

Syllabus
Introduction to Social Science
Summer 2023 (May 15-June 26)

I. Course Information

Course Title: Introduction to Social Science
Course No. and Section: ISS 1013 sec. 30
Instructor Name: Jen Moore-Ambrosia
Credit Hours: 3
Course Location: 8-101

Meeting Dates: H 12:30-2:20
Office Location: Room 106
Office Hours: Tuesday 10-12 Thursday 2:30-3:30
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

Attendance/Participation 15%

Exams 3 x 20% = 60%

Fourth estate = 5%

Family project = 10%

Country 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 three exams each worth 20% of your final grade will be assigned. No make-up exams are permitted. Exceptions may be made in the event of a documented and verifiable emergency at the discretion of the instructor. The exam will be open for three days only. Failure to login and take the exam at that time will result in a 0 for that exam.

Classwork /Participation

The expectation is that students attend every class. Sometimes emergencies do arise and students will be provided one “unexcused” absents without penalty. After that the students will have 10% of their participation grade deducted for every missed class. Participation counts for 15% of your final grade.

Family Field Project (10% of your final grade)

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. Informant need not be an English speaker, as long as you understand the interview and are able to write about it, that is fine. You will still need to turn in the audio portion but it need not be

I will be looking for all three of the following items:

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. This will be 500 words and will include your reflection and analysis of the interview. It 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 specific information and have fun with this project!
 - This section should be 500 words minimum
 - 12 point font Times New Roman
 - Double-spaced

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 and in the past decade, what is the "press" continues to evolve. Information and oversight of government and powerful entities 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 untruthful or "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? This should be 200 words.
4. Next find one article that is truthful. Why is it truthful while the other is not? Who is the author or media outlet? This should be 200 words.
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.

Country Project

In this assignment you will select a country based on your last name. See assignment information for what region you should be selecting your country. In this assignment you will do a country analysis looking at the following information

- The geographic and climate make-up of the country. For example, is it desert or mountainous, does it have a large body of water or waters? Is it rain forest, temperate, or arid? Include a map
- Describe the population of the country. Does it have a homogenous population or is it multicultural? What are some cultural or religious characteristics?
- What is the economy of the country?
- Describe the social and educational details. What is the percentage of people with education? Do the people have access to health care?
- What is the economic climate? What is the GDP?
- What is the outlook for the future of this country? What is the biggest concern? What is the most promising aspect for the future?
- Provide reflection statement and include a detail that you found to be interesting and unexpected that you uncovered in your research.
- Use scholarly sources. If using websites stick to .edu, .gov. or .org.
- Use more than three sources and use APA citations
- I know this list is long but should help you with creating this assignment. Use this as a framework and add or organize as you wish
- Must be 1000 words in length. This also needs to be less than 20% score in Turnitin

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 half-credit until five days past the due date . 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 having a network issue with Canvas you may email me the assignment. Without the email/time stamp, assignments will be considered late. Exams and discussion posts will NOT be accepted after the due date.

VI. College Policies Summer 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.

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/Drop period:
May 15-16
- Drop only: May 17, 2023
- Last date for “Add”
 - May 15-16, 2023
- Last day to withdraw with a “W”:
 - June 8, 2023

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 \(cf.libguides.com\)](https://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](#) (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.

XII. College Policies Summer 2023

The College of Central Florida is committed to helping you succeed and achieve your academic, personal and career goals. There are a wide range of resources and support services available to you. When you connect to resources and support systems on campus early, you are much more likely to be successful in your classes and complete your path more quickly. One example is through an Early Support Program, where you may receive an email indicating your professor or advisor is reaching out directly to help connect you to support services. This may include connecting you to tutoring, financial support, psychological support services, and disability services just to name a few. Be aware, you can also reach out to these services on your own as well. Additionally, we offer free tutoring, disability services, a testing center, and many other resources which are all available to you. [Please refer to the College Resources, Dates, and Policies document in your Canvas course to learn more about these supports and policies.](#)

XII. Equity Statement

College of Central Florida offers equal access and opportunity in employment, admissions and educational activities. The college will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, pregnancy, age, marital status, national origin, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status or disability status in its employment practices or in the admission and treatment of students. Recognizing that sexual harassment constitutes discrimination on the basis of gender and violates this policy statement, the college will not tolerate such conduct. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Dr. Mary Ann Begley, Director of Compliance and Planning – Title IX Coordinator, Ocala Campus, Building 3, Room 117H, 3001 S.W. College Road, 352-291-4410, or Equity@cf.edu.

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Week	Preparation, Activities and Evaluation	Date Due
Week 1	Part I Introduction Introduction and overview of course. Chapter 1: Overview of Seven Disciplines Chapter 2 Human Origins: Evolution/Darwin Human Species, Neanderthal, and Homo Sapiens	Syllabus quiz
Week 2	Chapter 3 Origins of Western Society The Cradle of Civilization, Middle Ages, Renaissance and the Modern era. Chapter 4 Society, Culture, and Cultural Change Chapter 5 Geography, Demography, Ecology, and Society Chapter 6 Technology and Society	Exam 1 chapters 1-6 due Saturday at 11:59pm
Week 3	Chapter 7 Psychology, Society and Culture Chapter 8 Deviance, Crime, and Society Chapter 9 The Family Chapter 10 Religion	Family project due Saturday 11:59pm
Week 4	Chapter 11 Education Chapter 12 Social and Economic Stratification Chapter 13 Stratification, Minorities, and Discrimination Chapter 14 The Function and Forms of Government	Fourth Estate assignment due Saturday at 11:59pm Exam 2 Chapters 7-14 due Saturday
Week 5	Chapter 15 Governments of the World Chapter 16 Democratic Government in the United States Chapter 17 The Organization of Economic Activities Chapter 18 The Economy, Government, and Economic Challenges Facing the United States	Country project due Saturday at 11:59pm
Week 6	Chapter 19 International Political Relations Chapter 20 International Economic Relations Chapter 21 The Political Economies of Developing Countries Chapter 22 International Institutions and the Search for Peace	Final Exam is chapters 15-22 opens Thursday after class closes Sat. @ 11:59pm

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.