

**SYG 2000 – Principles of Sociology
Fall 2024 Syllabus**

**Section OA35
MWF | Period 7 [1:55 pm - 2:45 pm]**

Location: AND 0019

Instructor Information
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Hello, I'm Mr. Oluwatobi. Welcome to SYG 2000, Principles of Sociology. Everything you need to know for the entire semester is included in this document. I know it's lengthy and at times boring, but please familiarize yourself with the details.

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 in society. 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 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.

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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: Attendance is important for this course, and I will take as much as I deem fit for the grade assigned.

Preparation: Students are expected to complete all necessary readings/videos prior to class. Knowledge of the material covered in these readings/videos is essential for productive class discussion and will provide important background information for the lecture. Additionally, assignments may require knowledge of the readings/videos assigned for that topic. **You are advised to take notes in class, as the lecture slides will no longer be posted on Canvas.**

Required Readings

The textbook for this class is OpenStax Introduction to Sociology 3e. The textbook is fully online and free to download or view in your browser. I strongly recommend that you use the online version of the text, since the physical copy is not free, and you will not use the entire book throughout the course. Information can be found by following the link below. On the left side of the screen, you will have the option to download the PDF version of the text.

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

Throughout the course, I may also assign outside readings from other sources. These readings may be from peer-reviewed academic journals, from newspapers such as the New York Times or Washington Post, articles about new, relevant trends or research (NPR, Pew Research Center, etc.), or various op-ed pieces. I will provide all these readings to you on Canvas as either a link or in PDF. I expect that you will have completed the readings prior to class. These readings are all required and will be assessed.

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Grading: Your grade will be based on your scores in these assessment categories: Exams, Reflections, In-Class Assignments/Discussions, Attendance, Quizzes, and a Semester Paper.

Exams: There will be three exams throughout the course, and these three exams will constitute 40% of your final grade. Exams cover material from lectures as well as assigned readings and class discussions. The tentative dates for the exams are listed on the course schedule on the last page of the syllabus. All exams will be conducted online and are not cumulative. **Note:** You will be tested on every material including the OpenStax textbook that you have been provided in this class.

Reflections: Throughout the course, I will assign writing prompts, and your responses will be submitted on Canvas. These reflections will be worth 30% of your final grade. These assignments will be reflections on topics discussed in the lecture or in the readings.

Very important: 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 counted as incomplete, and your score will reflect this. Reflections must be completed and uploaded prior to the due date/time.

Reflections are due before 11:59 PM on the following dates:

Reflection #	1	2	3	4	5	6
Due on:	Sept. 9	Sept. 23	Oct. 7	Oct. 21	Nov. 4	Nov 24

Quizzes: Throughout the course, I will assign online quizzes to be completed via Canvas. The average score of these quizzes will be worth 15% of your final grade. These quizzes will contain T/F and multiple-choice questions that cover the material discussed in OpenStax. Students may only take each quiz once. Quizzes are auto graded on Canvas; in general, the quiz associated with a particular topic will open on the first day we discuss that topic in the lecture, and it will close the day after we complete the topic.

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 time and complete quizzes in a timely fashion.

Quizzes are due before 11:59 PM on the following dates:

Quiz #	1	2	3	4	5	6
Due on:	Sept. 9	Sept. 23	Oct. 7	Oct. 21	Nov. 4	Nov 24

In-Class Assignments/Discussions (ICAs): During the lecture, we will sometimes have in-class discussions. These discussions are **unannounced** and may be at any time; cumulatively they are worth 10% of your final grade. You are not allowed to miss any of the ICAs, and there are no exceptions to this rule beyond the reasons listed in the excused absence policy below; therefore, if you cannot attend lectures regularly, making a high grade on assignments may be difficult for you. For these group discussions, I will divide the class into groups at the start of the semester and these groups will remain the same all through the semester for our class discussions. Each group will work together and present their work to the class at the end of each discussion session.

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Assessment Breakdown

Assessment	Description	% of Final Grade
Exams (3)	Exams will evaluate students' competence in terminology, concepts, methodologies, and theories used in sociology (Content)	40
Reflections (6)	Reflections will evaluate students' ability to develop connections between topics from lecture and readings regarding current events (Critical Thinking)	15
Quizzes (6)	Quizzes will evaluate students' ability to interpret and apply information from class readings.	15
In-Class Assignments/Discussion (5)	In-class assignments will evaluate student competence in effectively communicating sociological knowledge, ideas and reasoning with their peers (Communication) ***You are expected to be present at all ICA.	5
Class Attendance	Class attendance is important, all students are expected to be in all class. If you are unable to make it to class, contact the appropriate resources or get the right documentation sent to me.	5
Semester Paper	The semester paper will evaluate student's understanding of key concepts in the course and student's competence to effectively communicate sociological knowledge, ideas, and reasoning by writing a paper at the end of the semester on a chosen topic that aligns with the topics that we have discussed in class over the course of the semester (Content, Critical Thinking & Communication)	20
Total Grade		100

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

For reflections and quizzes, students can turn in a late submission for partial credit. There will be a 50% reduction in their grade **from the total points possible** in these situations. For example, if you submit a late reflection and your score is a 92/100, it will be listed as a 42 on Canvas. To receive partial credit, the submission must be within 24 hours of the original due date (so something due at 11:59 PM on Monday must be submitted before 11:59 PM on Tuesday to receive credit). After this 24-hour window, students will receive a zero on the assignment. Partial credit for late submissions only applies to reflections and quizzes, not exams. **[PLEASE NOTE THIS]**

Very important: When you view an assignment on Canvas it will show when the assignment is **due** and show when it is **available**. Make sure you submit your assignment by the **due date** for full credit. The portal will be open for 24 hours after the due date; this is only so you can

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submit a late assignment for partial credit.

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 one hour 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 in-class assignments 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 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 in-class assignment will be automatically excused, regardless of the reason for additional missed assignments. This means you can only miss **one** in-class assignment without penalty. If there is a legitimate reason why you miss an additional assignment 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.

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

Grades will not be curved, and final grades will not be calculated beyond one decimal point. For example, a 79.89 is a C+, not a B-

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. **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

Nobody likes cheaters, so don't do it. Cheating on exams or plagiarizing of any kind is not

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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: If you have a disability requiring accommodation, 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.

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 during 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.

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 time period has passed these grades are nonreviewable. This policy is to ensure that students are swift with their grade-related questions so the professors and TAs can move on to more current obligations.

Email Policy: Students can contact me via email on my university account (alawodeoluwatobi@ufl.edu) or through Canvas. I will do my best to reply to emails in a timely fashion. There is one exception: any email sent in the afternoon on a Friday or other non-business day 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 my ufl account please give your name in the email so I can identify you quickly.

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/>.

Other Suggestions:

1. Take good notes (this seems obvious but it's surprising how many students do not take very good notes). Having the lecture PowerPoints may not be enough on its own to effectively study for the tests. If you need advice on how to take better notes, I am

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happy to assist you.

2. Building on the previous point, remember that I will provide the PowerPoints to you after we've finished the lecture. Therefore, you will have access to all of them prior to your exam. Don't waste time copying anything that I will provide later anyway.
3. There are no stupid questions, so if you do not understand a concept ask for clarification.
4. I will not lend lecture notes to people who miss class, but if you miss class, I am happy to go over anything from the PowerPoint that you need more clarification on during office hours.
5. **This is very important:** If there is a circumstance that affects your ability to fulfill your class duties, discuss this with me as early as possible. Similarly, if you are concerned about your grade at any point, discuss it with me immediately. Every year I encounter students who contact me during the last week of school inquiring about how they can improve their grades. Our options are very limited at this point, so please take care of these issues early on.
6. Utilize UF's academic resources such as tutoring and other services through the Teaching Center (<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>). You can use them for this class and any others in which you need assistance. Many of these services are free and can be very helpful.

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 1515SW 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](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I call you by your first name?

A: No.

Q: Are we going to have an ICA on [insert date here]?

A: The ICA are discussion based and you are expected to be present at all ICA

Q: Can I be excused from the ICA we completed during the last class? I missed it because of [insert excuse here].

A: The only excused absences are those outlined in the make-up policy above. Unless your absence is covered by the description above, you will receive a zero for missing in-class assignments.

Q: Can I be excused from the ICA we completed during the last class? I had an exam for another class at that time.

A: No, please do not schedule exams for other courses during this class.

Q: When should I attend office hours?

A: Any conceptual/lecture-related questions, questions about study tips, questions about exams, or general inquiries are for office hours. You also don't have to have a specific reason to come to office hours, sometimes people show up to talk about things that are not related to class.

Q: Oh no! My reflection didn't upload properly/the power went out in my apartment when I was uploading/I completely forgot about the assignment/I had 15 exams this week and didn't prioritize your class/I had more important things to do! And now I have a zero on Canvas for that reflection! Can I turn it in late?

A: No, I do not accept late assignments (after the 24-hour window for late credit specified above). Even if it's one minute late. I do this so everyone is treated the same way, and because once I make concessions for one person it opens the floodgates for everyone else to want to turn in late assignments for various reasons. I understand you are busy, but almost everyone else in this class is busy too. Please be proactive and submit your assignments early enough to avoid this situation; if you encounter technical issues, there is time for you to email me and let me know before the deadline. It is much easier to deal with problems before the deadline than it is to retroactively fix them.

Q: I promise I posted my reflection on Canvas, but now it's not there anymore and it says my assignment is missing. Can you accept it late?

A: No, we grade assignments that are on Canvas by the deadline. It's your responsibility to make sure your assignment is online and visible.

Q: You're so mean for not allowing me to turn in late assignments!

A: Yes.

Q: Can I attend office hours to discuss that assignment that was graded two days ago?

A: Yes, students are encouraged to come to office hours with any questions that they have about

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grades on assignments or exams if it is within the three-day window (see next question).

Q: Can I attend office hours to look at that assignment that was graded four weeks ago?

A: No. You are welcome to attend office hours with any questions you have about a grade, but you must do this within seven days of the grade being posted. Once this deadline has passed, these grades are non-reviewable.

Q: Can I take Exam 3 early? I need to do this because [insert excuse here].

A: No, you can't. The only exception is if you have more than three exams in one day OR you have two exams scheduled at the same time. If this is the case, you can reschedule Exam 3 and take it after the regularly scheduled time.

Q: Is there anything I can do for extra points?

A: 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.

Q: Can you round up my grade? I'm so close to an A!

A: No, I will not roundup grades. Everyone receives the letter grade equivalent to your final numeric score at the semester's end. Please do not ask this question, I hate when people ask this question.

Q: Can you write a letter of recommendation for me?

A: That's conditional. I have written recommendations for former students who are going to graduate school, applying for scholarships/internships, etc. However, if I'm going to write a letter to you, I need to be sure of two things: 1) I actually know who you are and some things about you, and 2) you performed well in my class. I want to be able to write something that is both personal and complimentary. If I have never spoken to you, it's tough for me to tell someone else how great you are. And if you never showed up to class or blew off all of my assignments, I won't have very good things to say about you.

So, if you'd like me to write you a letter, I am happy to, but you must establish some sort of contact with me while you're in my class so we can build a rapport. There are no exceptions to this; if I receive an email from a student requesting a letter and they do not fit these criteria, I will politely decline. The reason is that writing a personalized letter of recommendation is time-consuming, and I want to reserve that time for students with whom I have a personal rapport.

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Date	Topic	Notes
Friday, August 23	Course Introduction	Emails will be sent out when Assignments are uploaded.
Monday, August 26	Topic 1: Defining Sociology, Sociological Terms & Concepts	
Wednesday, August 28		
Friday, August 30		
Monday, September 2	Holiday	
Wednesday, September 4		
Friday, September 6		
Monday, September 9		
Wednesday, September 11	Topic 2: Theoretical Framework & Social Research Methods	
Friday, September 13		
Monday, September 16		
Wednesday, September 18		
Friday, September 20	Exam 1	
Monday, September 23		
Wednesday, September 25		
Friday, September 27		
Monday, September 30		
Wednesday, October 2	Topic 3: Group Size, Structure & Formal Organizations	
Friday, October 4		
Monday, October 7	Homecoming	
Wednesday, October 9		
Friday, October 11		
Monday, October 14		
Wednesday, October 16	Topic 4: Social Stratification in the United States and Globally	
Friday, October 18		
Monday, October 21		
Wednesday, October 23		
Friday, October 25		
Monday, October 28	Topic 5: Population, Urbanization & Environment	
Wednesday, October 30		
Friday, November 1		
Monday, November 4		
Wednesday, November 6		
Friday, November 8	Exam 2	
Monday, November 11	Veterans Day [Holiday]	
Wednesday, November 13	Topic 6: Health & Medicine	
Friday, November 15		
Monday, November 18		

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Wednesday, November 20		
Friday, November 22	Topic 7: Aging & the Elderly	
Monday, November 25	Thanksgiving Holiday	
Wednesday, November 27		
Friday, November 29		
Monday, December 2		
Wednesday, December 4		
Thursday, December 12	Final Exam	

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