

Principles of Sociology

SYG2000

Course/Instructor Information: Fall 2023

<u>Course Title:</u> Principles of Sociology	<u>Course/Section Number:</u> SYG2000-4689
<u>Class Location:</u> Leigh Hall 0142	<u>Credits:</u> 3
<u>Class Time:</u> MWF 12:50 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.	<u>Instructor:</u> Emily Swanson (she/her)

Hello, I am your instructor, Emily Swanson. 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.

Email: emily.swanson@ufl.edu

Please allow 24 hours for a response Monday morning through Friday evening and up to 48 hours for a response Friday evening through Sunday evening. Scheduled holidays may extend the response time. 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 UF account please give your name in the email so I can identify you quickly.

Office hours: Mondays 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. in Turlington Hall Room 3347

I enjoy teaching and talking with you. If you have questions or just have an idea you want to explore, come by my office during this time.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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 attitudes, outcomes, or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.

Sociology is the *systematic* study of social life. In studying Sociology, we glean an understanding of how social groups, institutions, norms and values, and social identities are created and transformed by people through social interaction. We learn how social structures like race, gender, class, and cast influence our lives. Therefore, Sociology is. The study of social stability, conflict, and change.

Why should *you* study Sociology? Sociology, and social thought broadly, is intrinsically attached to our everyday experiences. Sociology provides us with the conceptual, analytical, and. theoretical tools – the “sociological imagination”—to understand the world around us. It forces us to challenge taken-for-granted assumptions and enables us to see how social forces that may appear unrelated to us impact our lives. Sociology enables us to critically see those connections, thereby enlarging our worldviews. Consequently, Sociology has the power to aid us in becoming informed and responsible global citizens.

COURSE-RELATED INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1) Introduce students to the basic concepts, theories, and methods that sociologists use. Course materials and activities provide students opportunities to see how social scientist 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:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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 FORMAT

This course is entirely in-person. I will use a combination of methods of instruction. Class meetings will comprise PowerPoint lectures, in-class activities, discussions, and films. Class participation is an essential component of the learning process for this course. Students are expected to read all the assigned reading materials *before* each class and be prepared to participate in class discussions. To perform well in this course, it is crucial that you read the assigned readings carefully, take copious notes in class, and review the material regularly. We will also make use of Canvas/e-learning. The instructor will post lecture presentations and other class materials on Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking e-Learning for updates, discussions, instructions, posted lecture notes, and many other resources. Students can learn more about Canvas and other technologies by visiting UF's e-learning website. The UF Computing Help Desk is available to help troubleshoot technical issues.

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](#).

Any additional readings can be found on Canvas.

COURSE COMPONENTS

Your grade is based on a syllabus quiz, participation, posing thoughtful questions to the Canvas discussion board, reflections, Canvas assignments, a research presentation, and two exams. You should do the readings *before* each class and come prepared for discussion and/or in-class assignments. On five selected days (see tentative schedule) we will hold small group discussions where we address the questions posted on the discussion board for that week, all other days will be lecture. **For all writing assignments use APA format.**

Syllabus Quiz: There is an online syllabus quiz the first week of class. The syllabus quiz is taken online via Canvas. I encourage you to reference the syllabus while taking the quiz. There are unlimited attempts and no time limit for this quiz.

Participation: There are two scores of your participation graded, one in the middle of the semester, and one at the end of the semester for participation in the classroom. Students will earn their score by attending and participating in classroom discussion and demonstrating involvement in the class and course materials.

Class participation is an essential component of the learning process for this course. Students must complete the assigned readings prior to class. Keeping up with the readings and attending classes regularly is critical in performing well on assignments and achieving a good grade in the course. Students who miss classes for excused absences must email the instructor to arrange any make-up work as soon as their condition permits. To be excused, medical situations must be documented (such as a signed physician's form). Consistent with university policies, make-up work will be allowed for excused absences, as defined by UF policy, which includes illness, religious holidays, university activities, and military obligations.

Posting Questions to the Discussion Board: Throughout the course, we will have five days dedicated to small group discussion. You will pose two thoughtful questions on the Canvas discussion board prior to our small group discussions that will happen during usual class time. On the assigned day of small group discussion, we will divide into discussion groups and address the questions you raised from the course materials. Questions must be submitted by class time the day of group discussions (12:50 p.m.). For the days of group discussion please see the tentative schedule below.

Reflections: Throughout the course you will be asked to reflect on the material we cover and discuss in-class. Specifically, you will be asked to utilize sociological concepts and discuss how the material confirmed or challenged your ideas concerning the social world. These reflections are a creative spot, you can go about them in several ways. You can write reflections like they are a journal, where you look back and take in/reflect on what you learned. If you want you can share a picture you took over the week which exemplifies some concept or idea from what you

learned in class, share a song, drawing, poem, cartoon, or anecdote. Then, in writing demonstrate how that relates to the material you encountered over the week.

Each reflection is submitted via Canvas and is only viewed by the instructor. Reflections are not shared with the class. Reflections should contain at least 200 words and be free of any major writing and grammatical errors. To receive full points for these assignments be sure to answer all parts of the prompt and rubric. Each reflection is submitted via Canvas. The citation style for this class is APA. You are expected to cite materials in APA from the readings and lectures.

Examinations: These will serve as assessments to evaluate students' knowledge of different concepts and terms related to course content. Students may use their notes to answer questions while taking the exam during class. You will not be able to use your laptop, phone, tablet, or any other electronic devices during exams. Exams will not be cumulative; they will only cover the topics listed in the syllabus course schedule before the day of the exam. There are two exams required for this course – a midterm and a final. Exams will be taken during our usual class time and location. The midterm is Friday October 13, and the final exam is Wednesday December 06. The meeting prior to the exams we will hold study review sessions. Students will take exams using a SCANTRON answer sheet. Students are responsible for bringing their own SCANTRON exam answer sheet on the day of each test along with a pencil. Students who fail to complete the exam on the scheduled date will receive a 0 for that exam. Exams will only be allowed to be made-up after due dates with instructor approval and proof of mitigating circumstances that would not allow you to complete the exam by the due date (see late assignment policy).

Canvas Assignments: Throughout the course, I will assign brief (~150-200 words) writing prompts that students will submit on Canvas. These assignments will primarily reflect what we discuss in class as well as readings from the textbook and other sources. Assignments will be posted on Canvas at least a week before they are due, so you will always have multiple days to submit your assignment.

Research Presentations: During the semester, students will select one topic to briefly present a research article of their choosing on. You will find a research article related to the topic, then during our research presentation week provide a short five-ten-minute summary covering four main ideas from the article: the primary aim of the study, what methods were used, research findings, and your thoughts on the study. Students will sign up at the beginning of the semester for a class date and topic for their presentation. Sign-up dates are first come, first serve. Presentations will be graded on preparedness and completion; a full rubric can be found on the Canvas site. Students must submit the selected article citation along with approximately a page (double-spaced) including the four main points of the article on Canvas before class time on the day they are presenting begins (by 12:50 p.m. that day).

Break Down of Points

Syllabus Quiz	5
Participation	80
Discussion Questions Posted on Canvas (x5)	5 each/25 total
Reflections (x5)	10 each/50 total
Canvas assignments (x4)	10 each/40 total
Exams (x2)	100 each/200 total
Research Presentations	100
Total	500

Extra Credit: Extra credit will be offered at the discretion of the professor. Extra credit may not be offered at all.

GRADING SCALE

A	93-100%	C	73-76.9%
A-	90-92.9%	C-	70-72.9%
B+	87-89.9%	D+	67-69.9%
B	83-86.9%	D	63-66.9%
B-	80-82.9%	D-	60-62.9%
C+	77-79.9%	E	<60%

Grading will not be curved or rounded up. Please be aware of your grades and progress throughout the semester. If you are concerned about your grades at any point, please feel free to reach out and speak to me about it in office hours as soon as possible. It is easier to talk about ways to improve your grades earlier rather than later in the semester.

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

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. Late assignments will be accepted. 10% will be subtracted from assignments for each day that passes after the deadline. This late policy will only apply to Canvas assignments, reflections, and discussion

board questions. Exams and research presentations not completed on the assigned date will not be accepted as a late assignment.

If you are absent from class due to a UNIVERSITY AUTHORIZED (legitimate reasons include illness, family emergencies, or university-sponsored activities) and miss an exam on that day, you must provide written documentation explaining your legitimate absence. 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. In certain situations, students with legitimate excuses (university-sponsored activities, religious holidays, etc.) may be allowed to take an exam early at my discretion. Students who will miss an exam for these reasons must notify me at least one week in advance, and appropriate documentation must be provided. Outside of the scenarios listed above, no early exams will be administered.

CLASS POLICIES

Critical thinking - Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief.

Sensitive topics – During the course of the semester, we will cover a variety of social issues and topics. Sometimes, the concepts we discuss will be related to challenges, negative interactions, harm, violence and other sensitive topics. At any point, if you feel uncomfortable with the discussion, please feel free to leave the classroom. There will be no negative reflection on your grade or performance in the class if you need to leave. If you suspect that specific material is likely to be emotionally challenging or overwhelming for you, please do not hesitate to discuss your concerns with me.

Electronics – Laptops and tablets are encouraged for note taking as well as referring to the textbook during class since it is available as a digital format. Please only use your laptops for class related subjects. Phone use in class is discouraged in most cases. We may occasionally do in-class activities using your phone; those are the only exception for in-class phone use.

Discussion/office hours – If you ever want to discuss aspects of the class, such as grading or course content, I am available to talk about anything with you in discussion/office hours. You can think of this as an informal time where I'll be available to talk about anything concerning the course. There's no way for me to know if you are having issues in the course if you don't reach out to discuss them. If you ever have an issue in the course for any reason, please feel free to

reach out to me so we can resolve it. I offer discussion hours both over Zoom by appointment as well as in person so please select a format that best fits your needs and schedule.

Class cancellation – If I ever need to cancel class, I will notify you via email and Canvas announcement. For university closures, please follow any instructions outlined by the university.

Academic Honesty- Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment will not be tolerated. As a student you are expected to follow the standards of University of Florida Honor Code for each assignment. 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.”

More information about UF’s Honor Code can be found at:

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

CLASS SCHEDULE

This schedule (below) will help you in planning your semester. I suggest referring to it regularly throughout the term, as it is meant to help you keep yourself on track. Please Note: it is imperative you follow the modules on Canvas and go through each of the materials and assignments posted in them. Further, this is merely a *tentative* schedule and subject to change.

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Wed, Aug 23	Introduction to the course	Read the syllabus!	
Fri, Aug 25	Topic 1 – Sociological perspectives and theoretical frameworks	Read the Canvas page	Syllabus quiz
Mon, Aug 28		Chapter 1.1, 1.2	
Wed, Aug 30		Chapter 1.3	
Fri, Sept 1		Chapter 1.4	Reflection #1 (11:59 p.m.)
Mon, Sep 4	No class (Labor day)		
Wed, Sep 6	Topic 2 – Research methods	Chapter 2.1	
Fri, Sep 8		Chapter 2.2	
Mon, Sep 11		Chapter 2.3	Discussion Questions #1 (12:50 p.m.)
Wed, Sep 13	Topic 3 – Ethnocentrism and culture	Chapter 3.1, 3.2	
Fri, Sep 15		Chapter 3.3	Reflection #2 (11:59 p.m.)
Mon, Sep 18		Chapter 3.4	
Wed, Sep 20		Chapter 4.1,4.2	Canvas assignment #1 (11:59 p.m.)

Fri, Sep 22	Topic 4 – Social interaction and socialization	Chapter 4.3, 5.1	
Mon, Sep 25		Chapter 5.2, 5.3	
Wed, Sep 27		Chapter 5.4	Discussion Questions #2 (12:50 p.m.)
Fri, Sep 29	Topic 5 – Deviance, Crime, and Social Control	Chapter 6.2, 6.3	Canvas assignment #2 (11:59 p.m.)
Mon, Oct 2		Chapter 7.1, 7.2	
Wed, Oct 4		Chapter 7.3	Discussion Questions #3 (12:50 p.m.)
Fri, Oct 6	No class (Homecoming)		
Mon, Oct 9	Topic 6 – Media and Technology	Chapter 8.1, 8.2. 8.4	
Wed, Oct 11	Midterm exam review		
Fri, Oct 13	Midterm exam		
Mon, Oct 16	Topic 7 – Social Stratification	Chapter 9.1	
Wed, Oct 18		Chapter 9.2, 9.3	
Fri, Oct 20		Chapter 9.4	Reflection #3 (11:59 p.m.)
Mon, Oct 23		Chapter 10.1	
Wed, Oct 25		Chapter 10.2, 10.3	Discussion Questions #4 (12:50 p.m.)
Fri, Oct 27	Topic 8 – Race and Ethnicity	Chapter 11.1, 11.2	
Mon, Oct 30		Chapter 11.3, 11.4	Canvas assignment #3(11:59 p.m.)
Wed, Nov 1		Chapter 11.5	
Fri, Nov 3	Topic 9 – Gender, Sex, and Sexuality	Chapter 12.1	Reflection #4 (11:59 p.m.)
Mon, Nov 6		Chapter 12.2	
Wed, Nov 8		Chapter 12.3	Discussion Questions #5 (12:50 p.m.)
Fri, Nov 10	No class (Veteran's day)		
Mon, Nov 13	Topic 10 – Health and Medicine	Chapter 19.1, 19.3, 19.4	
Wed, Nov 15		Chapter 20.1, 20.2	Canvas assignment #4 (11:59 p.m.)

Fri, Nov 17	Topic 11 – Population, Urbanization, and Environment	Chapter 20.3	Reflection #5 (11:59 p.m.)
Mon, Nov 20	No class		
Wed, Nov 22	No class (Thanksgiving)		
Fri, Nov 24	No class (Thanksgiving)		
Mon, Nov 27	Research Presentations		Presenting day 1
Wed, Nov 29			Presenting day 2
Fri, Dec 1			Presenting day 3
Mon, Dec 4	Final exam review		
Wed, Dec 6	Final exam		

CAMPUS RESOURCES

There are a variety of resources available for students in need of counseling or assistance for personal, medical, social, and academic reasons.

On-campus Health and Wellness resources include:

U Matter, We Care
 352-392-1575
Umatter@ufl.edu

University Counseling Center
 352-392-1575
<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center
 352-392-1171

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center
 352-392-1161

UF Health Shands Emergency Room/ Trauma Center
 Visit 1515 SW Archer Rd. Gainesville, FL 32608 or call 352-733-0111 for immediate medical care
<https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center>

On-campus Academic and Career resources include:

Career Resource Center
 352-392-1601
<https://career.ufl.edu/>

E-learning Technical Support
352-392-4357
Helpdesk@ufl.edu

Teaching Center
Main Office: 352-392-2010
Tutoring Appointment: 352-392-6420
<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>
teaching-center@ufl.edu

Writing Studio
2215 Turlington Hall
352-846-1138
<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Off-campus Health and Wellness counseling resources:

Alachua County Crisis Center
352-264-6789
<https://alachuacounty.us/Depts/CSS/CrisisCenter/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

Disability Accommodations- Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Incomplete Grades-I understand that serious circumstances may arise that may limit your ability to finish your coursework after completing most of the course with a passing grade. If you are in a situation where this applies, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has a specific policy and process regarding incomplete grades. Below is more information and documents regarding the Incomplete Grade Policy:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#incomplete>

<https://clas.ufl.edu/files/2019/02/CLASIncompleteGradePolicy.pdf>

<https://clas.ufl.edu/files/2019/02/CLASIncompleteGradeContract.pdf>

GatorEvals- 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/>.”

COVID-19

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- 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 COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.
- You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.
 - Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.
- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. **Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire** and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.
 - As with any excused absence, you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work
 - If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.