

SYG 2000: Principles of Sociology
Spring 2023 Syllabus

Section 1E48(22225)

Tuesdays Period 4 (10:40 AM - 11:30 AM)
Thursdays Periods 4-5 (10:40 AM - 12:35 PM)

Location: Little Hall, Room 0127

Instructor Information

Sierra Plotner (she/her)
splotner@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Office Location: Turlington, 3349

Please message me through Canvas with any questions or concerns, especially if it relates to questions about an assignment or your grade. I will be more likely to see and respond faster to a message sent through Canvas.

Expect my response time to take 24 hours on the weekdays and by Monday 5 p.m. if you send me a message Friday night or over the weekend. If you have questions about a test, please review the material and contact me early.

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. 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 harness their sociological imaginations to critically assess how 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 provide students with opportunities to apply critical thinking skills to evaluate debates about contemporary social issues and the evidence needed to address the issues.

- 3) Help students to 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 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.

Student Responsibilities

ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend class face-to-face in Little Hall, room 0127. Classes meet every Tuesday (10:40 AM – 11:30 AM) and Thursday (10:40 AM – 12:35 PM). I will take formal attendance which will be worth 10% of your final grade. To participate in class, whether that is in the form of asking questions or participating in discussions, it is recommended that you attend class. Class participation is worth another 10% of your final grade.

Any student who fails to attend at least one of the first two class meetings and has not contacted the Instructor will be dropped from the course. I will do my best to ensure that these students are disenrolled before the end of the drop/add period so that they can find another class (if desired), but they will not be allowed to re-enroll in this section of the course.

Students who have court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) or accommodations through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) must contact the Instructor as soon as possible to discuss how these circumstances will affect their ability to attend class and complete assignments. The Instructor will work with students to establish the appropriate accommodations. Students must provide supporting evidence or documentation with their request (e.g., court paperwork or DRC Accommodation Letter). More information about DRC accommodations can be found in the “Accessibility Accommodations” section at the end of this syllabus. All other requests for excused absences are granted at the Instructor’s discretion.

Students may request an excused absence due to religious holidays, military obligations, professional development activities, or participation in university-sponsored activities, but these

requests must be made at least 2 business days before the relevant class period(s) and should be accompanied by some kind of supporting evidence or documentation. Requests for excused absences are granted at the Instructor's discretion.

If you believe you will be unable to attend class due to some kind of exceptional circumstance, please contact the Instructor before the relevant class period(s) to briefly explain the circumstances. Exceptional circumstances are limited to any emergency which can be clearly documented, including, but not limited to: a death in the family, medical emergency/illness requiring medical attention for the student or family member, or related urgent issues beyond the student's control. Students may be asked to send supporting evidence or documentation directly to the Instructor.

PREPARATION: Students are expected to review and complete all necessary course materials before class. Knowledge of the content covered in readings or additional materials (e.g. videos, news articles, etc.) is essential for productive class discussion and will provide important background information for lecture. Additionally, assignments may require knowledge of the course materials assigned.

PowerPoints or other materials used in our lectures will be posted on Canvas at the summation of that day's class.

Required Readings

OpenStax. *Introduction to Sociology 3e*. OpenStax CNX, 2021.

OpenStax is an open-source textbook used in this course to minimize your costs. The online version (<https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-2e>) is free while physical copies of the textbook are not. As such, I recommend you download or view the textbook in your browser.

Any additional readings that are assigned will be accessible through Canvas.

Assignments

Your grades will be based on your scores in six assessment categories: attendance, discussion/participation, reflections, quizzes, exams, and study guides.

	% Of your final grade
Attendance	10
Discussion/Participation	10
Reflections	25
Quizzes	15
Exams	40
Total	100

Attendance will be taken every day and is worth 10% of your final grade.

Discussion/Participation

Participation may take the form of asking questions about the lecture material and participating in weekly class discussions. The goal of this assessment is to assess *communication*. Since you are expected to review the material before class, I hope to engage the class in weekly discussions that will allow us to treat each other like professional colleagues and foster our sociological imaginations. Your participation in discussions will be worth 10% of your final grade.

Reflections will be used to gauge your understanding of course material and allow us to relate what we're learning to our everyday lives. In other words, reflections assess *critical thinking*. You will be expected to submit reflections on Canvas addressing the weekly prompt. Reflections may be short, ~350 words, and will cover the material from the textbook or topics discussed in lectures. **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 prior to the due time/date. If technical issues occur with Canvas, I will accept submissions by Canvas message, but please use the assignment submission page first. Overall, there will be four reflections each worth 6.25% of your final grade (25% cumulative).

Quizzes will be completed online on your own time. Like exams, quizzes evaluate student competence in terminology, concepts, methodologies, and theories used in sociology. In other words, they assess *content* and cover material from lectures and assigned readings. Quizzes will be available for a minimum of 9 days and close at their respective times by 11:59 p.m. Typically, quizzes that occur before Exam 1 close on Wednesdays, and the following quizzes close on Fridays. You should expect to finish 10 multiple-choice questions within 15 minutes. There are 12 open-book quizzes, cumulatively worth 15% of your final grade, or 1.25% individually.

Exams

This course consists of 2 exams with multiple-choice and true/false questions. The average score of these exams will constitute 40% of your final grade. Exams will evaluate student competence in terminology, concepts, methodologies, and theories used in sociology. In other words, they assess *content* and 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 face-to-face at their scheduled times. Exams will cover their respective chapters; they are not cumulative.

If you have a disability requiring accommodations, whether that be for attendance, assignments, exams, or anything else... 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.

Late Submissions, Excused Assignments, and Make-Up Assignments/Exams

I understand that life happens. If you know you will need an extension, please reach out to me at least 12 hours before an assignment is due.

It is up to my discretion to allow a student with an unexcused absence to make up a missed assignment, quiz, or exam. If you need an extension or to make-up more than one assignment,

then documentation may be required. Documentation may also be requested if late work becomes a consistent issue.

If you need to make-up an assignment, you must reach out to me **within 24 hours** past the due date. Unless due to an exceptional circumstance that prevented you or a proxy from communicating with me, this means that you should not hope to make-up work that is a week late or longer. Documentation for exceptional circumstances in these cases may be requested.

Grading Scale

A	94.0-100	C	73.0-76.9
A-	90.0-93.9	C-	70.0-72.9
B+	87.0-89.9	D+	67.0-69.9
B	83.0-86.9	D	63.0-66.9
B-	80.0-82.9	D-	60.0-62.9
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 about it during office hours as soon as possible.

A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit. I will not round up final grades. Also, be aware that Canvas is only a medium for me to display your individual assignment 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.

Academic Misconduct

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 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/>

Class Policies

Office Hours:

Please reach out if you need further clarification or do not understand what we went over in class. I am available to discuss anything with you during office hours, even if you'd like to talk about something other than the course materials. It should be noted that, 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've missed a class. Please 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 period has passed these grades are nonreviewable. This policy is to ensure that students are swift with their grade-related questions so that the Instructor can move on to more current obligations.

Email policy:

Students can contact me via email (splotner@ufl.edu), but I prefer that you do so through Canvas. I will do my best to reply to emails in a timely fashion. There is one exception: any email sent in the evening on a Friday or other non-business day may be replied to on the

following business day. If you contact me through email, please put 'SYG 2000' at the start of the subject line so I can easily identify you.

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/>.

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), or private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

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.

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](#).

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE*

**Class schedule is subject to change at the Instructor's discretion.*

Week 1. January 9th – 15th

Add/Drop will start on the 9th and end on the 13th.

Welcome to the course!

Chapter 1: An Introduction to Sociology

Week 2. January 16th – 22nd

Chapter 1 (Continued)

Chapter 3: Culture

Quiz 1, Chapter 1

Wednesday (1/18) 11:59pm

Week 3. January 23rd – 29th

Chapter 3 (Continued)

Chapter 5: Socialization

Quiz 2, Chapter 3

Wednesday (1/25) 11:59pm

Week 4. January 30th – February 5th

Chapter 5 (Continued)

Section 1 in Chapter 6: Groups and Organization

Quiz 3, Chapter 5

Reflection 1

Wednesday (2/1) 11:59pm

Friday (2/3) 11:59pm

Week 5. February 6th – 12th

Section 1 in Chapter 7: Deviance and Social Control

Quiz 4, Chapters 6.1 and 7.1

Chapter 4: Society and Social Interaction

Wednesday (2/8) 11:59pm

Week 6. February 13th – 19th

Chapter 4 (Continued)

Quiz 5, Chapter 4

Chapter 2: Sociological Research

Wednesday (2/15) 11:59pm

Week 7. February 20th – 26th

Chapter 2 (Continued)

Reflection 2

Exam 1 in class on Thursday (2/23)

Friday (2/26) 11:59pm

Week 8. February 27th – March 5th

Chapter 9: Stratification

Quiz 6, Chapter 9

Friday (3/3) 11:59pm

Week 9. March 6th – 12th

Chapter 11: Race and Ethnicity

Quiz 7, Chapter 11

Friday (3/10) 11:59pm

Week 10. March 13th – 19th
Spring Break!

Week 11. March 20th – 26th
Chapter 12: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality
Quiz 8, Chapter 12
Reflection 3

Friday (3/24) 11:59pm
Sunday (3/26) 11:59pm

Week 12. March 27th – April 2nd
Chapter 10: Global Inequality
Quiz 9, Chapter 10

Friday (3/31) 11:59pm

Week 13. April 3rd – 9th
Chapter 14: Government and Politics
Quiz 10, Chapter 14

Friday (4/7) 11:59pm

Week 14. April 10th – 16th
Chapter 19: Relationships, Marriage, and Family
Quiz 11, Chapter 19

Friday (4/14) 11:59pm

Week 15. April 17th – 23rd
Chapter 17: Health and Medicine
Quiz 12, Chapter 17
Reflection 4

Friday (4/21) 11:59pm
Sunday (4/23) 11:59pm

Week 16. April 24th – 26th
TBA

Final exam

Thursday (5/4) 5:30-7:30pm