

PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY
SYG 2000

University of Florida – Summer C 2022
Online Course

Instructor

Martina Speranza, MA, MS.



Email: martinasperanza@ufl.edu



Office Hours: Tuesdays 10-12 am or by appointment.

Personal meeting room: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/4679837058>.

Hello, I'm Martina, welcome to SYG 2000! I will be your instructor for the Principles of Sociology course. I'm excited to share sociological tools to reflect about societies now and throughout history.

Everything you need to know for the semester is included in this document. I know it's lengthy and at times boring, but please familiarize yourself with the details.

This document represents the terms in which we are going to interact and learn for the months coming, use it as a guide to plan and to clear out doubts. Also know that you can contact me if you can't find the answers you are looking for here.



Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to provide you with a broad overview of the sociological perspectives and its application to historical and contemporary social issues. Students will learn to identify, describe, and explain social institutions, structures, and processes.

Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions. This course will cover:

- *Basic sociological concepts, theories, and methods.* Course materials and activities will provide students opportunities to see how social scientists use varied methods to collect information about specific social issues.
- *A brief overview of sociology as a social science discipline.* Course materials will expose students to strategies for identifying, studying, and addressing social issues and research questions. Course activities will provide students with opportunities to apply critical thinking skills to evaluate debates about contemporary social issues and to identify the evidence needed to address such issues.
- *The relationship between social processes and structures.*
- *Insights into how individuals' lives and significant relationships can be shaped or impacted by larger social processes.*

The general education student learning outcomes (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:

Student Learning Objective (SLO)	SLO Description	Indicator of Mastery	%
Content	Knowledge of the concepts, principles, terminology and methodologies used within the discipline	Exams, quizzes and analytical essay	40%
Communication	Development and expression of ideas in written and oral forms	Participation in Discussion boards	30%
Critical Thinking	Comprehensive analysis of issues, ideas, and evidence before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion	Reflections in discussion boards and analytical essay	30%



Course Requirements

30% of total grade - Discussion contributions

- ⇒ Each week we will discuss the course materials via a Canvas message board. Each week, you will respond to at least one prompt directly and to one other student's comment. Discussion will be mainly between the students; I will intervene as well.
- ⇒ Good responses clearly address the question, cite evidence from that week's course materials, and are clearly written.
- ⇒ To allow your fellow students to read many responses in a short time, please limit your comments to about a paragraph in length. The weeks when we have response papers, feel free to repeat what you have written in your response paper in the class discussion if it relates to the prompt.
- ⇒ **Friday at 11:59 pm** → Deadline for contributing to the discussion on the board. You must complete any assignments, quizzes, or response papers prior to joining the discussion board.

40% of total grade - Quizzes and response papers

- ⇒ Each week (starting second week) you will have either a quiz or a response paper assessing your knowledge of the course materials. The quizzes and papers will draw from all the course materials, (readings, lectures, links, videos, etc.). There are no cumulative exams. A couple of the weeks may include an additional assignment.
- ⇒ These are all due by **11:59 pm on the Thursday** of the week, before your discussion contribution.
- ⇒ In the past, some students have been surprised by the difficulty of the quizzes. So, note, the quizzes require a thorough reading of all texts and other course materials, they are time limited (usually about 40 minutes), and they cannot be retaken. Because they are open book, the questions are difficult. The best way to prepare for the quizzes is to do each reading twice, annotate the readings, and take close notes on the lectures and clips.

20% of total grade – Analytical essay

- ⇒ Students are required to write an analytical essay in which they will have to apply the sociological perspective. Instructions for the essay will be posted on Canvas six weeks before its due date on **July 25th**. Overdue essays will be deducted 10% of the total grade per day late.

10% of total grade – Topic presentation

- ⇒ Choose a topic from the course, select a newspaper article reporting a real-life event, choose at least three concepts to analyze the article. Record a presentation, upload it and post a short paragraph describing your topic. Make a short comment of another student presentation using one of the concepts presented. Due date **August 1st**.

Failure to complete assignments (quiz/ response paper) will only be excused if the student has a documented illness, and these must be properly documented with a clinic/doctor's note. More information on page 6.



Weekly Schedule

Each week covers a different topic, with readings, a lecture, and sometimes audio and video sources like podcasts and YouTube videos on that topic. Each week will have you learning the course materials and completing the quiz or response paper before Thursday at 11:59pm then contributing to the discussion after you complete the quiz.

Here is the schedule for each week:

- Sunday at 9:00am → The week's course materials, quiz, and discussion questions are posted. Read any texts and links before watching the lectures and do both before taking the quiz.
- Thursday at 11:59pm → Deadline for reading/listening to/watching all the materials and completing the quiz or response paper.
- Friday at 11:59pm → Deadline for contributing to the discussion on the board. You must complete any assignments, quizzes, or response papers prior to joining the discussion board.
- Some weeks may vary according to holidays – I will post that specifically the week before.
- Check course schedule on page 8 for weekly assignments.



Required Readings

⇒ The textbook required for this class is Openstax Sociology 2nd Edition. Keirns, N. J., Strayer, E., Griffiths, H., Vyain, S., Bry, J. D., Cody-Rydzewski, S. & Sadler, T. (2018). Introduction to Sociology 2e: OpenStax. The link to access the book is: <https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-2e>. eBook and hardcover available (maximum price for this book \$30)

Throughout the semester, I may assign outside material from other sources. These may be from peer-reviewed academic journals, newspapers, op-ed pieces, Oxford dictionary entries, or relevant videos. In case I require these other reading instead of the textbook I will provide all of these to you on Canvas as either a link or in PDF. I expect that you will have done the readings prior to class. These readings are all required.



Class Policies

Discussion board etiquette

- ⇒ This class is a place where sensitive topics such as racism, sexism, class inequality, sexuality, etc. may be discussed, but we will be courteous of others at all times and disrespect will not be tolerated: there is a difference between polite disagreement and disrespect, and we will practice the former.

Office hours

- ⇒ If you need clarification or do not understand, I am available to discuss anything with you in office hours. If you choose to come to my office hours, bring your notes with you so we can go over them together. Policies for contacting me during office hours will be posted on canvas.

Email policy

- ⇒ Students can contact me via email on my university account (martinasperanza@ufl.edu) or through Canvas. I will do my best to reply to emails in a timely fashion (within 24 hours for all emails received during normal working hours Monday-Friday from 9:00 am-5:00 pm).
- ⇒ There is one exception: any email sent after 5:00 pm on a Friday or any official university break will be replied to on the following business day.

Student 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 in a professional and respectful manner 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/>.

Grading

Your grade will be based on your scores in three assessment groups: Discussions, quizzes and response papers and analytical essay

Grading scale*

A = 92.5-100 %	B- = 79.5-82.4 %	D+ = 66.5-69.4 %
A- = 89.5-92.4 %	C+ = 76.5-79.4 %	D = 62.5-66.4 %
B+ = 86.5-89.4 %	C = 72.5-76.4 %	D- = 59.5-62.4 %
B = 82.5-86.4 %	C- = 69.5-72.4 %	E = Below 59.5 %

*Grades will not be curved, and final grades will not be calculated beyond one decimal point. For example, a 79.48 is a C+, not a B-.

Extra Credit: 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.



Important - Excused Assignments & Make-Up Assignments/Exams

Be sure to finish your work well before the deadlines. Late work or make-ups are not allowed. Build in time to allow for technical glitches, you may need time to find a different computer. Technical difficulties will not be an excuse for missing deadlines. If there is an emergency situation (severe illness with a doctor's note, death in the family, etc.) email me 24 hours in advance of the assignment due date. Under such circumstances, special accommodations may be made. Outside of the scenarios listed above, no early exams will be administered.

Please note that, if there is a legitimate reason why you miss an additional assignment you must receive documentation from the university (legitimate reasons include sickness, 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. Students who are excused from any assessment must still complete the assessment to receive credit, but they will be given an extension on the due date



University Policies and Services

Academic Honesty

⇒ On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

⇒ On exams or assignments, each student must produce their own 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/>

Accommodation for students with disabilities

- Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the UF Disability Resource Center by providing appropriate documentation (<https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/>). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

UF Counseling Services

- Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking a clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance at the CWC center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>. These resources include:
 1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling; 2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling.
 2. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling.
 3. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

Course schedule

All readings correspond Openstax unless indicated.
(Additional readings can be added)

Module 1

Week 1 - Introduction - 5/9

Read Chapter 1

Participate in discussion board

Module 2

Week 2 – Culture – 5/16

Read Chapter 3

Participate in discussion board

Respond quiz

Week 3 - Socialization and groups - 5/23

Read Chapter 5, 6.1, 4.3, 7.1

Participate in discussion board

Respond quiz

Module 3

Week 4 - Theoretical perspectives - 5/31

Deadline extension – Memorial Day

Read Chapter 1.3 and 4

Respond Quiz

Week 5 - Methods – 6/6

Read Chapter 2

Participate in discussion board

Respond Quiz

Module 4

Week 6 - Social Stratification - 6/13

Read Chapter 9

Read Book introduction

Participate in discussion board

Respond Quiz

Week 7 – Break!

Work on the Analytic essay due on July 25th

Week 8 - Race - 6/27

Read Chapter 11

Read Journal article

Response paper

Week 9 - Gender - 7/5

Deadline extension – Independence Day

Read Chapter 12

Participate in discussion board

Respond Quiz

Module 5

Week 10- Global stratification and poverty - 7/11

Read Chapter 10

Participate in discussion board

Respond Quiz

Module 6

Week 11 - Education – 7/18

Read Chapter 16

Participate in discussion board

Respond Quiz

Week 12 - Health - 7/25

Read Chapter 19

Participate in discussion board

Respond Quiz

Analytical essay due

Week 13 - Religion – 8/1

Read Chapter 15

Participate in discussion board or quiz TBD

Post presentation

Comment on another presentation