

## **Principles of Sociology**

SYG2000, 17821, Section JL35

Spring 2025

Tuesday Period 4 (10:40AM-11:30AM)

Thursday Period 4-5 (10:40AM-12:35PM)

Location MAEB 0229

\* The details of the syllabus might be changed before the class. Please check the most recent update on Canvas.

### **Instructor**

Jia-Qi Liou (She/Her)

Email: [jiaqiliou@ufl.edu](mailto:jiaqiliou@ufl.edu)

(\*Please include [SYG2000] in email subject line and your full name in the mail.)

Office Hours: Friday 11:45am – 01:50pm at Turlington 3347

Hello, I'm Jia-Qi Liou. 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.

My office hours are Friday 11:45am to 01:50pm at Turlington Hall 3347. Online office hours are available by appointment. If you have any questions about our lecture, contents, or assignments, please feel free to stop by during the office hours or send an email to me.

### **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. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.

### **Legislative Compliance Statement**

In SYG2000, there may be content on historical background and sociological concepts about sociological topics. Multiple sources, types of evidence, and interpretations are included, and differing interpretations of historical events are discussed with an emphasis on diverse theoretical perspectives rather than privileging one over the other. The class emphasizes maintaining accuracy and objectivity and skills to evaluate evidence and claims. Discussions of history are case- or data-driven rather than rooted in ideology or advocacy, and students can draw their own conclusions.

This course may touch on topics germane to identity, but as subjects of study and not advocacy; in that spirit, we routinely teach on diverse theoretical perspectives rather than privileging one over the other. Discussions of identity are case- or data-driven rather than rooted in ideology or advocacy.

The course may also discuss systemic theories as they relate to sociological perspectives, but it considers them in the context of other theoretical approaches and includes critique of all theoretical perspectives. The course does not endorse concepts of systemic racism, sexism, oppression, or privilege. It also does not treat inequalities or injustice as inherent, but instead discusses theoretical perspectives that explain whether and how social structures may create and reproduce inequalities. Such processes are viewed as contingent and negotiated and often contested rather than natural or determined. The course cites relevant facts based on research demonstrating how institutions are social contexts that shape inequalities within the United States and globally. Discussions of various interpretations are case- or data-driven rather than driven by an ideology.

Grading of assignments and/or exams focuses on understanding of content rather than adopting a

specific opinion.

### **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 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 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:

- 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 Format**

This course will be in-person lecture, discussion, and various activities. There will be no recordings of lectures unless explicitly specified. There are different kinds of assessments including in-person format and on Canvas. Students are expected to read the assigned readings before the class and join the discussion in the classroom.

### **Student Responsibilities**

Attendance: Attendance is not specifically required to pass this course. I will not take formal attendance, and you will not be directly penalized for missing classes. However, I strongly recommend that you attend as many classes as possible. One reason, as discussed below, is that the cumulative score on in-class assignments will be included in your final grade, and you cannot complete these assignments if you are not in class. See this link for more information on university attendance policies:

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

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 lecture. Additionally, assignments may require knowledge of the readings/videos assigned for that day.

### **Required Readings**

The textbook for this class is OpenStax Introduction to Sociology 3rd Edition. 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. It's important for you to have access to OpenStax since all the material from quizzes will be based on OpenStax readings. These readings are self-guided, and you can complete them at any point during the access period.

<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 of 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.

**Grading: Your grade will be based on your scores in four assessment categories: Exams, Reflections, In-class assignments, and Quizzes.**

Exams: There will be three exams throughout the course, and the average score of these three exams will constitute **40%** of your final grade. Exams cover material from lectures as well as assigned readings, and class discussion. The exam dates are listed on the course schedule on the syllabus. All exams will be closed book and conducted **on Canvas** during our usual meeting. Exams are not cumulative.

Reflections: Throughout the course, I will assign writing prompts, and your responses will be submitted on Canvas. The average score of these assignments will be worth **20%** of your final grade. These assignments will be based on topics discussed in lectures or in readings. You will have a week to write each of the reflections.

Important dates for Reflections (all are due before 11:59 PM on the specified due date):

Reflection #	1	2	3	4	5
Available:	Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	Jan 30 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	Mar 11 <sup>th</sup>	Apr 10 <sup>th</sup>
Due on:	Jan 26 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 9 <sup>th</sup>	Mar 02 <sup>nd</sup>	Mar 16 <sup>th</sup>	Apr 20 <sup>th</sup>

Quizzes: Throughout the course I will assign online quizzes to be completed via Canvas. The average score of these quizzes will be worth **20%** of your final grade. These quizzes will contain multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and T/F 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 be opened on the first day we discuss that topic in lecture, and it will be closed two days after we complete the topic. The single lowest quiz score of the semester will be automatically excused.

Important dates for Quizzes (all are due before 11:59 PM on the specified due date):

Quiz #	1	2	3	4	5
Available:	Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Jan 30 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>

Due on:	Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Jan 30 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>
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Quiz #	6	7	8	9	10
Available:	Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>	Mar 11 <sup>th</sup>	Mar 27 <sup>th</sup>	Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Apr 10 <sup>th</sup>
Due on:	Mar 08 <sup>th</sup>	Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Apr 10 <sup>th</sup>	Apr 17 <sup>th</sup>

In-Class Assignments (ICAs): During the semester, we will have in-class assignments, which can be a group activity, a prompt to respond, pop quizzes, or group discussions. These assignments are unannounced and may be at any time during the class period; cumulatively they are worth **20%** of your final grade.

The single lowest ICA score of the semester will be automatically excused; this means that students are only allowed to miss one ICA without penalty. There are no exceptions to this rule beyond the reasons listed in the excused absence policy below; therefore, if you cannot attend lecture regularly, making a high grade on these assignments may be difficult for you. Included in this portion of your assessment is participation. I will most likely not have to assess you on participation, but if you are consistently a distraction or disruptive, I reserve the right to lower your assignment grade at my discretion.

#### Assessment Breakdown

Assessment	Description	Percentage of Final Grade
Exams	Exams will evaluate student competence in terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used in sociology (Content)	40
Reflections	Reflections will evaluate students' ability to develop connections between topics from lecture and readings regarding current events (Critical Thinking)	20
Quizzes	Quizzes will evaluate students' ability to interpret and apply information from class readings.	20
In-Class Assignments	In-class assignments will evaluate student competence in effectively communicating sociological knowledge, ideas and reasoning with	20

	their peers (Communication)	
Total Grade		100

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

For reflections, students can turn in a late submission for partial credit. There will be a 15% reduction EACH DAY in their grade from the total points possible in these situations. For example, if you submit a late reflection within a day and your score is a 92/100, it will be listed as a 78.2 on Canvas. To receive partial credit, the submission must be within 48 hours of the original due date (so something due at 11:59 PM on Monday must be submitted before 11:59 PM on Wednesday to receive credit). After this 48-hour window, students will receive a zero on the assignment.

Partial credit for late submissions only applies to reflections, not exams.

No late submission for quizzes, but the system will automatically drop 1 lowest quiz.

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 UNIVERSITY AUTHORIZED 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.

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	94.00-100	C	73.00-76.99
A-	90.00-93.99	C-	70.00-72.99
B+	87.00-89.99	D+	67.00-69.99
B	83.00-86.99	D	63.00-66.99
B-	80.00-82.99	D-	60.00-62.99
C+	77.00-79.99	E	≤ 59.99

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

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/>

Accommodations: If you have a disability requiring accommodations, 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 in my office hours. My office hours are in-person. Online office hours are also available by appointment.

Email policy: Students can contact me via email through Canvas. I will reply within 48 hours, 36 for a weekend. Please include [SYG2000] in your email subject title and provide your name in the email so that I can identify you better.

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 that 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 **with consent** from the class and instructor. 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.

Publication without the 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

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

[Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

[Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

[Teaching Center](#): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

[Writing Studio](#): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.](#)

Course Schedule (T=Tuesday, R=Thursday)

Week	Date	Topic	Note
1	01/14 T	Introduction to the course Reading: Syllabus	
	01/16 R	Topic 1: What is Sociology?	
2	01/21 T	Reading: Chapter 1	Quiz#01 due on 01/23 Thu Reflection#01 due on 01/26 Sun
	01/23 R	Topic 2: Culture	
3	01/28 T	Reading: Chapter 3	Quiz#02 due on 01/30 Thu
	01/30 R	Topic 3: Socialization and	
4	02/04 T	Social Groups Reading: Chapter 5, 6.1	Quiz#03 due on 02/06 Thu Reflection#02 due on 02/09 Sun
	02/06 R	Topic 4: Social Research and	
5	02/11 T	Methods Reading: Chapter 2, 4	Quiz#04 due on 02/13 Thu
	02/13 R	Exam 1	
6	02/18 T	Topic 5: Gender, Marriage, and	
	02/20 R	Family	
7	02/25 T	Reading: Chapter 12, 14	Quiz#05 due on 02/27 Thu Reflection#03 due on 03/02 Sun
	02/27 R	Topic 6: Deviance and Social	
8	03/04 T	Control	
	03/06 R	Reading: Chapter 7	Quiz#06 due on 03/08 Sat
9	03/11 T	Topic 7: Social Stratification	
	03/13 R	and Global Inequality Reading: Chapter 9, 10	Quiz#07 due on 03/15 Sat Reflection#04 due on 03/16 Sun
10	03/18 T	Spring Break	
	03/20 R		
11	03/25 T	Exam 2	
	03/27 R	Topic 8: Race/ Ethnicity	
12	04/01 T	Reading: Chapter 11	Quiz#08 due on 04/03 Thu
	04/03 R	Topic 9: Work and the	
13	04/08 T	Economy Reading: Chapter 18	Quiz#09 due on 04/10 Thu

	04/10 R	Topic 10: Health and Environment Reading: Chapter 19, 20.3	
14	04/15 T		Quiz#10 due on 04/17 Thu Reflection#05 due on 04/20 Sun
	04/17 R	Semester Wrap-up	
15	04/22 T	<b>Exam 3</b>	