

SYG 2000 – Principles of Sociology
Fall 2023 Syllabus

MWF: 9:35 – 10:25 AM
Location: [MAEB 0229](#)

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: Mondays 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Office Location: TUR3349

Textbook

We will be using an open-source textbook that is available for free online.

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

The textbook can be found [here](#).

Additional readings can be found on Canvas.

General Education Subject Area Objectives

Social and behavioral science courses, like SYG2000, 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 SYG2000 Principles of Sociology

1. Introduce students to the basic concepts, theories, and methods that sociologists use. Course materials and activities 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. 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 about 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.

Course Components

Your grade will be based on attendance, an object of study, quizzes, group research assignments, peer evaluations, and exams. Please note that I will not round up final grades. If you would like to discuss your grade at any point during the semester, please see me during office hours. You must do this within a week of your grade being posted.

Attendance: 15% of final grade

This class relies heavily on group-based learning activities and discussions, therefore, you are expected to come to class prepared and ready to participate. Attendance will be randomly graded and will be based on miscellaneous in-class assignments. Students with unexcused absences on these days will not be allowed to complete any make-up or alternative assignments.

Object of study: 5% of final grade

I will randomly assign you to a week during the first week of class. Based on the week you're assigned, you will create or find an item that reflects the material for that given week. To receive full credit, you will submit a picture or a digital copy of the chosen item and a two-paragraph discussion.

Quizzes: 10% of final grade

There are a total of 10 quizzes; each quiz is worth 1% of your final grade. Each quiz is composed of 5 multiple-choice and true/false questions, and you will have 8 minutes to complete it. Quizzes are due Friday at 11:59 PM.

Group Research Assignments: 20% of final grade

There will be a total of 4 group research assignments; each assignment is worth 5% of your final grade. These assignments are intended to provide students with hands-on experiences doing research. You and your groupmates will work together to produce a single submission for which all group members will receive the same grade.

Peer Evaluations: 20% of final grade

You and your group will develop a Peer Evaluation rubric before each research assignment. This rubric will help establish expectations for all group members. At the end of each research assignment, each student will submit a peer evaluation grading their groupmates. I will then use these evaluations to calculate and assign each student's Peer Evaluation grade. I am the only one that can see your Peer Evaluations.

Exams: 30% of final grade

- *Midterm Exam* (15%): The midterm will cover material from Chapters 1-6, 7.1, 9, and 13, as well as any material we watched or discussed in class. The exam will consist of 40 multiple-choice and true/false questions.
- *Final Exam* (15%): The final will cover material from Chapters 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, and 21 and any material we watched or discussed in class. The exam will consist of 40 multiple-choice and true/false questions.

Grades will be calculated on the following components:

Attendance	15%
Object of study	5%
Quizzes	10%
Group Research Assignments	20%
Peer Evaluations	20%
Exams	30%
TOTAL	100%

Accordingly, final course grades will be based on the following grading scale:

A	90 – 100%
B+	84 – 89%
B	83 – 80%
C+	74 – 79%
C	73 – 70%
D	69 – 60%
E	59 – 0%

Attendance, Missed Assignments, And Make-Up Assignments/Exams

I understand you have other obligations outside of my class. If you know you will need an extension, please reach out to me at least 12 hours before an assignment is due. I will not provide extensions to group assignments.

I have no problem with you missing class as long as it does not become a habit. I only ask that you let me know of your absence **before** the relevant class period. If attendance is randomly taken on the day you miss, and you did not notify me before class started, I will not excuse it, and you will receive a 0.

If you missed class due to an exceptional circumstance and were unable to contact me beforehand, you may be asked to submit supporting evidence or documentation. Exceptional circumstances are limited to any emergency that can be documented, such as a death in the family, a medical emergency/illness requiring medical attention for the student or a family member, or urgent issues beyond the student's control. You do not need to submit documentation directly to me. I suggest submitting an Instructor Notification request to the Dean of Students (<https://care.dso.ufl.edu/>). The Dean of Students will review your documentation and advise whether your absence warrants an excused absence. However, I have the right to accept or reject the Dean of Students' recommendation.

In certain situations, students with legitimate excuses (court-imposed legal obligations, university-sponsored activities, religious holidays, etc.) or accommodations through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) 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 a make-up will have an all-written test (no true/false or multiple-choice questions).

Accessibility Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center.](#) Students registered with the DRC who wish to use their accommodations in this class must send me a current accommodation letter through the DRC portal. Accommodations cannot be utilized until proper documentation is submitted.

Gator Evals

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 [here](#).

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 [here](#).

Academic Misconduct

The University of Florida holds its students to the highest standards, and we encourage students to read the University of Florida Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code (Regulation 4.040), so they are aware of our standards. Any violation of the Student Honor Code will result in a referral to the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution and may result in academic sanctions and further student conduct action. The two greatest threats to the academic integrity of the University of Florida are cheating and plagiarism. Students should be aware of their faculty's policy on collaboration, should understand how to properly cite sources, and should not give nor receive an improper academic advantage in any manner through any medium.

All UF students are bound by the UF honor code: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

TENTATIVE FALL 2023 CLASS SCHEDULE*

Week	Topic	Date	Readings	Assignments
1	Introduction	Wed., August 23		
		Fri., August 25	Chapter 1	
2	Sociological Research	Mon., August 28	Chapter 2	
		Wed., August 30		
		Fri., September 1		Chapter 2 Quiz
3	Culture	Mon., September 4	No class – Labor Day	
		Wed., September 6	Chapter 3	
		Fri., September 8		Chapter 3 Quiz
		Sun. September 9		- Research Assignment 1 - Peer Evaluation 1
4	Socialization and Social Control	Mon., September 11	- Chapter 5 - Chapter 7.1 Explaining - “Annette Lareau, or Why Parenting Styles Ensures Inequality”	
		Wed., September 13		
		Fri., September 15		Chapter 5 & 7.1 Quiz
5	Society	Mon., September 18	Chapter 4	
		Wed., September 20		
		Fri., September 22	No class	Chapter 4 Quiz
6	Social Groups and Organization	Mon., September 25	Chapter 6	
		Wed., September 27		Survey link
		Fri., September 29		Chapter 6
7 & 8	Social Stratification in the U.S.	Mon., October 2	Chapter 9	
		Wed., October 4		- Research Assignment 2 - Peer Evaluation 2
		Fri., October 6	No class – Homecoming	
		Mon., October 9		
		Wed., October 11		
		Fri., October 13		Chapter 9 Quiz
9	Midterm Exam	Mon., October 16		
		Wed., October 18		Midterm Exam
		Fri., October 20	No class – Field Day	
10	Gender, Sex, and Sexuality	Mon., October 23	Chapter 12	
		Wed., October 25		
		Fri., October 27		Chapter 12 Quiz
11	Race and Ethnicity	Mon., October 30	Chapter 11	
		Wed., November 1		
		Fri., November 3		Chapter 11 Quiz

12	Social Movements	Mon., November 6	Chapter 21	
		Wed., November 8		- Research Assignment 3 - Peer Evaluation 3
		Fri., November 10	No class – Veterans Day	Chapter 21 Quiz
13	Media & Technology	Mon., November 13	Chapter 14	
		Wed., November 15	Chapter 8	
		Fri., November 17	Chapter 15	
14	Winter Break	No class – Enjoy your break!		
15	Group Presentations	Mon., November 27		Research Assignment 4
		Wed., November 29		
		Fri., December 1		Peer Evaluation 4
16	Final Exam	Mon., December 4		
		Wed., December 6		Final Exam