

SYG2000.C: PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY – UF FLEX LEARNING

COURSE SYLLABUS

3 Credit Hours

THIS COURSE EXPIRES 16 WEEKS FROM THE DATE OF YOUR ENROLLMENT

ABOUT THE COURSE

Instructor: Dr. Jeanne Holcomb
holcombj@ufl.edu

Course Website: elearning.ufl.edu

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS

Email through the course management system is the best way to get in touch with me. I try to respond to all questions within 48 hours.

COURSE MATERIALS / TEXTBOOKS

Manza, Arum, and Haney. 2016. The Sociology Project, 2.0. Pearson.

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

No prerequisites are required for this class. This is an introductory level class, and no prior experience with sociology is assumed.

PURPOSE OF COURSE

Sociology is fundamentally about asking questions about the way the world works, about making the familiar strange, and about developing better understandings of how our personal lives fit within broader social patterns. As you'll see, the textbook has a lot of information about the field of sociology; what I want you to understand by the end of the course is that the tools of the sociologist are useful in everyday life. Sociologists study a wide variety of topics, and study those topics from a wide variety of perspectives. Throughout the class, we're going to focus on one aspect of life that is very important to all of us – food. We interact with food every day, but we seldom take time to think about all that goes into our relationships with food. So – I hope you'll have some fun as you learn about sociology and how the tools of the sociologist can be used to study food.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 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*:

- *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.

Performance Indicators of Mastery of SLOs

Competence in terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used in Sociology will be assessed through quizzes and essay assignments.

Competence in communication of sociological knowledge, ideas and reasoning will be assessed through discussions and essay assignments.

Competence in critical thinking and use of sociological analysis will be graded through essay assignments.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

The course is divided into weekly modules. Each week will involve reading, a quiz, and a written assignment. There are also two forum postings throughout the course.

COURSE POLICIES

PERFORMANCE POLICY

This Flexible Learning course has been developed with the same rigorous standards of content as a campus course. Expectations for your performance as a Flexible Learning student are as high as they would be if you were taking this course in a classroom.

PARTICIPATION POLICY

Students are required to participate in all course activities and submit all assignments posted on the website by their due dates.

MAKE-UP POLICY

Students are allowed to resubmit assignments based on feedback that is provided. Resubmission does not guarantee a change of grade.

ASSIGNMENT POLICY

The course expires 16 weeks after your enrollment. All assignments must be submitted **at least 2 weeks prior to the course expiration date**. Complete all modules in the order they are presented on the course website; do not skip modules.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students must use their Gatorlink email account for this course. Students are recommended to check their email account DAILY for the duration of the course. Access to and on-going use of a computer with Internet access is required for all students. Competency in the basic use of a computer is required. At times, computers crash and Internet connections fail. It is in your best interest NOT to wait until the last minute to complete assignments.

EXTENSION POLICY

Students have the option to request an extension if they have made sufficient academic progress (defined as completing at least 50% of the course) and have extenuating circumstances (i.e., medical, etc.) that have prevented them from completing the course. Each extension petition must be made in writing and will be administratively evaluated by the instructor. **All instructor extension decisions must be forwarded to your assigned Academic Support Staff Member for processing.**

TRANSCRIPTS

The student can view their grades by logging into [MyUFL](#) with their Gatorlink login and by selecting Student Admin. To receive an official transcript, the student must complete a [transcript request form through the Registrar](#). The University of Florida assures the confidentiality of all your educational records in accordance with State University System Rules, State Statutes, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Grades are not given over the telephone.

Course Deadline and Extension Policy:

Students are allowed *16 weeks, from their date of enrollment*, to complete and submit their coursework. If the student has not submitted at least 50% of their coursework and have an extenuating circumstance preventing them from submitting the coursework, a failing grade of “E”, “E0” or “E1” will be issued and recorded to the UF Registrar.

If the student has made sufficient academic progress, which is defined as completing and submitting at least 50% of the coursework and have an extenuating circumstance, the student may petition the instructor for a course

extension before the course expires. Each course extension request will be administratively evaluated. Instructors are not required to allow extensions. If a student does receive an extension, an incomplete grade of an “I” will be assigned as an interim grade. When the course is completed, the instructor will initiate the change of grade. After that, the “I” grade will be changed to the student’s final course grade on their transcript.

Course Cancels and Course Drops

Course Cancel

A tuition refund may be granted after a student submits a written request within 30 days of enrollment to the Flexible Learning Office. This request must be in writing by learn@dce.ufl.edu or sent by fax, 352-392-6950. Refunds will be the amount of tuition, less \$25.00 per course. If a credit card was used, the refund will be credited back to the card. **No refunds are granted after 30 days.**

DROPPING A COURSE

To drop a course, you need to email the Flexible Learning office at learn@dce.ufl.edu with a request to drop within 14 weeks of the date of enrollment. In addition to their own request by email, *UF* students must have advisor approval to drop a flexible learning course. An advisor can email learn@dce.ufl.edu with the student’s name, the course that they want to drop, and confirmation of permission to do so. It is the student's responsibility to verify that all drop requests have been received by the Flexible Learning office within the allotted time. The course grade will appear as "W" on a UF transcript.

Students with disabilities who need to drop a course due to disability-related reasons are permitted to petition for additional drops. Find more information by contacting the [Disability Resource Center](#).

NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. For more information, refer to the [Netiquette Guide for Online Courses](#).

GRADING POLICIES

COURSE GRADING

Quizzes:	20 points each x 15 Modules =	300
Assignments:	30 points each x 15 Modules =	450
Forum postings:	75 points each x 2 =	150
<u>Final</u>		<u>100</u>
Total Points:		1000

GRADING SCALE

900 or above = A	870-899 = A-
840-869 = B+	800-839 = B
770-799 = B-	740-769 = C+
700-739 = C	670-699 = C-

640-669 = D+	600-639 = D
570-599 = D-	569 or below = F

GRADING RUBRIC FOR ASSIGNMENTS

	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT
Answering all question prompts	4	6	8	10
Spelling and grammar	4	6	8	10
Level of critical thought, including references to course material	4	6	8	10

Assignments are typically graded within a week of submission, and feedback is given within the assignment tool. Quiz and assignment grades are updated weekly.

Discussion posts are graded primarily on quality of the content, answering the questions, grammar and spelling, and length. Posts should be approximately 250 words.

COURSE SCHEDULE

	TITLE	OBJECTIVE	TASKS	ASSESSMENTS
Module 1	The Sociological Imagination	To apply the sociological imagination to a specific case	Read Chapter 1 Watch: How To Get Fat Without Really Trying	Quiz, Assignment
Module 2	Tools of the Sociologist	To summarize key theories and methods of social science research	Read Chapters 2 and 3 Read research article	Quiz, Assignment
Module 3	Culture, Media, and Communication	To describe how key concepts apply to the study of food	Chapter 6 Read article	Quiz, Assignment
Module 4	Cities and Communities	To integrate information about cities and urban farms	Chapter 9 Watch video	Quiz, Assignment
Module 5	Social Stratification, Inequality, and Poverty	To appraise the issue to childhood hunger in the United States	Chapter 10 Watch videos	Quiz, Assignment
Module 6	Race and Ethnicity	To restate structural racial inequities in the food system	Chapter 11 Read an article	Quiz, Assignment
Module 7	Gender and Sexuality	To analyze food advertisements and gender stereotypes	Chapter 12	Quiz, Assignment
Module 8	Families	To review how social changes impact family dinners	Chapter 13 Read article	Quiz, Assignment

Discussion 1				Discussion Post
Module 9	Education	To consider the intersections of our education system, food, and health education	Chapter 15 Watch video	Quiz, Assignment
Module 10	Health and Medicine	To respond to a current event related to food systems and health	Chapter 16 Watch video	Quiz, Assignment
Module 11	Crime, Deviance, and Social Control	To distinguish between various forms of deviance	Chapter 17 Watch video	Quiz, Assignment
Module 12	Social Movements and Revolutions	To propose a social movement	Chapter 18	Quiz, Assignment
Module 13	Environmental Sociology	To recognize the interconnections between the environment and society	Chapter 19 Reading	Quiz, Assignment
Module 14	Immigration	To recognize the connections between immigration and labor in the food system	Chapter 21 Reading	Quiz, Assignment
Discussion 2				Discussion Post
Module 15	Globalization	To report on the extent of globalization of the food supply in their lived experience	Chapter 22 Reading	Quiz, Assignment
Final				Assignment

UF POLICIES

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the [Dean of Students Office](#). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then give 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.

The Flexible Learning office needs to be notified of any special accommodations required by the student when they begin their course.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at the [Dean of Students Office website](#).

PLAGIARISM

“A student shall not represent as the student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another.

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- (a) *Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.*
- (b) *Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.” Source: [Regulations of the University of Florida, UF-4.041.](#)*

“For a violation or violations of the Honor Code, a student may receive any of the sanctions that can be imposed for Student Conduct Code violations, including but not limited to conduct probation, suspension and expulsion as well as any educational sanctions. In addition, students may receive the following:

- (a) *Assignment grade penalty. The student is assigned a grade penalty on an assignment including but not limited to a zero.*
- (b) *Course grade penalty. The student is assigned a grade penalty in the entire course including but not limited to an ‘E’.”*

Source: [Regulations of the University of Florida, UF-4.047.](#)

GETTING HELP

TECHNICAL HELP

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

Location: HUB 132

Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu

Phone: (352) 392-HELP - select option 2

Website: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues **MUST** be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You **MUST** e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

UF FLEX LEARNING OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: learn@dce.ufl.edu

Phone: (352) 392-1711

Toll free: (800) 327-4218

Fax: (352) 392-6950

Website: <http://flexible.dce.ufl.edu/>

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, except Holidays

8:00am-5:00pm EST

OTHER RESOURCES

Other resources are available at the [UF Distance Learning website](#) for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints

- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please email the Distance Learning office at distance@dce.ufl.edu or visit the [UF Distance Learning website](#) to submit a complaint.

Disclaimer: This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.