

SYG 2000

“Principles of Sociology”♦

Spring 2022

Tuesdays P5-P6 (11:45 AM - 1:40 PM) & Thursdays P6 (12:50 PM - 1:40 PM) | McCarty Hall A, Room G186

Professor:

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COVID-19 Information and Protocols:

This class requires face-to-face attendance; there is no online / Zoom option available. During class, students will be in close physical proximity to other students; the classroom is not big enough to accommodate physical distancing. Students will also complete a number of team-based assignments, which will require students to communicate with one another both during and outside of class.

In order to ensure that everyone has a safe learning / working environment, **ALL students, regardless of vaccination status, will be expected to wear a mask at ALL times in the classroom.** Students who are not wearing a mask will be reminded of this expectation and offered a free disposable mask from the Professor. Hand sanitizing stations and surface cleaning supplies will also be available in the classroom for students to use. If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. For more details on where to get vaccinated, including options that do not require an appointment, please see <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. If it has been at least 6 months since your last vaccination, you are eligible for a booster shot and can get one at any vaccination site.

If you are not comfortable with these expectations, I can help you transfer into another section of SYG2000 that better suits your needs; there are a dozen other sections of this course offered, some face-to-face and some fully online. Please keep the following dates from the Spring 2022 calendar in mind (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/dates-deadlines/2021-2022/#spring22text>):

- **Drop / Add Period:** allows you to remove or replace a course from your schedule without any grade assigned, ends at 11:59:00PM on Tuesday, January 11
- **Drop / Withdrawal Deadline:** allows you to drop individual courses or withdrawal from all your courses with a “W” grade assigned, ends at 11:59:00PM on Friday, April 8

Students who feel ill should report their symptoms immediately using the Department of Health (DOH) Screening Questionnaire on <https://one.ufl.edu/>; you may also contact the Student Health Care Center at (352) 392-1161 to discuss your symptoms with a nurse or medical provider. Students who miss class for medical reasons must submit an Instructor Notification form (<https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/>) to seek an excused absence. Students are also encouraged to keep up-to-date on information about COVID-19 and vaccinations from the following sources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- UF COVID-19 Dashboard: <https://coronavirus.ufl.edu/>
- UF Health COVID-19 Updates: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/>

♦ This syllabus represents an approximation of the course’s content and schedule. The Professor reserves the right to make reasonable changes and alterations of the schedule and content of this syllabus and to announce those changes in class. Students are responsible for fulfilling any new or revised requirements or obligations resulting from these changes.

Course Objectives and Goals:

This course will introduce you to fundamental sociological concepts, epistemologies, and methodologies. You will learn to develop your sociological imagination in order to examine societies, their cultures, and the means by which those cultures are created and reproduced. You will also examine common categories of difference and inequality, such as those associated with race, class, and gender. Finally, you will examine the institutions that build and maintain societies, like the media, health and medicine, and the educational system, and how those institutions can affect large-scale social change.

There are four main goals for this course:

- 1) To develop a sociological imagination that will allow you to see the connection between everyday personal experiences and the larger social forces that shape and influence them.
- 2) To develop the knowledge and skills needed for conducting various forms of social research.
- 3) To explore the socially constructed nature of categories of difference (e.g., race, class, and gender) and how these categories are used to create and maintain inequalities.
- 4) To explore the various institutions that shape our experiences and their role in social change.

Textbook:

I have chosen an open-source textbook that is available for free online and required for all students:

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

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

iClicker:

We will be using the iClicker system daily to take attendance, conduct opinion polling, and complete quizzes (IQS / TQs). You can access to the iClicker app for free with your smartphone, tablet, or laptop, or you can purchase an iClicker remote. Learn more and download the app at <https://at.ufl.edu/service-teams/classrooms/classroom-technology/iclicker-response-system/>. Whatever method you choose for connecting to the iClicker system, make sure you bring that device to every class period!

Attendance:

You are required to attend every scheduled class session and will receive a grade based on your attendance record. You should NOT schedule appointments, meetings, trips, or other activities that would require you to miss some or all of class. Students who arrive late or leave early may lose points at the Professor's discretion.

Any student who fails to attend at least one of the first two class meetings and has not contacted the Professor 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 Professor as soon as possible to discuss how these circumstances will affect their ability to attend class and complete assignments, and the Professor 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 Professor'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 with some kind of supporting evidence or documentation. Requests for excused absences are granted at the Professor's discretion.

If you believe you will be unable to attend class due to some kind of exceptional circumstance, please contact the Professor before the relevant class period(s) to 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. In some cases, students may be asked to send supporting evidence or documentation directly to the Professor. For other circumstances, the Professor will ask students to follow the procedures for the Dean of Students Office Instructor Notification form (<https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/>), which also includes submitting supporting evidence or documentation for your circumstances. **Students who miss class without prior notification or due to medical reasons must submit an Instructor Notification request to the Dean of Students.** The Dean of Students Office will review your documentation and make a recommendation as to whether your circumstances should warrant an excused absence. However, the Professor reserves the right to accept or reject the Dean of Students recommendation.

The complete University policies regarding absences and make-up work can be found online (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#absencestext>).

Class Format:

This is fully face-to-face course; students will NOT be able to attend class remotely. Students are expected to comply with the University’s COVID-19 guidelines at all times. As a general rule, students should expect to spend approximately two (2) hours working outside of class for every hour spent in class; in other words, this class meets for three (3) hours per week, so students should expect to spend approximately six (6) hours working outside of class each week. Some weeks may require more or less time outside of class than others.

Students will work with each other on teams throughout the course and will share the same grade on some assignments. Students will also have the opportunity to evaluate their teammates’ performance, and these peer evaluations will contribute to their final grades in the class. Students will be on a total of three (3) teams throughout the course; the first two team assignments will be made randomly, but students will be allowed to choose their teammates for the third team assignment.

The course is organized into five (5) modules. Each module will have few quizzes (IQS / TQs) and a single Team Research Assignment. You will work with your assigned team for two modules at a time, except for the third team assignment which only works together for one module.

Figure 1: Course Assignments associated with each Module

Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5
IQS / TQs	IQS / TQs	IQS / TQs	IQS / TQs	IQS / TQs
Team Research Assignment 1	Team Research Assignment 2	Team Research Assignment 3	Team Research Assignment 4	Team Research Assignment 5
Team 1 Peer Evaluation		Team 2 Peer Evaluation		Team 3 Peer Evaluation

Schedule:

The full list of dates, topics, required readings, and assignments can be found on Canvas. The tentative due dates for the key course components are:

Team Research Assignment 1: Thurs, 1/20

Team Research Assignment 2: Thurs, 1/27

Peer Evaluation 1: Thurs, 1/27

Midterm: Tues, 2/22

Team Research Assignment 3: Thurs, 2/24

Team Research Assignment 4: Thurs, 3/24

Peer Evaluation 2: Thurs, 3/24

Team Research Assignment 5: Thurs, 4/14

Peer Evaluation 3: Thurs, 4/14

Final Exam: Tues, 4/19

Course Components:

Attendance: 25% of Final Grade

Because this class relies heavily on team-based learning activities, daily attendance is required. There are 28 class periods, therefore attending each class period is worth 0.89% of your final course grade. There are some conditions under which students can receive an excused absence (see "Attendance" section), and only students with an excused absence will be allowed to make up the points from any missed assignments; the Professor reserves the right to determine whether an alternative assignment or grading criteria will be used in such circumstances. Students with unexcused absences will not be allowed to complete any make-up or alternative assignments.

IQS / TQs (Quizzes): 30% of Final Grade

IQ stands for "Individual Quiz" and TQ stands for "Team Quiz." The IQ / TQ-style of quizzing requires students to first take a short quiz individually (the IQ score) and then they will be able to get together with their team to discuss the questions before taking the same short quiz again (the TQ score). Students will NOT receive immediate feedback on their IQ score. Although teams will be able to discuss and collaborate on their responses to the TQ, each student will submit their own TQ and can choose whether or not to submit the same answers as the rest of their team. Each question will be worth one (1) point during the IQ and four (4) points during the TQ; in other words, 6% of your final grade will be based on your IQ scores and 24% of your final grade will be based on your TQ scores.

Team Research Assignments: 15% of Final Grade

Each module has an associated Team Research Assignment. These assignments are intended to give you hands-on experience with research skills that are useful for sociologists. These assignments will be completed with your team, and you will collaboratively produce a single submission for which all teammates will receive the same grade. There are five (5) Team Research Assignments, therefore each assignment is worth 3% of your final grade.

Peer Evaluations: 6% of Final Grade

You will be working with a team of other students to complete TQs and Team Research Assignments. You will need to develop a Peer Evaluation rubric and use it to score your fellow teammates. The Professor will take these scores into account when assigning each student's Peer Evaluation grade. You will work with three (3) teams during the semester, therefore your overall Peer Evaluation score from each team is worth 2% of your final grade.

Midterm: 12% of Final Grade

The midterm will cover the material from Modules 1-3, and it will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions.

Final Exam: 12% of Final Grade

The final exam will cover the material from Modules 4-5, and it will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions.

Grading:

Your final course grade will be calculated based on the following components:

Attendance	25%
IQS / TQs	30%
Team Research Assignments	15%
Peer Evaluations	6%
Midterm	12%
Final Exam	12%
TOTAL	100%

Final course grades will be calculated according to following grading scale. I will NOT round grades up.

A	100 - 95%
A-	94 - 90%
B+	89 - 87%
B	86 - 83%
B-	82 - 80%
C+	79 - 77%
C	76 - 73%
C-	72 - 70%
D+	69 - 67%
D	66 - 63%
D-	62 - 60%
E	59 - 0%

What does a letter grade mean?

A = Exemplary work

You have demonstrated a thorough understanding of the material that greatly exceeds the average.

B = Good work

You have demonstrated a firm grasp on the material but have minor gaps in knowledge or process.

C = Average work

Your work suffers from substantial gaps in knowledge or process.

D = Marginal Work

Your work demonstrates a superficial understanding of the material and is barely acceptable.

E = Unacceptable Work

Your work fails to demonstrate any substantial understanding of the material.

The most common source of conflict between professors and students is grading. I expect all students to submit work that they believe is worthy of full credit, but unfortunately, many students will NOT receive full credit on their assignments. Most students want to earn the highest marks possible (especially in introductory courses that fulfill general education requirements), but the University and other institutions expect professors to make distinctions between each student's performance and combat grade inflation. These competing expectations put professors in a difficult position, and students can become demoralized by a single poor grade and disengage from the whole learning process (which is also bad for professors!).

To combat this potential source of conflict, I try to be as transparent as possible with all grading matters (without violating FERPA laws). I encourage students to ask questions and seek clarification on assignments before submitting them; students who misunderstand the instructions will still be held to the

same grading standards as others. In some cases, I may agree to review an outline or rough draft of an assignment and offer feedback prior to the final submission. Feedback will be given on all assignments that fail to earn full credit so that students can better understand the material and improve their future performance. Please contact the Professor immediately if you believe a grading mistake has been made.

The University policies regarding grades can be found online (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>).

Email:

If you would like to discuss private information (e.g., grades, professional advice, etc.) over email, you should send a private message using Canvas (<https://ufl.instructure.com/conversations>). Canvas is a more secure platform than GatorMail/Outlook for discussing personal student information; students should refrain from using GatorMail/Outlook to discuss course matters.

In order to ensure that your message is seen and replied to in a timely manner, please address your message to BOTH the Professor and the TA. Emails sent after 5PM may not receive a response until the next business day. Please follow-up if you have not received a reply within two (2) business days.

Office Hours:

Meeting during office hours is an opportunity for the Professor and TA to get to know you better as a student and as a human being. Office hours are ideal for clarifying confusing subjects and exploring topics that interest you. We can also discuss broader issues that college students face, such as balancing school and other life obligations, post-college plans, and personal issues affecting your academic performance (you may be referred to campus-based services if necessary). Please come prepared for office hours: be ready to identify what information you already know and what information you would like to learn more about.

Dr. McClellan's Office Hours:

The Professor will hold virtual office hours and face-to-face (F2F) office hours. Virtual office hours will be conducted using Zoom and F2F office hours will be held outside of Turlington Hall (near the Turlington Plaza).

Dr. McClellan's Virtual Office Hours

Wednesdays, 2:00PM – 4:00PM EST

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/94642641398>

Dr. McClellan's F2F Office Hours

Thursdays, 2:00PM – 4:00PM EST

<https://doodle.com/mm/1379178654/f2f-officehours>

Students who join the Professor's virtual office hours will be placed in a "waiting room" temporarily and will be admitted to the main room on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you have limited availability, you may contact me through Canvas to schedule an appointment during virtual office hours to ensure we can meet at a specific time; however, making an appointment is not required in order to meet during virtual office hours and you may "drop in" at any time.

Students who wish to meet with the Professor during F2F office hours must reserve a 15-minute time slot at least one (1) hour in advance using the Doodle link above. The Professor will meet with students outside of Turlington Hall (near the Turlington Plaza); students will NOT meet in the Professor's office.

Student Conduct:

Although we will be discussing topics that you may feel you have a lot of experience with (e.g., people, society, culture), sociology is a science and the assignments in this class will require you to know and apply the scientific understandings of this discipline.

I'm sure we're all aware of the kind of hatred and vitriol that can be expressed between dissenting parties, however, there will be no tolerance for that kind of behavior in this class. I expect all students to remain respectful and sociological in your interactions. Due to the sensitive nature of issues discussed in this class (e.g., race, class, gender, and sexual orientation), we must remember to abide by a code of conduct that is different from the way we may speak with our family and friends. For example, students *should* engage in discussions on contentious topics, but students *should not* insult, demean, or "troll" others. A basic set of guidelines include:

- Commit to learning, not debating
- Criticize ideas, not individuals
- Avoid inflammatory language
- Avoid blame and speculation

We must all keep in mind that, as individuals, 1) we have had a unique set of experiences that others may never come to understand, and 2) we have been influenced to believe and think certain things based on our experiences, the way we were raised, etc. As a group, we must respect each other as human beings, even if we disagree with another's viewpoint, upbringing, beliefs, traditions, etc.

Ultimately, I ask that you be respectful of all students, the TA, and myself. You will be interacting with your classmates often throughout the course, so it is important that you are able to trust one another. Your success in this class will partly depend on the success of your peers, so it is in everyone's best interest to work together and maintain an open and professional space for dialogue.

Academic Honesty and Integrity:

All UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. 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.'"

Some work in this class is required to be completed individually (e.g., IQs, midterm, final exam) and other assignments may be completed in collaboration with others (e.g., TQs and Team Research Assignments). If you are ever unsure whether you are allowed to work with others on an assignment, please reach out to the Professor immediately for clarification. Similarly, there will be times at which using the textbook during class is permissible and other times when it would be a violation of the Honor Code; students should consult with the Professor before using their textbook during class.

The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. For example, "unauthorized assistance" is a violation of the Honor Code, and students who are aware of others engaging in unauthorized assistance are obligated to report it - failure to report unauthorized assistance is considered "complicity in violating the Student Honor Code." Reports can be made to the Professor, the teaching assistant, or the Dean of Students Office. If you have any questions or concerns about permissible or prohibited behaviors, please consult with the Professor or TA.

Accessibility Accommodations:

There are a number of circumstances - physical or mental, temporary or long-term - that can make completing the course requirements unduly difficult for some students. The University has a process for identifying students in need of accommodations, and there are a wide variety of accommodations available (<https://disability.ufl.edu/students/accommodations/>). If you need accommodations for successfully completing this course, you must first register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC).

Any students who are registered with the DRC and wish to use their accommodations in this class must use the DRC portal to send a current accommodation letter to the Professor in a timely manner. Then, the student and the Professor will discuss how the accommodations will be applied to the coursework and the conditions that must be met in order to access the accommodations. Students cannot utilize their DRC accommodations in this class until they have discussed, agreed to, and signed an Accommodation Plan with the Professor.

Audio / Visual Recordings of Class:

Florida House Bill 233 (<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2021/233>) was signed into law on June 22, 2021, effectively changing the language of Section 1004.097 of the Florida Statutes to allow students to record video or audio of class lectures for three specific reasons:

1. their own personal educational use,
2. in connection with a complaint to the public institution of higher education where the recording was made, or
3. as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding.

However, students CANNOT record material which infringes on the FERPA privacy rights of other students in the class and they CANNOT publish or share these recordings without the Professor's consent. Uploading video or audio recordings to an online source, including iCloud, OneDrive, Dropbox, or Google Drive, constitutes "publishing" even if the recordings are not specifically shared with another individual. Students who publish recordings without the Professor's consent can be held legally liable and face up to \$200,000 in fines and fees, as well as facing disciplinary action for violating the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Students may discuss these policies with the Professor or a qualified legal expert to better understand their rights and responsibilities. The University guidance on in-class recordings can be found online (<http://aa.ufl.edu/policies/in-class-recording/>).

Counseling and Mental Health Services:

It is very common for students to struggle with the rigors of schoolwork, the demands of work and student organizations, and/or relationships with friends and family. In many cases, it can be helpful to discuss these stresses and anxieties with peers or a professional. The Counseling and Wellness Center (CWC) offers a wide variety of services at no cost, including individual, couples, and group counseling (<https://counseling.ufl.edu/services/>).

If you or a fellow student are in a crisis situation, you can call the CWC at 352-392-1575 or the Alachua County Crisis Center at 352-264-6789.

If there is an immediate threat to you or another person's physical safety, you should call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room immediately.

Teacher Evaluations:

The University expects students to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on a variety of criteria. These evaluations, called GatorEvals, are typically open during the last week of the semester, and students will be notified via email and Canvas notifications when they are open. GatorEvals can also be accessed directly at <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summary results of these evaluations are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

GatorEvals are primarily used in three ways: the Professor's annual performance review, the Professor's Tenure and Promotion materials, and/or for teaching and mentoring awards. In other words, the audience for these evaluations are professors and administrators. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>.

The Professor may also request anonymous feedback from students during the semester. These evaluations give current students an opportunity to provide feedback that might improve their course experience before the semester ends. The Professor will review these evaluations, and may make changes to the course based on the feedback provided.