



SYG2000 - Principles of Sociology Spring 2024

Class and Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Yiorgo Topalidis
Teaching Assistant: Jingqin Ji
Teaching Assistant: Kashmaya A.

Section: 16528, 16529, 30717

IN email: ytopalidis@ufl.edu
TA email: kashmaya.rincon@ufl.edu
TA email: ji.ji@ufl.edu

Meets: Online

Office Hours: On Teams by appointment

The best way to contact me is via email (allow 24 - 48 hours for a response) or during office hours.

Textbook: Ferris, Kerry, and Jill Stein. 2022. The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology. New York: W. W. Norton. ISBN: 978-0-393-88735-8

General Education Objectives for Social and Behavioral Sciences

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 critically assess 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 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 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 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*:

Objective A - **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. Objective A is assessed through online quizzes (see Quizzes 1 -14 in the Course Schedule).

Objective B - **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. Objective B is assessed through online short-essay assignments (see Short Essays 1 -14 in the Course Schedule).

Objective C - **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. Objective C is assessed through two Exams, each comprehensive for one half of the semester, and short essay assignments (see Exam I & II and Short Essays 1 -14 in the Course Schedule).

Class Format - Student Responsibilities

1. This class is held online in its entirety. Students must read each week's reading assignment and watch the weekly lecture video.
2. All assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the Sunday of each week.
3. If students know they will miss the submission deadline, they must email the professor 24 hours in advance to discuss plans for the missed assignments.
4. **There is no extra credit. There are no make-up exams, quizzes, or short essays.**
5. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

Assignments

Weekly Quizzes: 25% of a student's final grade.

Weekly quizzes assess students' understanding of each week's lecture topics.

The quizzes consist of 7 true – false questions and 2 short answer questions.

Students will have 20 minutes to complete each quiz.

Quizzes are set up so that only one question will appear at a time and students cannot go back to access previous quizzes.

Midterm & Final Exam: 40% of a student's final grade.

Each exam will cover material from each half of the semester. The exams consist of 50 multiple-choice questions.

Short Essays: 35% of a student's final grade

The short essays are written responses to short videos that require students to interpret and apply theoretical concepts from each week's lecture.

The short essays need to be at least 300 words long.

They need to be grammatically correct and must include at least one in-text citation in APA format.

For guidance on APA format, see:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

The citation must support the application of a theoretical concept from the lecture and, or, the text to describe a relevant subject from each week's videos.

The lectures cannot be used as a reference or for an in-text citation.

Plagiarism is using ideas, facts, opinions, illustrative material, data, direct or indirect wording of another scholar and/or writer—professional or student—without giving proper credit through AI-generated text or other means. Expulsion, suspension, or any lesser penalty may be imposed for plagiarism.

The unauthorized copying, sharing, or distribution of copyrighted material is prohibited. It is a violation of the Copyright Act, Academic Ethics, and the Code of Student Conduct. Students who violate copyright are subject to discipline.

Short essays are graded on a sliding scale. This means that I will grade assignments leniently at the beginning of the semester and will provide students with feedback on the improvements needed for the following weeks' essays. If the student does not

comply with this feedback, they will gradually lose more points each week for not making the required improvements in each of the required areas of the essay (see Table 1).

Table 1. Weekly Short Essay Rubric

Item	Points
Spelling & Grammar	10
Topic Description	25
Theoretical Context	25
Citations	40
Total	100

Grade Range

A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit.

A = 93-100 %	B = 83-86%	C = 73-76 %	D = 63-66 %
A- = 90-92 %	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70-72 %	D- = 60-62 %
B+ = 87-89 %	C+ = 77-79 %	D+ = 67-69 %	F = Below 59.9 %

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Incomplete grades:

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has a specific policy and procedure regarding incomplete grades. Please see the following documents:

<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/forms/incomplete-grade-policy-clas.pdf>

<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/forms/incomplete-grade-contract.pdf>

Class Schedule

Important Dates

Class Start: 8/23

Add/Drop period: 8/23 - 8/29 (No fee liability)

Last Day to Withdraw: November 20

Class End: 12/6

Date	Topic	Assignment	Assessment	Due Date
Week 1	Course Introduction Chapter 1 Sociology and the Real World	Read the syllabus! Read CH1 Listen to: The Acropolis & the Madonna	Quiz 1 – Syllabus and CH1 Short essay 1 – The Sociological Imagination	1/14 11:59 pm
Week 2	Chapter 2 Studying Social Life	Read CH 2 Exercise: Quantitative vs Qualitative Methods	Quiz 2 – Methods Short essay 2 – Methods	1/21 11:59 pm
Week 3	Chapter 3 Culture	Read CH 3 Exercise: Archival data analysis	Quiz 3 – Culture Short essay 3 – Culture	1/28 11:59 pm
Week 4	Chapter 4 Socialization, Interaction and the Self	Read CH 4 Exercise: Social media flame war analysis.	Quiz 4 – CH 4 Short essay 4 – Socialization, Interaction and the Self	2/4 11:59 pm
Week 5	Chapter 5 Separate and Together: Life in Groups	Read CH 5 Watch: The Right-Wing Latinos of Miami: Proud Boys and Refugees	Quiz 5 – CH 5 Short essay 5 – Separate and Together: Life in Groups	2/11 11:59 pm
Week 6	Chapter 6 Deviance	Read CH 6 Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj	Quiz 6 – CH6 Short essay 6 – Social Control and Deviance	2/18 11:59 pm

		The Broken Policing System		
Week 7	Chapter 7 Social Class: The Structure of Inequality	Read CH7 Watch Who Pays the Lowest Taxes in the US? Wealth Inequality in America	Quiz 7 – CH7 Short essay 7 – Stratification	2/25 11:59 pm
Week 8	Chapter 9 Constructing Gender and Sexuality	Read CH 9 No short essay	Exam I	3/3 11:59 pm
Week 9	Chapter 8 Race and Ethnicity as Lived Experience	Read CH 8 Watch Last Week Tonight Systemic Racism Doll test - The effects of racism on children (ENG)	Quiz 8 – CH8 Short essay 8 – Race and Ethnicity as Lived Experience	3/10 11:59 pm
Week 10	Chapter 12 Life at Home: Families and Relationships	Read CH12 Watch Bullied to Death in America's Schools	Quiz 9 – CH12 Short essay 9 – Life at Home: Families and Relationships	3/24 11:59 pm
Week 11	Chapter 10 Social Institutions: Politics, Education, and Religion	Read CH10 Watch Vice Charter Schools May be the Future of US Education The man who rigged America's election maps Voters in Florida Wanted Former Felons to Vote — the State Is Stopping Them	Quiz 10 – CH10 Short essay 10 - Social Institutions: Politics, Education, and Religion	3/31

Week 12	Chapter 11 The Economy and Work	Read CH11 Watch Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj - Amazon	Quiz 11 – CH11 Short essay 11 –The Economy and Work	4/7 11:59 pm
Week 13	Chapter 15 Populations, Cities, and the Environment	Read CH15 Watch Redlining and Racial Covenants: Jim Crow of the North Struggle for Black and Latino mortgage applicants suggests modern-day redlining	Quiz 12 – CH15 Short essay 12 - Populations, Cities, and the Environment	4/14 11:59pm
Week 14	Chapter 14 Health and Illness	Read CH14 Watch The real reason American health care is so expensive Last Week Tonight: Medicare for All	Quiz 13 – CH14 Short essay 13 – Health and Illness	4/21 11:59 pm
Week 15	Chapter 16 Social Change	Read CH16 Watch The Activism of Harvey Milk Occupy Wall Street: the story behind seven months of protest Black Lives Matter explained: The history of a movement	Quiz 14 – CH16 Short essay 14 – Social Change	4/28 11:59 pm
Week 16	Study for Exam II	No reading No lecture No short essay videos Study for Exam CH 8, 10 - 16	Exam II	5/3 11:59 pm

Week 17	Final Exam/ Grading Week	No Readings	No Assignments	-----
---------	---------------------------------	-------------	----------------	-------

University Policies and Services:

Academic Honesty: 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/>

Accommodation for students with disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting an accommodation.

Course Evaluations (End of Semester)

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), private conversations between

students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. 8 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 Elearning 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.