

# **SYO 4930 - Mental Health in Society**

**Sections:** BZ01  
and BZ02

*College of Liberal  
Arts and Sciences*

Department of Sociology,  
Criminology & Law



## **Course Information**

---

**Term:** Fall 2024

**Class Meeting Location:**

**Modality:** WW

**Credit Hours:** 3.00

## **Instructor Information**

---

Michael Loree

**Title:** Instructor

**Office Location:** TUR 3219

**Office Hours:** Thurs. 10-12 and by appointment (online)

**Phone:** 352-294-7164

**Email:** [Mloree@ufl.edu](mailto:Mloree@ufl.edu)

## Course Description

---

**UF Catalogue Description:** Examines mental health and well-being in U.S. society from a sociological perspective. Compares biomedical and social perspectives on causes, contexts, and consequences of mental health and well-being. Includes attention to demographic variation and individual, community, and societal trauma.

This course explores the complex relationship between mental health and society, examining how mental health is shaped by social, cultural, and economic factors. Students will investigate the social construction of mental illness, the role of stigma, and the impact of social institutions such as the healthcare system, education, and the criminal justice system on mental health outcomes. The course will also address disparities in mental health care related to race, gender, socioeconomic status, and geography. Through interdisciplinary readings, case studies, and interactive assignments, students will gain a deeper understanding of how societal structures influence individual and collective mental health and the implications for policy and practice.

## Student Learning Outcomes

---

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ♦ **Analyze the Social Construction of Mental Health:** Understand and critically analyze how mental health and mental illness are defined and perceived within different social, cultural, and historical contexts.
- ♦ **Evaluate the Impact of Social Inequalities:** Examine how factors such as race, gender, socioeconomic status, and geographic location influence mental health outcomes and access to mental health care.
- ♦ **Critically Assess Mental Health Institutions:** Analyze the role of key social institutions (e.g., healthcare, education, criminal justice) in shaping mental health experiences and outcomes, and identify areas where these institutions contribute to or mitigate mental health disparities.
- ♦ **Understand the Role of Stigma:** Explore the origins and consequences of stigma related to mental health, and assess strategies for reducing stigma at individual, community, and societal levels.

- ♦ **Apply Sociological Theories:** Apply relevant sociological theories and concepts to understand the relationship between mental health and society, including social constructionism, symbolic interactionism, and structural functionalism.

## **Course Materials and Resources**

---

All course materials will be posted to the course page in Canvas.

## **Course Assessment and Grading Procedure**

---

### **4 Exams (100 points each)**

The exams will cover material covered in the text as well as material covered in lectures and any other ancillary sources (videos, websites, etc.). In short, if it is assigned, it is fair game. The exams will be 50 questions, multiple guess/true-false/fill-in-the-blank and will be conducted online. You will have 75 minutes to complete the exam. There will not be a “study guide” distributed to you (that is your job, not mine) but the audio lectures, PowerPoint slides and, of course, your book will be available for you to study from. Exams open on Mondays and close on Tuesdays.

### **5 Discussion Posts (50 points each)**

There will be five (5) discussion prompts posted to the course website throughout the semester (see the schedule for the dates). You are to answer the prompt in a way that shows that you read and understood the material for that week, making sure to incorporate specific facts and figures from the readings in your replies. Your initial post is due Wednesday by 11:59 pm of the week it is assigned. Your two (2) replies to your classmates are due by Friday at 11:59 pm of that same week. You will not be able to see your classmates’ posts until you post. You are expected to respect other students

points of view (even if you do not agree with them) and to conduct inquiries and responses in a polite and civil manner. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any issues.

## 2 Writing Assignments (100 points each)

You are required to submit two (2) writing assignments during the semester that will account for a third of your final grade. Writing assignments are brief essays or projects designed to gauge your understanding of the course material. Writing assignments must be completed and submitted via Canvas on or before the due date (all due dates are listed on the Canvas syllabus page). Only assignments submitted via Canvas will be accepted. Late assignments will be accepted over the weekend for reduced credit.

## Quizzes (150 points)

There will be 15 quizzes given throughout the semester, including the first week's Orientation Quiz (See the schedule for dates). The Quizzes will be 10 questions, multiple choice/true-false/fill-in-the-blank and you will have 15 minutes to complete them. The quizzes will be on the reading for the week they are assigned. **Quizzes will open on Monday morning and close at 11:59 pm Friday.** No make-up will be given, but the quizzes will stay open through the weekend for reduced credit. Your lowest 2 quiz scores will be dropped.

## Distribution of Points

Exams (4)	400
Discussion Assignments (5)	250
Writing Assignments (2)	200
Quizzes (15)	150
Total	1000

## Grading Scale

---

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

## Policies for Course Grade

---

### Makeup Work Policy

Makeup work will not be accepted unless the assignment was missed due to University sanctioned event, military deployment, incarceration, and/or documented illness.

### Missed/Late Assignments

Quizzes are accepted through the weekend for a 10% reduction in score per day late. No other late work will be accepted.

### Attendance

N/A

## UF Policies

### Accommodating for Students With Disabilities

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

## Academic Conduct

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code." 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." The Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### Plagiarism

The [Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code](#)Links to an external site. states that: "A Student must not represent as the Student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
- Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
- Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
- Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author."

## Title IX

Sexual misconduct, discrimination and violence are antithetical to the university's mission and values, violate university policies, and may also violate federal and state law. The Title IX Compliance Office is here for anyone who has been affected by sexual harassment, quid pro quo, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment, quid pro quo, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, please contact the Title IX Compliance Office to get support and information about your rights and reporting options.

You can learn more about university protections, supportive resources, response processes, and prevention efforts by visiting [www.titleix.ufl.edu](http://www.titleix.ufl.edu).

The University Title IX Coordinator is located in the Title IX Compliance Office and is responsible for providing support to anyone affected by sexual harassment, quid pro quo, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. If you would like to report sexual harassment, quid pro quo, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking affecting our community, please contact the Title IX Coordinator. You can also

submit a report using the online portal referenced below.

Title IX Report

Form: [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofFlorida&layout\\_id=20](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofFlorida&layout_id=20)

## Netiquette

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Failure to follow netiquette may result in a grade reduction. Students should be sure that they understand the [UF Netiquette Guide for Online Courses](#)Links to an external site..

Privacy and Accessibility Policies

For information about the privacy policies of the tools used in this course, see the links below:

Instructure (Canvas)

- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Accessibility](#)Links to an external site.

Zoom

- [Privacy Policy](#) (Links to an external site.)
- [Accessibility](#) (Links to an external site.)

YouTube (Google)

- [Privacy Policy](#) (Links to an external site.)
- [Accessibility](#) (Links to an external site.)

Microsoft

- [Privacy Policy](#) (Links to an external site.)
- [Accessibility](#) (Links to an external site.)

Adobe

- [Privacy Policy](#) (Links to an external site.)
- [Accessibility](#)

UF Apps

- [Privacy Policy](#)Links to an external site.
- [Accessibility Policy](#)Links to an external site.

## Getting Help

### Technical Difficulties

For help with technical issues or difficulties with Canvas, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at:

- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>Links to an external site.
- 352-392-HELP (4357)
- Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for make-ups (assignments, exams, etc.) due to technical issues should be accompanied by the ticket number received from the UF Computing Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You should email your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

#### Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please email [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), call 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter We Care to refer or report a concern, and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the UF Counseling & Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services and non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the UF Student Health Care Center website.
- University Police Department: Visit the UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center: For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call 352-733-0111, or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center website.



## Class Schedule

---

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	Introduction to the course
2	History
3	Measurement and Prevalence of Mental Disorders
4	Biomedical Perspectives of Mental Health and Illness
5	Social Psychological Perspectives of Mental Health and Illness
6	Social Institutional Perspectives
7	Childhood
8	Older Adults
9	Sex and Gender
10	Social Class
11	Ethnoracial Groups
12	Individual Trauma
13	Community Trauma
14	Thanksgiving
15	Societal Trauma
16	Final