

SYG 2000 – Principles of Sociology  
Spring 2024 Syllabus

Class #16502, Section ES35  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday | Period 4 (10:40 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)  
Location: Weimer Hall, Room 1076

**Instructor Information**

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Office hours: Tuesday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
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Hello, I'm 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.

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 see those connections, thereby enlarging our worldviews critically. Consequently, Sociology has the power to aid us in becoming informed and responsible global citizens.

Email: [emily.swanson@ufl.edu](mailto: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: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. in Turlington Hall Room 3349

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.

## **General Education Subject Area Objectives**

Social and behavioral science courses, like SYG 2000, provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theories 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 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 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 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. The Content SLO is assessed through quizzes and exams.
- *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. The Communication SLO is assessed through class discussion and reflections.
- *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. The Critical Thinking SLO is assessed through in-class assignments.

### **Course Format**

This course is completely in-person; there will be no recordings of lectures unless explicitly specified. I will use a combination of methods of instruction. Class meetings will comprise 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.

## **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 the 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

Textbook information: OpenStax. *Introduction to Sociology 3e*. OpenStax CNX, 2021.

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

Any additional readings can be found on Canvas.

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 30% of your final grade. Exams cover material from lectures as well as assigned readings and

class discussions. The exam dates are listed on the course schedule on the last page of the syllabus. **All exams will be conducted in class during our usual class meeting.** Exams are not cumulative. You can use a single paper sheet of notes (front and back) on the exam. I will provide a study guide for each exam. These exams will contain multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, open-response, and T/F questions. **Note:** material from OpenStax will not be on the exam; that information will be covered exclusively on the quizzes.

Exam #	1	2	3
Will be taken during our regular class meeting on:	Feb 12	Mar 22	Apr 24

**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 30% of your final grade. These assignments will be based on topics discussed in the lectures and/or in the readings.

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

Reflection #	1	2	3	4	5
Available:	Jan 20	Feb 04	Feb 23	Mar 02	Apr 06
Due on:	Jan 26	Feb 09	Feb 28	Mar 08	Apr 11

**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 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 submitted and 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.

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

Quiz #	1	2	3	4	5	6
Available:	Jan 17	Jan 29	Feb 14	Mar 04	Mar 25	Apr 12
Due on:	Jan 27	Feb 10	Feb 29	Mar 20	Apr 02	Apr 23

**In-Class Assignments (ICAs):** During the lecture, I will sometimes give you a prompt to respond to individually. These assignments are **unannounced** and may be at any time during the class period; cumulatively, they are worth 15% 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. Still, 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)	35
Reflections	Reflections will evaluate students' ability to develop connections between topics from lecture and readings regarding current events (Critical Thinking)	35
Quizzes	Quizzes will evaluate students' ability to interpret and apply information from class readings.	15
In-Class Assignments	In-class assignments will evaluate student competence in effectively communicating sociological knowledge, ideas and reasoning with their peers (Communication)	15
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 10% 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 an 82 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.

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.

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](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or by

phone at 352-294-2273) and explain your situation. They will gather appropriate documentation and let me know which days, if any, 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

A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit. 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. See the link for university grade and grading policies:

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

### 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

*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 notetaking, as well as referring to the textbook during class since it is available in 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 our phones; those are the only exceptions for in-class phone use.

*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 during office hours. You can think of this as an informal time when 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 a class, I will notify you via email and Canvas announcement. For university closures, please follow any instructions outlined by the university.

## **Other things to know**

### 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/>.

### Recording Lectures:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. 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 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:

- 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 1515 SW 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](mailto: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](#).

## Course Schedule

\*Subject to change at the instructor's discretion

Week	Date	Topic	Notes		
1	January 8	Introduction to the course			
	January 10	Introduction to the course			
	January 12	Topic 1: Development of Sociology  Defining Sociological Terms and Concepts	Quiz 1 – due: January 27 Reflection 1 – due: January 26		
<b>NO CLASS</b> January 15 <b>MLK Jr. Day</b>					
January 17					
January 19					
3	January 22				
	January 24				
	January 26				
4	January 29			Topic 2: Theoretical Frameworks and Research Methods	Quiz 2 – due: February 10 Reflection 2 – due: February 9
	January 31				
	February 2				
5	February 5				
	February 7				
	February 9				
6	<b>February 12</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>Topics 1 &amp; 2</b>		
	February 14	Topic 3: Deviance, Crime, and Social Control	Quiz 3 – due: February 29 Reflection 3 – due: February 28		
	February 16				
7	February 19				
	February 21				
	February 23				
8	February 26				
	February 28				
	March 1				
9	March 4			Topic 4: Social Stratification	Reflection 4 – due: March 8
	March 6				
	March 8				
<b>Spring Break!</b>		<b>NO CLASS</b> Spring Break March 9-16	Have fun ☺		
10	March 18	Topic 4 Continued	Quiz 4 – due: March 20		
	March 20				
	<b>March 22</b>			<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>Topics 3 &amp; 4</b>
11	March 25	Topic 5: Race, Ethnicity & Migration	Quiz 5 – due: April 2		
	March 27				
	March 29				
12	April 1				
	April 3				

	April 5	Topic 6: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality	Reflection 5 – due: April 11	
13	April 8			
	April 10			
	April 12			
14	April 15	Topic 7: Health & the Environment	Quiz 6 – due: April 23	
	April 17			
	April 19			
15	April 22			
	<b>April 24</b>			<b>Exam 3</b>