identity. | X | X |
| Computer & Information Skills: The student will be able to evaluate the importance of technology and its applications. | | |
| 1. Organize data or information using appropriate electronic media. | | X |
| 2. Access, research, and retrieve information using the Internet. | | X |
| 3. Communicate with others using electronic media. | | X |

IV. Assessment

Evaluation Process

Grades are determined by exams, writing assignments, and in-class project

Class participation= 2% each x 10 = 20%

Exams 5 x 10% = 50%

Source assignment = 5%

Family project = 10%

Fourth estate = 5%

Final Project = 10%

Total 100%

Gordon Rule

What is the Gordon Rule requirement for this class? As a Gordon Rule class, this course includes a significant writing component “Per state policy, the quality of student writing must demonstrate substantive writing at a ‘C’ level or higher proficiency in order to earn a ‘C’ grade or higher in the course as a whole.”

Even if your overall average is “C” or higher, you cannot earn higher than a “D” if the writing assignments do not average at least 70%. Students who fail to turn in all papers, on time or within the late penalty time (see below), will not be able to earn higher than a “D” or “F” in this course. However, submitting all papers does not guarantee you a passing grade. Extra credit points cannot be added to paper grades in order to meet the Gordon Rule requirement of a “C” average.

Grading scale for course

- A 90-100%
- B+ 87-89%
- B 80-86%
- C+ 77-79%
- C 70-76
- D 60-69%
- F 59 and below

Exams

Attendance to exams is mandatory. If you have any issues or unexpected emergency, you must notify me prior to the scheduled exam. Exams will consist of multiple choice, fill-in, and matching. A total of five exams each worth 10% of your final grade will be assigned. No make-up exams. Exceptions may be made in the event of a documented and verifiable emergency at the discretion of the instructor.

Source Assignment

When researching and reporting on a topic it is imperative that students use scholarly academic resources. In this assignment you will retrieve two scholarly articles and include the following:

1. Publication information presented in APA format
 2. Identify the Thesis
 3. Background of the author. Is this person qualified? Do you detect any bias?
 4. Analysis of the article including how well the author supported his or her thesis with evidence.
 5. What type of primary sources were used in the writing of this article?
 6. This assignment should be minimum of 250 words per article (this means a total of 500 words)\
 7. The expectation is that the turnitin score is below 15%. Anything over 20% will have points deducted.
- 12 point Times New Roman
 - Double spaced
 - This assignment should submitted in Canvas

Family Field Project

Family is the cornerstone of society and social development. In this assignment you will investigate your own family cultural history. Make arrangements to do an audio or videotaped interview with an older person in your family (cultural informant), from either side, about their memories of family history and cultural traditions. You

might want to discuss places of origin, family structure, work, beliefs and values, play and recreation, important events in their lives, ways of coping with tragedy or celebrating events, heirlooms and their origins, and anything else you or your informant considers significant. After the interview, you are to write a field report regarding this experience, including such items as who this informant is and their relationship to you, why you picked this person, what kind of planning or preparation went into the interview, why you asked the questions you did, what significant information you learned (only if you want to share it) and finally your view of the experience. Turn in both a recording of the interview and the paper.

I will be looking for the following:

1. Script of the interview questions. These may be submitted ahead of time in order for me to offer comments or suggestions.
2. Audio or video recording of interview
3. Analysis paper of Field Report must include the following information:
 - Who is this person and what role do they have in this family. Think of this as a brief biography.
 - What did you learn? Anything surprising?
 - Read the prompt carefully for specifics information and have fun with this project!
 - This section should be 500 words minimum
4. Writing format requirements:
 - 12 point font Times New Roman
 - Double spaced
 - Analysis paper needs to be 500 words in length.
 - Include interview and responses

Fourth Estate Project

In this assignment you are going to be looking at an important pillar of any democracy that is a free press. Journalists and news outlets can often be the "watch dogs" of government as they interview sources, investigate leads and work to report any wrong doing or corruption at the highest levels of power. Some of the important work of journalists include exposing corruption during the Gilded Age (think Ida Tarbell and Standard Oil) and even bringing down the presidency of Richard Nixon or exposing Bill Clinton's affair with a White House intern. The Press is not without controversy but it is an important element to a free society.

Today social media is transforming how people hear news and that has proven to be a challenge for navigating what is legitimate and what is "fake news."

For this assignment you will go to the fact checking website Poltifact.

<https://www.politifact.com/>

1. Once you get to the website go to the "truthometer" link
2. Select by subject (there are many)
3. Find one article that has been labeled "pants on fire" and explain what the post or article got wrong. Who was the target audience? What was the purpose of creating this fabrication of the facts?

4. In 300 words describe your reflection of the role of media in shaping public opinion and how websites like politifact may or may not be a useful tool.
5. Upload into Canvas link.

Final Project

Research Project Introduction to Social Science

The final project will be a research paper and analysis of a topic in social science. You may select from the list in CANVAS or select your own topic. You will develop a thesis and provide analysis on your idea. I will be glad to help guide or offer suggestions as this project progresses. Select a topic you are interested in learning more about. You can think locally or globally. Your topic may be one of ancient history or of relevance today in the modern era. Be careful not to be too broad and you must get approval from me before writing.

Topic Analysis- some ideas to consider:

What is the history of your selected topic?

What is the impact of this topic upon our community, nation and world?

How have other similar communities addressed this issue?

What are the major obstacles facing our community in resolving this issue?

What role does leadership play in this issue?

The following requirements must be met:

- APA format
- 3-5 Academic sources
- 1000 word minimum

Class participation

Periodically we will have in-class assignments that are designed to be done while we are meeting together. Attendance will be required for these participatory assignments.

Makeup Policy for Exams/Assignments

Students must turn in all assignments by the due date and take exam on the scheduled day and time. It is the responsibility of the student to understand and know when assignments are due (see due dates on last page of syllabus). It is the responsibility of the student to have suitable internet connectivity and appropriate computer functionality. Not having access to internet or a computer will not be an excuse for not completing work in a timely manner.

Make-ups are not guaranteed and will only be granted for emergency situations. Students will be asked to provide proof of a verifiable emergency.

Late Policy

All work is due by the listed due dates. For assignments, late work will be accepted after the due date for up to half-credit. After five days, the assignment will not be accepted. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me prior to the due date. If you are not in class for class participation assignments, no make up will be allowed. No late exams.

Any changes to the syllabus will be announced, if necessary, during the semester. The course outline and syllabus are subject to change as needed; changes will be announced in a timely manner, when necessary. Instructor will always strive for fairness when making any course changes.

VI. College Policies Spring 2023

Academic Integrity – Academic dishonesty (such as plagiarism or cheating) will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action under the Code of Student Conduct. Cases of academic dishonesty will be referred to a mandatory, two-hour Academic Integrity Seminar, which includes a fee (see the [Student Handbook](#)). Failure to attend the Academic Integrity Seminar will result in the assignment of a final course grade of “FF” on the student’s transcript, denoting course failure due to a violation of the college’s Academic Integrity policy. For a better understanding of academic integrity and ethical writing practices, please see [The Office of Research Integrity’s Guide to Ethical Writing](#) or the CF Library’s [Academic Integrity](#) guide.

Disability Services for Students with Disabilities – To ensure students have equal access to educational opportunities here at the College of Central Florida, students with medical, sensory, physical, psychological, and/or cognitive disability are encouraged to register with the Office of Disability Services and request an application. If eligible, Disability Services will help facilitate approved accommodations for you.

Please do this as soon as possible, to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion for your academic success.

The Office of Disability Services is located in Building 5-204, on the Ocala Campus. For more information visit the Disability Services webpage at CF.edu/Access, or email Victoria Colleli at colleliv@cf.edu, or call 352-873-5843 for further information.

Professional counseling services are available for all college students who are experiencing anxiety, depression, PTSD, stress; basically all psychological issues that could affect their school, job, relationships, or their home lives. Services are provided by Florida licensed mental health clinicians. This confidential resource is for all college students who want to achieve their endeavors. The Counseling Department is located in building 5, office 205B or office 205F. For more information about Counseling, you may call 352-854-2322 Ext. 1760 or Ext. 1286 or Ext. 1580.

Attendance Policy – Regular, punctual class attendance is the responsibility of every student who enrolls at the College of Central Florida; therefore, the institution is committed to enforcing the attendance policy in an effort to assist students in achieving their educational objectives. The documentation of student absences will begin the first day of class, regardless of when the student registers. When a student has a legitimate reason for being absent, the instructor has the option of permitting the student to make up work missed and may require an explanation for the absence. The college reserves the right to evaluate individual cases of nonattendance. See the [Student Handbook](#), Policy Manual and Administrative Procedures.

Equal Access/Equal Opportunity – College of Central Florida does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, marital status, national origin, genetic information or disability status in its programs, activities and employment. For inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies, contact the Equity Officer, 3001 S.W. College Road, Building 40, Room 306A, 352-854-2322, ext. 1437, or smithc@cf.edu.

Classroom Decorum – Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Disruptive students will be asked to leave the classroom. Continuous disruptive behavior will result in withdrawal from the course and disciplinary action under the Code of Student Conduct (see the [Student Handbook](#)).

Withdrawal – If you want to withdraw from this class, you must fill out the necessary forms and have them signed by the appropriate parties. If you just stop coming to class after the posted drop date, you may receive the grade of F.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| ➤ Add: | ➤ Last date for a refund: |
| • Spring C January 11 | • January 13 |
| ➤ Drop only: | ➤ Last day to withdraw with a “W”: |
| • Spring C January 13 | • Spring C – March 31 |

Students should be alerted to the following:

- (1) Withdrawals do not count in the CF GPA, but may not be viewed favorably at the university level.
- (2) Withdrawals may negatively impact a student’s financial aid eligibility.
- (3) A withdrawal counts as an attempt under the forgiveness/withdrawal policy and the course repeat policy.
- (4) There are increased costs to take the course on the third attempt (full cost of tuition, same as out-of-state rate).
- (5) There may be a reason a withdrawal request may be denied.

Please see the College’s withdrawal procedures.

Attendance Verification for Financial Aid: Attendance Verification is submitted each semester, generally in the third week of the term. Federal Student Aid requires that attendance is based on academic attendance or attendance at an academically-related activity. For this class, your attendance is verified based on syllabus/writing quiz.

VII. CF Student Assistance Program

The CF Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a confidential resource for assisting students who may have personal problems which could affect their school, work, or home lives. SAP provides early intervention and professional assessment and counseling to best meet the needs of the student. Services are free to all active CF students. The SAP is managed by BAY CARE LIFE MANAGEMENT, a health management organization. A student may call a toll free helpline during regular business hours Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. For crisis situations after hours, on weekends, or holidays a student may call the same number and the therapist on duty will be paged and will promptly respond to the call. For services a student may call the following toll free number: 1-800-878-5470. CF also has a counseling office where students may receive free confidential professional counseling by State licensed clinicians. For more information you may call 352-854-2322 ext. 1760 or visit the counseling office at the Bryant Student Union, room 204B, or email ballardm@cf.edu.

VIII. Additional statements for this course

- **Early Support Program (ESP):** The College of Central Florida is committed to helping you succeed and achieve your academic, personal and career goals. One of the ways we can accomplish this goal with you is through an Early Support Program. Our philosophy, based on extensive research and practice, is that when students are connected early to resources and support systems on campus they are more likely to stay in classes, perform better in those classes, and complete their path more quickly. Therefore, you may be contacted by your First Year Success Specialist, program Advisor and/or other resources on our campus if there is a time during the semester I feel it would be beneficial to your continued success. I am always your first point of contact for any concerns that affect your success or with course content, so I encourage you to come to me to discuss those issues. Also, be assured that I will first communicate any concerns I have with you and will then connect you with the other areas on our campus to help develop a network of support for you.
- This course uses Canvas to post course materials. Go to [MyCF \(mycf.cf.edu/ICS/\)](https://mycf.cf.edu/ICS/), login, click on the Academics tab, and follow the link to Go to Canvas. If you are not familiar with Canvas, you may access a self-tutorial by hovering over the Courses tab in Canvas and clicking on the Getting Started in Canvas course. Additional Canvas tutorials can be found under the help menu in the upper-right corner of your Canvas page. If you have any questions or encounter any problems logging on to Canvas or within the system, contact the Distance Learning Help Desk Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

(fall and spring hours), or Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (summer hours), at dlhelp@cf.edu or at 352-854-2322, ext. 1317. You may also use the 24/7 Canvas help desk by clicking the Help link in the upper right corner of Canvas.

- **Library Resources:** The CF Libraries are here to help with your research and information needs. Search the library catalog (library.cf.edu), or contact the Ocala campus library (library@cf.edu, 352-854-2322 x1345) or the Citrus campus library (citruslb@cf.edu, 352-249-1205) with questions. Learn more about research help, online and database searching, and citing your sources by visiting the [CF Virtual Library](http://cf.libguides.com) (cf.libguides.com) or by visiting the Ocala library (Building 3) or Citrus library (Building C2, Room 202) for one-on-one help. **Course reserves:** Course textbooks and/or supplemental course material may be on reserve at the Library. Please call to inquire. If the item you are looking for is not on reserve, ask your instructor if they are able to place a copy on reserve.
- **Testing Accommodations: Make-up Tests and/or Tests for Distance Learners.** Testing Center hours are located at CF.edu/Testing. Your instructor is required to make advanced preparations before you schedule your exam, so contact your instructor at least two weeks in advance regarding testing accommodations.
 - Register for all testing by creating a CF username and password for the testing center. This can be done at home or at the [testing center](http://testingcenter) (CF.edu/MyTests). This is required to take any tests and only needs to be created once. The username and password created will be used for all tests taken at any of the CF campus testing centers.
 - The Ocala Testing Center is a walk-in center, no appointments needed. The Ocala Testing Center is located on the second floor of the Student Bryant Union in Room 205.

IX. PRIORITY REGISTRATION DATES

WHEN SHOULD I REGISTER FOR THE NEXT SEMESTER?

- Registration is conducted by a process called **Priority Registration**. Those students who have earned hours may register ahead of those who have not earned hours or who have less earned hours.
- This process provides opportunities for those students who are closer to graduation to enroll in classes before students with fewer numbers of earned credit hours. This ensures that students have an opportunity to register for the courses they need to be able to graduate on time before the courses are filled.
- The enrollment process for the next semester begins **EARLY** in the current semester. It is important that you know your priority registration date and have your course choices planned out prior to that date.
- Priority registration is also available to those students made eligible through the Disability Services office.

If you are unsure of what courses to enroll in or how to use the online registration system, it is highly recommended that you schedule an appointment with your academic advisor EARLY in the current semester.

It is important that you register for the upcoming semester courses as soon as your **Priority Registration** date opens in order to get the **CORRECT** courses & scheduled times that you will need for your degree and major.