

SYG 2000 – Principles of Sociology
Spring 2024 Syllabus
Section 0A35
MWF | Period 6 [12:50 PM - 1:40 PM]
Location: MAT 0116

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION & MODE OF CONTACT

Oluwatobi A. Alawode

Email: alawodeoluwatobi@ufl.edu

Office Location: Turlington 3349

Office Hours: Thursday [2:30 – 4:30 pm] and by appointment.

Note: To contact me, please send a direct email to alawodeoluwatobi@ufl.edu rather than via the Canvas email system.

TEACHING ASSISTANT[S]

None

Hello, I'm Mr. Oluwatobi. Welcome to **SYG 2000, Principles of Sociology**. Everything you need to know for the entire semester is included in this document and **it is subject to changes at the discretion of the Instructor**. I must admit that syllabuses are usually quite lengthy and boring, but I will enjoy you to familiarize yourself with the details. **Thanks!**

GENERAL EDUCATION SUBJECT AREA OBJECTIVES

Social and behavioral science courses, like **SYG 2000**, provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theories or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe, and explain social institutions, structures, or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions and evaluate opinions, outcomes, or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions. This is a general education course that satisfies Social and Behavioral Sciences [S] credit requirements. I expect that you will find this a deeply interesting and engaging class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES FOR SYG 2000 [PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY]

1) Introduce students to the basic concepts, theories, and methods that sociologists use. Course materials and activities provide students with opportunities to see how social scientists use varied methods to collect information about specific social issues. Moreover, students will critically assess

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how that information can be used to frame an understanding of why social patterns exist and what might be the possible consequences of those patterns.

2) Provide students with a brief overview of sociology as a discipline within the social sciences that exposes students to strategies to identify, study, and address social issues and research questions. Course activities will allow students to apply critical thinking skills to evaluate debates about contemporary social issues and the evidence needed to address the issues.

3) Help students develop the ability to understand how various social processes and structures affect one another.

4) Encourage students to develop a better understanding of how their own lives and significant relationships are shaped by larger social forces.

5) Provide students with insights into how individuals' interactions with others can affect the larger society.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

- Teach students how to understand the way institutions influence social trends.
- Teach students how to analyze demographic influences on social outcomes.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The general education Student Learning Objectives [SLOs] describe the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that students are expected to acquire while completing a general education course at the University of Florida. The SLOs fall into three categories: **content, communication, and critical thinking**:

- **Content** is knowledge of the concepts, principles, terminology, and methodologies used within the discipline. Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies, and theories used within the discipline.
- **Communication** is the development and expression of ideas in written and oral forms. Students communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written or oral forms appropriate to the discipline.
- **Critical thinking** is characterized by the comprehensive analysis of issues, ideas, and evidence before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion. Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems.

COURSE FORMAT

This course is completely in-person; there will be no recordings of lectures and all assessments will be online. The office hours will be in-person but the online option is available on appointment.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Attendance: Attendance is not specifically required to pass this course. I will not take formal attendance and you will not be directly penalized for missing classes. However, I strongly recommend that you attend as many classes as possible. One reason, as discussed below, is that the cumulative score on in-class assignments will be included in your final grade, and you cannot complete these assignments if you are not in class.

Preparation: Students are expected to complete all necessary readings/videos before class. Knowledge of the material covered in these readings/videos is **IMPORTANT** for productive class discussion and will provide important background information for the lecture. Additionally, assignments may require knowledge of the readings/videos assigned for that day.

Materials utilized during the lecture (Articles, PPTs, videos, etc.) will be made available on Canvas as at when due.

REQUIRED READINGS

The textbook for this class is **OpenStax Introduction to Sociology 3rd Edition**. The textbook is fully online and free to download or view in your browser. I strongly recommend that you use the online version of the text, since the physical copy is not free, and you will not use the entire book throughout the course. Information can be found by following the link below. On the left side of the screen, you will have the option to download the PDF version of the text. You need to have access to OpenStax since all the material from quizzes will be based on OpenStax readings. These readings are self-guided, and you can complete them at any point during the access period.

<https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e>

Throughout the course, I may also assign outside readings from other sources. These readings may be from peer-reviewed academic journals, newspapers such as the New York Times or Washington Post, articles about new, relevant trends or research (NPR, Pew Research Center, etc.), or various op-ed pieces. I will provide all these readings to you on Canvas as either a link or in PDF. I expect you to have completed these readings in preparation for the class. **These readings are all required and will be assessed.**

GRADING

Your grade will be based on your scores in five assessment categories: **Exams, Reflections, Quizzes, In-Class Assignments, and Group Project.**

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Exams: There will be three exams throughout the course, which will constitute 30% of your final grade. Exams cover material from lectures as well as assigned readings and class discussions. The exam dates are listed on the course schedule on the last page of the syllabus. All exams will be conducted online, and Exam 3 will not be cumulative.

Reflections: Throughout the course, I will assign writing prompts, and your responses will be submitted on Canvas. The reflections will be worth 30% of your final grade. These reflections will be based on topics discussed in textbooks, lectures, or in the readings.

Very important: It is your responsibility to make sure all reflections are uploaded properly. Please verify that everything required of you is online and visible so you will be properly assessed. Any missing content will be considered incomplete, and your score will reflect this. Reflections must be completed and uploaded before or on the due time/date.

Important dates for Reflections [all are due before 11:59 PM on the specified due date]:

Reflection #	1	2	3	4	5	6
Due Date	January 22	February 5	February 19	March 11	March 25	April 8

Quizzes: Throughout the course, I will assign online quizzes to be completed via Canvas. These quizzes will be worth 15% of your final grade. These quizzes will contain multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and T/F questions that cover the material discussed in OpenStax. Students may only take each quiz once. Quizzes will be auto-graded on Canvas; in general, the quizzes are associated with different topics that we will discuss all through the semester.

Very important: Quizzes must be completed before the due date/time. If you begin the quiz before it is due but do not submit it in time, Canvas will record your grade as a zero. This score will remain and count toward your final grade. Be aware of the time, plan accordingly, and complete quizzes in a timely fashion.

Important dates for Quizzes [all are due before 11:59 PM on the specified due date]:

Quiz #	1	2	3	4	5	6
Due Date	January 22	February 5	February 19	March 11	March 25	April 8

In-Class Assignments [ICAs]: During the lectures, I will sometimes give you a prompt to respond to individually. These assignments are unannounced and may be at any time during the class period; cumulatively they are worth 15% of your final grade.

NB: There will be no chance to discuss ICA outside the class period and it can not be rescheduled for anyone.

Included in this portion of your assessment is participation. I will most likely not have to assess you on participation. Still, if you are consistently a distraction or disruptive, I reserve the right to lower your assignment grade at my discretion.

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Group Projects: There will be a group project in this course. Your average score on the project will be 20% of your grade. You and 4/5 of your classmates (**chosen at random**) will work together to complete this project that will center on concepts around Population, Urbanization, and Environment or Health & Medicine. You will receive all the information you need when the project prompts become available.

ASSESSMENT BREAKDOWN

Assessment	Description	Percentage of Final Grade
Exams [3]	Exams will evaluate student competence in terminology, concepts, methodologies, and theories used in sociology (Content)	40
Reflections [6]	Reflections will evaluate students' ability to develop connections between topics from lecture and readings regarding current events (Critical Thinking)	15
Quizzes [6]	Quizzes will evaluate students' ability to interpret and apply information from class readings (Content)	15
In-Class Assignments [4]	In-class assignments will evaluate student competence in effectively communicating sociological knowledge, ideas, and reasoning with their peers (Communication)	10
Group Projects	Group project will evaluate students' ability to work as a team to translate course concepts into a singular product (Content & Communication)	20
Total Grade		100

LATE SUBMISSIONS, EXCUSED ASSIGNMENTS & MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMS

For reflections and quizzes, students can turn in a late submission for partial credit. There will be a 50% reduction in their grade **from the total points possible** in these situations. For example, if you submit a late reflection and your score is 92/100, it will be listed as a 42 on Canvas. To receive partial credit, the submission must be within 24 hours of the original due date (so something due at 11:59 PM on Monday must be submitted before 11:59 PM on Tuesday to receive credit). After this 24-hour window, students will receive a zero on the assignment. Partial credit for late submissions only applies to reflections and quizzes, not exams. **[PLEASE NOTE THIS]**

Partial credit for late submissions only applies to reflections and quizzes, not exams.

Very important: When you view an assignment on Canvas it will show when the assignment is due and show when it is available. Make sure you submit your assignment by the **due date** for full credit. **The portal will be open for 24 hours after the due date; this is only so you can submit a late assignment for partial credit.**

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Students who miss an exam without an excuse may or may not be allowed to take a make-up exam at my discretion. Students who miss an exam must contact me within two hours of the original exam time if they are allowed the opportunity for a make-up exam; I will not seek out students to make sure they reschedule.

In certain situations, students with legitimate excuses (university-sponsored activities, religious holidays, etc.) may be allowed to take an exam early at my discretion. These situations may also excuse students from in-class assignments they miss on those days. Students who will miss an exam for these reasons must **notify me at least one week in advance**, and appropriate documentation must be provided. Regardless of the reason for missing an exam, all students who take make-up will have an all-written test (no true/false or multiple-choice questions).

Outside of the scenarios listed above, no early exams will be administered.

Only one in-class assignment will be automatically excused, regardless of the reason for additional missed assignments. This means you can only miss one in-class assignment without penalty. If there is a legitimate reason why you miss an additional assignment you must receive documentation from the university (legitimate reasons include illness, family emergencies, or university-sponsored activities). The easiest way for you to do this is to reach out to the university Care Team (umatter@ufl.edu or by phone at 352-294-2273) and explain your situation. They will gather appropriate documentation and let me know which if any, days you need to be excused.

GRADING SCALE

A	94.0–100	C	74.0–76.9
A-	90.0–93.9	C-	70.0–73.9
B+	87.0–89.9	D+	67.0–69.9
B	84.0–86.9	D	64.0–66.9
B-	80.0–83.9	D-	61.0–63.9
C+	77.0–79.9	E	≤ 59.9

Please be aware of your grade trajectory throughout the semester, and **if you are concerned about your grade at any point you should speak to me during office hours as soon as possible**. I will not round up final grades. Also, be aware that Canvas is only a medium for me to display your individual assignments and exam scores. Even though Canvas calculates your overall grade for you, you should always calculate your grade yourself to verify that it is correct.

NOTE: A minimum grade of C is required for General Education Credit.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Nobody likes cheaters, so don't do it. Cheating on exams or plagiarizing of any kind is not tolerated and will be dealt with accordingly. On exams or assignments, each student must produce their original work. All students must adhere to the UF Honor Code and standards of academic integrity found at the following link:

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

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Accommodations: If you have a disability requiring accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. To receive accommodations, official documentation from the Disability Resource Center (<https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/>) is required.

CLASS POLICIES

Office Hours: If you need clarification or do not understand what we went over in class, I am available to discuss anything with you during office hours. While I am happy to explain anything you do not understand or are having trouble with, I will not redo my entire lecture if you have missed a class; come prepared with specific questions.

If you would like to review any of your assessments, you have three days from the day the grades are posted to discuss them. Once this time has passed these grades are nonreviewable. This policy is to ensure that students are swift with their grade-related questions so the professor and TA can move on to more current obligations.

Email Policy: Students can contact me via email on my university account (alawodeoluwatobi@ufl.edu), I will do my best to reply to emails in a timely fashion. There is one exception: any email sent in the afternoon on a Friday or other non-business day will be replied to on the following business day. **When emailing me please put 'SYG 2000' of 'Principles of Sociology' somewhere in the subject line so I can easily identify you.** Also, if contacting me through my ufl account please give your name in the email so I can identify you quickly.

Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback professionally and respectfully is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Recording Lectures: Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include student presentations, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), private conversations between students in the class, or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

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Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

1. Take good notes (this seems obvious but it’s surprising how many students do not take very good notes). Having the lecture PowerPoints may not be enough on its own to effectively study for the tests. If you need advice on how to take better notes, I am happy to assist you.
2. Building on the previous point, remember that I will provide the PowerPoint to you after we’ve finished a lecture. Therefore, you will have access to all of them prior to your exam. Don’t waste time copying anything that I will provide later anyway.
3. There are no stupid questions, so if you do not understand a concept ask for clarification.
4. I will not lend out lecture notes to people who miss class, but if you miss a class, I am happy to go over anything from the PowerPoint that you need more clarification on during office hours.
5. This is very important: If there is a circumstance that affects your ability to fulfill your class duties, discuss this with me as early as possible. Similarly, if you are concerned about your grade at any point, discuss it with me immediately. Every year I encounter students who contact me during the last week of school inquiring about how they can improve their grades. Our options are very limited at this point, so please take care of these issues early on.
6. Utilize UF’s academic resources such as tutoring and other services through the Teaching Center (<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>). You can use them for this class and any others in which you need assistance. Many of these services are free and can be very helpful.

HELPFUL LINKS

- Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call (352) 392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Call (352) 392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need or visit the [Student Health Care Center website](#).
- Visit the [UF Police Department website](#) or call (352) 392-1111 (or 911 for emergencies).
- For immediate medical care call (352) 733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#) for more information.
- Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at (352) 392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu for E-learning technical support.

- For career assistance and counseling services visit the [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, (352) 392-1601.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with using the libraries or finding resources.
- For general study skills and tutoring visit the [Teaching Center](#): Broward Hall, (352) 392-2010 or (352) 392-6420 to make an appointment.
- For help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers visit the [Writing Studio](#): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138.
- On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Can I refer to you by your first name?

A: No, just call me **Mr. Oluwatobi**.

Q: Are we going to have an ICA on [insert date here]?

A: I don't know. I typically decide whether or not there will be an in-class assignment a few minutes before class starts, so I can't tell you ahead of time whether there will be one or not.

Q: Can I be excused from the ICA we completed during the last class? I missed it because of [insert excuse here].

A: The only excused absences are those outlined in the make-up policy above. Unless your absence is covered by the description above, you will receive a zero for missing in-class assignments.

Q: Can I be excused from the ICA we completed during the last class? I had an exam for another class at that time.

A: No, please do not schedule exams for other courses during this class.

Q: When should I attend office hours?

A: Any conceptual/lecture-related questions, questions about study tips, questions about exams, or general inquiries are for office hours. You also don't have to have a specific reason to come to office hours, sometimes people show up to talk about things that are not related to the class.

Q: Oh no! My reflection didn't upload properly/the power went out in my apartment when I was uploading/I completely forgot about the assignment/I had 15 exams this week and didn't prioritize your class/I had more important things to do! And now I have a zero on Canvas for that reflection! Can I turn it in late?

A: No, I do not accept late assignments (after the 24-hour window for late credit specified above). Even if it's one minute late. I do this so everyone is treated the same way without exception. I understand you are busy, but almost everyone else in this class is busy too. Please be proactive and submit your assignments early enough to avoid this situation; if you encounter technical issues, there will be time for you to email me and let me know before the deadline. It is much easier to deal with problems before the deadline than it is to retroactively fix them.

Q: I promise I posted my reflection on Canvas, but now it's not there anymore and it says my assignment is missing? Can you accept it late?

A: No, we grade assignments that are on Canvas by the deadline. It's your responsibility to make sure your assignment is online and visible.

Q: You're so mean for not allowing me to turn in late assignments!

A: Yes.

Q: Can I attend office hours to discuss that assignment that was graded two days ago?

A: Yes, students are encouraged to come to office hours with any questions that they have about grades on assignments or exams if it is within the three-day window (see next question).

Q: Can I attend office hours to look at that assignment that was graded four weeks ago?

A: No. You are welcome to attend office hours with any questions you have about a grade, but you must do this within three days of the grade being posted. Once this deadline has passed, these grades are nonreviewable.

Q: Can I take Exam 3 early? I need to do this because [insert excuse here].

A: No, you can't. The only exception is if you have more than three exams in one day OR you have two exams scheduled at the same time. If this is the case, you can reschedule Exam 3 and take it after the regularly scheduled time.

Q: Is there anything I can do for extra points?

A: There are no extra points in this class. Please be aware of your grade throughout the semester and speak to me if you are not on your desired trajectory instead of asking for extra points at the end of the semester. The earlier you identify an issue, the easier it is for us to work on it.

Q: Can you round up my grade? I'm so close to an A!

A: No, I will not round up grades. Everyone receives the letter grade equivalent to the final numeric score you have at the end of the semester. Please do not ask this question, I hate when people ask this question.

Q: Can you write a letter of recommendation for me?

A: That's conditional. I have written recommendations for former students who are going to graduate school, applying for scholarships/internships, etc. However, if I'm going to write a letter for you, I need to be sure of two things: 1) I know who you are and some things about you, and 2) you performed well in my class. I want to be able to write something that is both personal and complimentary. If I have never spoken to you, it's tough for me to tell someone else how great you are. And if you never showed up to class or blew off all my assignments, I won't have very good things to say about you.

So, if you'd like me to write you a letter, I am happy to, but you must establish some sort of contact with me while you're in my class so we can build rapport. There are no exceptions to this; if I receive an email from a student requesting a letter and they do not fit these criteria, I will politely decline. The reason is that writing a personalized letter of recommendation is time-consuming and I want to reserve that time for students whom I know.

Tentative Class Schedule [SYG 2000 – Spring 2024]
*****Subject to change at the instructor's discretion*****

Week	Date	Topic	Notes
1	Monday, January 8	Course Introduction	Emails will be sent out when Assignments are uploaded.
	Wednesday, January 10	Topic 1: Defining Sociology, Sociological Terms & Concepts	
2	Friday, January 12		
	Monday, January 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day [No Class]	
	Wednesday, January 17		
3	Friday, January 19		
	Monday, January 22		
	Wednesday, January 24		
4	Friday, January 26	Topic 2: Theoretical Framework & Social Research Methods	
	Monday, January 29		
	Wednesday, January 31		
5	Friday, February 2		
	Monday, February 5	Topic 3: Group Size, Structure & Formal Organizations.	
	Wednesday, February 7		
6	Friday, February 9		
	Monday, February 12	Exam 1	
	Wednesday, February 14		
7	Friday, February 16		
	Monday, February 19	Topic 3: Group Size, Structure & Formal Organizations [Cont'd]	
	Wednesday, February 21		
8	Friday, February 23		
	Monday, February 19		
	Wednesday, February 21	Topic 4: Social Stratification in the United States and Globally	
9	Friday, February 23		
	Monday, February 26		
	Wednesday, February 28		
10	Friday, March 1		
	Monday, March 4		
	Wednesday, March 6		
11	Friday, March 8	Exam 2	
	Monday, March 11	Spring Break [No Class]	
	Wednesday, March 13		
12	Friday, March 15		
	Monday, March 18		
	Wednesday, March 20		
13	Friday, March 22	Topic 5: Population, Urbanization & Environment	
	Monday, March 25		
	Wednesday, March 27		
14	Friday, March 29		
	Monday, April 1		
	Wednesday, April 3		
15	Friday, April 5	Topic 6: Health & Medicine	

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	Monday, April 8		
	Wednesday, April 10		
16	Friday, April 12		
	Monday, April 15		
	Wednesday, April 17	Topic 7: Aging & the Elderly	
	Friday, April 19		
	Monday, April 22		
	Wednesday, April 24		
	Tuesday, April 30	Final Exam	