

PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY

SYG 2000 – Section 1F80

University of Florida - Fall 2022



Meeting time and place

Mondays: Period 8 (3:00 PM-3:50 PM)

Wednesdays: Period 8 (3:00 PM-3:50 PM)

Fridays: Period 8 (3:00 PM-3:50 PM)



Instructor Information

Marion Cassard - mcassard@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm or another time by appointment

Office Location: 3347 TUR

Hello, I'm Marion Cassard, welcome to SYG 2000! I will be your instructor for the Principles of Sociology course. I'm looking forward to sharing sociological tools to reflect on 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. Use this syllabus as a guide and refer to it when you have questions. Also, know that you can contact me if you can't find the answers you are looking for here.



General Education Subject Area Objectives

Social and behavioral science courses, like SYG 2000, provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory 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, as well as the evaluation of opinions, outcomes or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.



Course Objectives for SYG 2000 Principles of Sociology

- 1) Introduce students to the basic concepts, theories, and methods that sociologists use. Reading assignments and lectures provide students opportunities to see how social scientists use varied methods to collect information about specific social issues. Moreover, students will critically assess how that information can be used to frame understanding about 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. In-class exercises will provide students with opportunities to work in small teams and apply critical thinking skills to accomplish various tasks (e.g., speculate on the probable social consequences for legislative and technological innovations).
- 3) Help students to develop the ability to understand how various social processes and structures affect one another. This will be accomplished by showing how various social changes related to family, work, education, health, and other matters involve shifts in public perceptions and social initiatives.
- 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 about how individuals' interactions with their family members and friends can affect the larger society.



Student Learning Objectives

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*:

- *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.



Grading

Your grade will be based on your scores in five assessment groups: Exams, Participation-Discussion, Canvas Reflections, Quizzes and Group Projects.

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 %

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 about it in office hours as soon as possible. The earlier you identify an issue, the easier it is for us to work on it. Grades will not be curved, and final grades will not be calculated beyond one decimal point.

Assessment breakdown

Assessment	Description	Percentage of Final Grade
Exams	Exams will evaluate student competence in terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used in sociology (Content).	40
Reflections	Reflections will evaluate students' ability to develop connections between topics from lecture and readings to social phenomenon (Critical Thinking)	20
Group Projects	Group assignments will evaluate students' ability to communicate and apply concepts from lecture to real-world situations (Critical Thinking, Content and Communication)	15
Quizzes	Quizzes will evaluate students' competence in terminology and reading comprehension. (Content)	15
Discussions/participation	Discussions will evaluate student competence in effectively communicating sociological knowledge, ideas, and reasoning with their peers (Critical thinking and Communication).	10
Total Grade		100

Exams – 40%

There will be three exams throughout the course, and the average score of these three exams will constitute 40% of your final grade. Exams cover material from lectures as well as assigned readings and class discussion. Exams 1, 2 and 3 will be a combination of true/false and multiple-choice questions, you will have 50 minutes to complete these exams.

Very important: All students must take Exam 3 during the final exam period. Early exams will not be administered.

Reflections – 20%

Throughout the course, I will assign writing prompts that will be submitted on Canvas. The average score of these assignments will be worth 20% of your final grade. These assignments will be reflections on topics discussed in lecture or in the readings. I will inform you in lecture or via email when these are assigned, and you will always have multiple days to complete and submit your assignment. No late assignments will be accepted.

Group Project – 15%

There is one Group Project in this course, and it will be worth 15% of your final grade. These projects will be presented orally in class and submitted through canvas. The instructions for these projects will be posted on Canvas.

Quizzes - 15%

Throughout the course, I will assign online quizzes to be completed via Canvas. In general, there will be one quiz per chapter. These quizzes will contain T/F and multiple-choice questions that cover the material discussed within the textbook readings. Students may only take each quiz once.

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 due dates and complete quizzes in a timely fashion.

Discussion/Participation – 10%

During lecture I will sometimes sort the class into discussion groups and give you a prompt. These discussions are unannounced and may happen at any time during the class period. In discussion groups students will examine the issue raised in the prompt, and everyone will take general notes. Upon completion of the discussion, everyone will submit the notes on Canvas. Please remember to include the names of everyone in your group.

One discussion will be dropped during the course; this means that students are only allowed to miss one discussion without penalty. At the end of the course, I will excuse one zero from each student's discussion grade (if applicable). There are no exceptions to this rule beyond the reasons listed in the excused absence policy below; therefore, if you cannot attend lecture regularly, making a high grade on discussions may be difficult for you.

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



Required Readings

⇒ The textbook required for this class is Openstax Sociology 3rd Edition. Keirns, N. J., Strayer, E., Griffiths, H., Vyain, S., Bry, J. D., Cody-Rydzewski, S. & Sadler, T. (2021). Introduction to Sociology 3e: OpenStax.

The link to access the book is: <https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e>

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 readings 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.



Course Requirements

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class and actively participate when appropriate.

Absences from attendance/participation days will only be excused if the student has a documented University Authorized absence for travel or illness. Absences must be properly documented.

Participation

It is expected that you will complete all necessary readings prior to class. Knowledge of the material covered in these readings is essential for productive class discussion and will provide important background information for lectures. Additionally, in-class assignments may require knowledge of the readings assigned for that day.

Discussion

Class discussion is an important part of this class. While it is not mandatory that everyone be extremely vocal throughout the course, you will be required to engage with your classmates on occasion. Whenever we are having a class discussion, only one person speaks at a time; while that person has the floor there will be no interruptions by other students or me. 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.

Class etiquette

I expect you to make a conscientious effort to be on time and ready for each class session. Do not check social media, play video games, or text during class.



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 in 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.

Class Cancellation

If I ever need to cancel a class for any reason, I will notify you via email as soon as possible. If the university closes for any reason, such as inclement weather, please follow any instructions given by the university (you don't need to wait for me to tell you not to come to class in these circumstances). In the case of a cancelled class, all class assignments from that day will automatically carry over to the next day of class unless I inform you otherwise.

Email policy

Students can contact me via email on my university account (mcassard@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. When emailing me please put 'SYG 2000' or 'Principles of Sociology' somewhere in the subject line so I can easily identify you. Also, if contacting me through myufl.com account please give your name in the email so I can identify you quickly.

Excused Assignments & Make-Up Assignments/Exams

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 12 hours of the original exam time if they are to be 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 ICAs 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 a 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 discussion will be dropped, regardless of the reason for additional missed discussions. This means you can only miss one discussion without penalty. If there is a legitimate reason why you miss an additional discussion 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.



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

If you have a disability requiring accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. 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.



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/>.



Tentative Class Schedule and important dates (subject to change at instructor's discretion)

Week	Day	Date	Module/Topic	Notes	
1	1	Wednesday, August 24	Module 1 – What is sociology, and why is it useful?	Chapter 1 [1.1, 1.2, 1.4]	
	2	Friday, August 26			
2	3	Monday, August 29	Module 2 – Foundational Concepts	Chapter 3	
	4	Wednesday, August 31			
	5	Friday, September 2			
3	6	Monday, September 5: No Class - Enjoy your Holiday!		Module 3 – Sociological Toolkit: How do we create sociological knowledge and conduct research?	Chapters 1.3, 2
	7	Wednesday, September 7			
	8	Friday, September 9			
4	9	Monday, September 12	Exam 1	Modules 1-3	
	10	Wednesday, September 14			
	11	Friday, September 16			
5	12	Monday, September 19	Module 4 – How are social groups classified? Part I	Chapter 9	
	10	Wednesday, September 21			
	11	Friday, September 23			
6	12	Monday, September 26			
	13	Wednesday, September 28			
	14	Friday, September 30			
7	15	Monday, October 3			

	16	Wednesday, October 5		
	17	Friday, October 7: No Class - Homecoming		
8	18	Monday, October 10	Module 4 – How are social groups classified? Part II	Chapter 11
	19	Wednesday, October 12		
	20	Friday, October 14		
9	21	Monday, October 17	Module 4 – How are social groups classified? Part III	Chapter 12
	22	Wednesday, October 19		
10	23	Friday, October 21		
	24	Monday, October 24		
	25	Wednesday, October 26		
	26	Friday, October 28	Exam 2	Module 4
11	27	Monday, October 31	Module 5 – Global inequality	Chapters 10
	28	Wednesday, November 2		
	29	Friday, November 4		
12	30	Monday, November 7	Module 6 – Special Topics	Chapter 16
	31	Wednesday, November 9		
	33	Friday, November 11: No Class - Enjoy your Holiday		
13	34	Monday, November 14	Module 6 – Special Topics	Chapter 21
	35	Wednesday, November 16		
	36	Friday, November 18		
14	37	Monday, November 21	Module 6 – Special Topics	Chapter 17
	38	Wednesday, November 23: No Class - Enjoy your Holiday!		
	39	Friday, November 25: No Class - Enjoy your Holiday!		
15	40	Monday, November 28	Module 6 – Special Topics	Chapter 17
	41	Wednesday, November 30		
	42	Friday, December 2		
16	43	Monday, December 5	Group project presentations	
	44	Wednesday, December 7		
17	45	Exam 3	Final Exam: TBC	Modules 5 & 6

You've got this! Enjoy your Winter break!