



FLORIDA  
ATLANTIC  
UNIVERSITY

## COURSE CHANGE REQUEST Undergraduate Programs

Department Sociology  
College Arts and Letters

UUPC Approval 12/4/23  
UFS Approval \_\_\_\_\_  
SCNS Submittal \_\_\_\_\_  
Confirmed \_\_\_\_\_  
Banner Posted \_\_\_\_\_  
Catalog \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Course Prefix and Number** SYA 3300

**Current Course Title** Sociological Analysis: A Survey of Methods  
~~Survey of Research Methods~~

*Syllabus must be attached for ANY changes to current course details. See Template. Please consult and list departments that may be affected by the changes; attach documentation.*

**Change title to:**

**Change prefix**

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

**Change course number**

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

**Change credits\***

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

**Change grading**

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

**Change WAC/Gordon Rule status\*\***

Add  Remove

**Change General Education Requirements\*\*\***

Add  Remove

\*See Definition of a Credit Hour.

\*\*WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See WAC Guidelines.

\*\*\*GE criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See Intellectual Foundations Guidelines.

**Change description to:**

This course introduces students to social science research methods used to study and understand human societies. Students will learn the fundamentals of research design, measurement, sampling, data collection, data analysis, and presentation using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Students in this course gain hands-on research experience by designing, executing, and presenting a pilot research project based on human subjects.

**Change prerequisites/minimum grades to:**

**Change corequisites to:**

**Change registration controls to:**

Please list existing and new pre/corequisites, specify AND or OR and include minimum passing grade (default is D-).

**Effective Term/Year for Changes:** Summer 2024

**Terminate course? Effective Term/Year for Termination:**

**Faculty Contact/Email/Phone** Will McConnell/wmccconnell@fau.edu/561-297-3270

**Approved by**

Department Chair

Ann Branaman

College Curriculum Chair

[Signature]

College Dean

[Signature]

UUPC Chair

Korey Sorge

Undergraduate Studies Dean

Dan Meeroff

UFS President

Provost

**Date**

11/6/23

11/3/23

11/14/23

12/4/23

12/4/23

Email this form and syllabus to [mjenning@fau.edu](mailto:mjenning@fau.edu) seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

# **SYA 3300 – Sociological Analysis: A Survey of Methods**

Section 001, 3 credits, CRN 15281

Florida Atlantic University,  
Spring 2024

*This is an In-Person Course with Live Lecture*

Classroom: General Classroom South (GS) Rm 115

***Tuesdays & Thursdays @12:30-1:50PM***

*Prerequisite for this course: SYG 1000 or SYD 3792*

**Instructor:** Dr. Will R. McConnell  
**Department:** Sociology  
**Office:** Culture & Society Building (CU-97) Rm 250  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Wednesday at 2:00PM-4:00 PM and by appointment  
**Phone:** (561) 297-3270 (Sociology main office)  
**Email:** [wmccconnell@fau.edu](mailto:wmccconnell@fau.edu)  
**GTA:** There is no Graduate Teaching Assistant for this course

## **Course Description**

This course introduces students to social science research methods used to study and understand human societies. Students will learn the fundamentals of research design, measurement, sampling, data collection, data analysis, and presentation using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Students in this course gain hands-on research experience by designing, executing, and presenting a pilot research project based on human subjects.

In today's society you are constantly bombarded with information – facts, figures, and statistics about who you are and what's going on in the world. Maybe a news anchor says that millennials are the laziest generation, or maybe someone on Facebook posts an article about vaccines and autism, or maybe a documentary claims that there was massive voter fraud in an election. How do you decide what to believe? The purpose of this course is to help you to become a more informed and critical democratic citizen. To be informed, you have to be able to evaluate the barrage of "facts" and "findings" that confront you every day. To aid you in this task, this course provides an introduction to social science research methods, including research project design, measurement, sample selection, data collection, analysis, interpretation, and presentation. We will examine quantitative and qualitative research methods in equal measure. Through completion of a pilot research project, this course will provide you with hands-on experience designing, executing, and presenting a scientific research project based on human subjects. You are not expected to have any prior experience with research design, data analysis, or statistics.

*Course description from the FAU course catalog: Philosophy of social science, research design, measurement, sample selection and data gathering, analysis and interpretation.*

## **Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, you should be able:

1. To understand the necessity of social science data.
2. To read and understand social science research both thoroughly and critically.
3. To collect, analyze, interpret, and present results from a pilot research project.
4. To think critically about social science's ability to describe and analyze our world.

## Course Requirements

### Required texts

Chambliss, Daniel & Russell Schutt. *Making Sense of the Social World*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Sage, 2019.

*This text is available via the FAU bookstore. See my advice on Canvas as well.*

### Additional readings

All non-textbook readings will be posted on Canvas (<https://canvas.fau.edu/>). Often, I will assign additional materials including news articles, videos, and podcasts that will be linked online. You are expected to complete all assigned readings before the day they are listed in the syllabus. This will prepare you for our in-class class discussions and enable you to get the most out of class. Completion of readings and participation in discussions are important to your success in this class.

## Graded Requirements

### Attendance Policy

Your success depends on attending class. I expect all students to be on time and stay for the entire class period. Attendance will be taken for every class. You have an unlimited number of fully documented University-approved absences (as described below) with no penalty to your grade. In addition, I will allow up to four (4) "unexcused" absences, no questions asked. Each unexcused absence after the fourth will result in a 2% (20pt) penalty to your final grade. Whenever you are absent you are still responsible for understanding the assigned material and in-class discussion for that day. I will take attendance during class and count your current absences on Canvas. It is your responsibility to periodically check your attendance grade for accuracy.

*University statement on attendance: Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any*

*anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.*

## **Canvas Exercises: Discussions & Quizzes (15% of final grade)**

This class will involve completing daily exercises, discussion posts, and/or quizzes related to the material covered that day. These assignments might ask you to think critically or answer questions about the assigned reading, reflect on your personal experiences in light of class topics, or include some type of group activity. These exercises are intended to help you organize and reflect on your thinking as it develops throughout the course. They are also a chance for you to demonstrate your knowledge and mastery of the assigned course materials. Canvas exercises will comprise 15% (150pts) of your final grade.

Canvas exercises will be available at class time; they will be due approximately 24 hours after the end of each class. So Tuesday work is due on Wednesday, and Thursday work is due on Friday. I strongly suggest that students complete Canvas exercises as close to class time as possible, so the material is fresh and nobody is falling behind. If I find that these policies are not working as intended, I reserve the right to make necessary changes.

## **Exams (55% total)**

- **Exam #1, Thursday 2/16**
- **Exam #2, Tuesday 3/30**
- **Exam #3, Thursday 4/27 at 10:30AM-1:00PM**

Without a University-approved reason, students will not be allowed to take exams at any other time and must be present for the exams at the scheduled times. If you cannot take the final exam as scheduled, you should not take this class. Exam questions may consist of any combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay. Exam questions may consist of any combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay. Exam questions will cover lectures, reading assignments, and in-class discussions and activities. The midterm exams are not cumulative—in other words, each midterm exam only covers material from the most recent part of the course. However, the final exam is comprehensive and covers material from the entire course, including research projects.

## **Two Research Reports (30% total)**

Students will carry out two small scale research projects to scientifically examine a topic chosen by the class. One project involves interviewing FAU students and analyzing transcripts in a written report. The other project involves analyzing quantitative survey data collected from FAU students. Each written report will be approximately 5 pages in length. Detailed instructions will be provided during class.

## **Policy on Late and Make-up Work**

**Canvas exercises:** Canvas exercises are due 24hrs after the end of class. I will not accept make-up work for missed Canvas exercises, unless the student provides documentation for a University-approved absence, or they discussed the issue with me in advance. **Exams:** Each exam must be completed on the specified date under a strict time limit. Under some

circumstances, students with a scheduling conflict can contact me at least one week in advance about taking exams at an alternative date/time. **Writing assignments:** This course includes several written reports that will be submitted via Canvas. I will accept late written submissions within 48hrs of the deadline with a 20% penalty to the overall grade. Written work submitted more than 48hrs late will not be accepted. I will not accept make-up work for writing assignments, unless the student provides documentation for a University-approved absence, or they discussed the issue with me in advance.

## Grading Overview

Canvas Exercises	15%	(150 points)
Exam #1	20%	(200)
Exam #2	20%	(200)
Qualitative Report:		
Notes & Transcript	5%	(50)
Written Report	12.5%	(125)
Quantitative Report	12.5%	(125)
<u>Exam #3</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>(150)</u>
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>(1000)</i>

## Final grade scale

	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Points</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Points</i>
A	94-100	940-1000	C	73-76	730-769
A-	90-93	900-939	C-	70-72	700-729
B+	87-89	870-899	D+	67-69	670-699
B	83-86	830-869	D	63-66	630-669
B-	80-82	800-829	D-	60-62	600-629
C+	77-79	770-799	F	≤ 59	599 or less

## Course Policies

### Code of Academic Integrity Policy Statement

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.

### Classroom Etiquette

We will discuss a variety of sensitive social issues in this class. Each person comes to class with a unique background and perspective; I encourage students to draw on that perspective during class discussions. Please keep in mind that sharing opinions and

experiences is a valuable but sometimes uncomfortable experience, and everyone must make a commitment to create an atmosphere of respect for each person's contribution. Please be respectful and open-minded when listening to viewpoints different from your own. If you disagree with something that someone says, then you should criticize the evidence or argument that supports a stance, rather than the speaker who holds that view. A lack of courtesy will not be tolerated, and disrespectful persons may be asked to leave.

### **University Statement on HB-7**

One of the objectives of this course is to facilitate critical thinking and debate around topics, theories, and concepts where disagreement is not only anticipated, but encouraged. The ability to think critically, express your ideas clearly, and respond to the professor and other students civilly are the keystones of the academic experience. In this course, the professor will provide instruction in an objective manner and will remain open to a wide variety of viewpoints, so long as those viewpoints are evidence-based and presented in a respectful way. During class, the professor may take positions and make statements for the sole purpose of accomplishing an academic objective or enhancing the learning environment. Additionally, the adoption of class materials for this course does not imply an endorsement of the full content of those materials or the positions of the authors of those materials. Often the professor will provide materials as a point of departure for critical thinking and debate. Students should keep in mind that the ideas presented or discussed during class may not necessarily reflect the professor's personal beliefs or opinions on the subject matter.

### **Electronic devices policy**

**Laptops** will be permitted in class. It should also be noted that the potential for distraction while using a laptop in class is substantial, including for other students in your vicinity. Students who fail to use their laptops appropriately will be counted as absent for the day. Repeated violation of this policy risks having laptop privileges revoked for the semester.

With few exceptions, **cell phones** and other small electronic devices should be turned off and put away during class. Text messaging is not permitted because it is distracting and disrespectful. Students who fail to follow this policy will be counted as absent for the day. If you need to leave your cell phone on due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., childcare, family emergencies, etc.), please arrange this with me at the start of the semester.

### **Communication**

Email is the best way to get in contact with me outside of class time or office hours. Please email me directly at [wmccconnell@fau.edu](mailto:wmccconnell@fau.edu). Include "SYA 3300" in the subject line of all emails. I check my email regularly during working hours and on weekends. If I do not respond within 48hrs, please email me again. Please do not message me through the Canvas messaging system – I check this much less frequently. Scheduled office hours are

listed at the top of the syllabus. These hours are meant to be a resource for you. If you cannot make scheduled office hours, please schedule an appointment by email.

## **Canvas**

All supplemental readings, assignments, grades, and other course materials will be posted on the course website on Canvas. You will also turn in the majority of your assignments through Canvas, including written assignments. Additionally, I will send course updates, announcements, etc., using the Canvas messaging system, linked to your fau.edu email account. It is your responsibility to regularly check both Canvas and your FAU email.

## **Disability Policy Statement**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at [www.fau.edu/sas/](http://www.fau.edu/sas/).

## **Counseling and Psychological Services Center (CAPS)**

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

## **Religious Accommodations Policy**

In accordance with regulations of the Florida Board of Governors and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs with regard to admissions, registration, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations, and work assignments. The details of this policy, as it pertains to FAU, may be found in the University Catalog and University Regulation 2.007, Religious Observances.

## **Basic Needs Security**

Some college students experience difficulties affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, lack a safe and stable place to live, or experience challenges balancing school work with paid work, childcare and other family obligations. These challenges can create anxiety and may also affect performance in the classroom. Students experiencing



challenges are urged to contact the Dean of Students for support (561-297-3542; <http://www.fau.edu/studentsindistress/>). Students experiencing challenges with food, housing, work, and/or family obligations are also encouraged to notify the professor ([wmccconnell@fau.edu](mailto:wmccconnell@fau.edu)) if they feel comfortable doing so. This will enable the professor to assist students in accessing support.

## Tentative Course Schedule

All readings should be completed before class on the day they are listed. Readings other than the textbook will be posted on Canvas (CA) or linked online. All audio assignments are available online and linked below. Films will be shown in class. (\*Note: this schedule is tentative and I reserve the right to make changes during the semester.)

### Week 1: What is Social Science Research?

**T 1/10**      *No readings today!*

**R 1/12**      (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Ch. 1, pages 1-16  
(CA) Stack & Gundlach "The Effect of Country Music on Suicide: (8p)

### Week 2: Research Design Basics

**T 1/17**      (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Ch. 2, pages 20-29  
(PODCAST) "Broken Windows," NPR Hidden Brain podcast (30m)

**R 1/19**      (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Ch. 2, pages 29-40  
(CA) Calarco, excerpt from *Negotiating Opportunities* (22p)

### Week 3: Research Ethics & Measurement (Part 1)

**T 1/24**      (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Ch. 3, pages 44-59 & 65-67  
(CA) Humphries, "The Tearoom Trade: Impersonal Sex in Public Places"

**R 1/26**      (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Ch. 4, pages 70-78

### Week 4: Measurement (Part 2)

**T 1/31**      (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Ch. 4, pages 79-88  
(ONLINE) Schnabel, "The Gender Pray Gap" (5p)

**R 2/2**      (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Ch. 4, pages 88-94  
(CA) Rubin, "Measurement of Romantic Love" (9p)

### Week 5: Sampling

**T 2/7**      (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Ch. 5, pages 98-111 (Probability Methods)

- R 2/9 (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Ch. 5, pages 111-116 (Non-probability Methods)  
(CA) Cannon, "Race and Class Bias in Qualitative Research on Women" (14p)

**Week 6: Exam #1**

- T 2/14 *No readings today - review the exam study guide before class*

- R 2/16 **EXAM #1 in class today**

**Week 7: Quantitative Methods Overview**

- T 2/21 (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Ch. 6, pages 120-131 & 139-146 (*Experiments*)  
(ONLINE), NYT, "The Motherhood Penalty vs. the Fatherhood Bonus" (3p)

- R 2/23 (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Ch. 7, pages 150-161 & 174-176 (*Surveys*)

**Week 8: Survey Project Design**

- T 2/28 *Today during class we will work on the Survey Project (complete exercises)*

- R 3/2 *Today during class we will work on the Survey Project (complete exercises)*

***SPRING BREAK - No classes***

**Week 9: Quantitative Data Analysis**

- T 3/14 (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Ch. 8, p. 180-196

- R 3/16 (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Ch. 8, p. 196-203 & 210-212

**Survey Project Report DUE 3/20 @11:59PM**

**Week 10: Qualitative Methods Overview**

- T 3/21 (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Ch. 9, p. 216-219 & 237-242 (*Interviews*)  
(CA) Williams, "The Glass Escalator" (15p)

- R 3/23 (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Ch. 9, p. 219-237 (*Ethnography*)  
(CA) Chambliss, excerpt from *Beyond Caring* (focus on Appendix, p. 189-194)

**Week 11: Qualitative Data Analysis**

- T 3/28 (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Ch. 10, pages 248-262 & 281-282

- R 3/30 **EXAM #2 in class today**

**Week 12: Interview Project**

- T 4/4 *Today during class we will work on the Interview Project (complete exercises)*

**R 4/6** Today during class we will work on the Interview Project (complete exercises)  
*Reminder: You should conduct your interview this weekend!*

**Week 13: Interview Project**

**T 4/11** Interview Project Report Workshop – review the instructions before class  
**Interview notes & transcript DUE 4/11 @11:59PM**

**R 4/13** Today during class we will work on the Interview Project (complete exercises)  
*Reminder: you should analyze your set of interview transcripts this week!*

**Week 14: Mixed Methods Research & Course Conclusion**

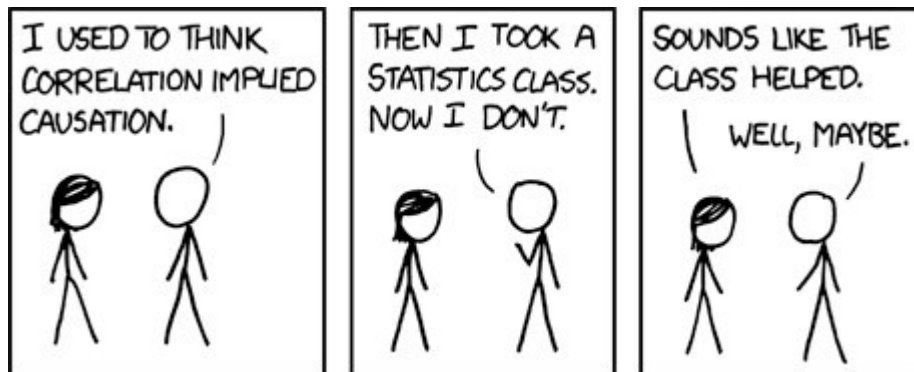
**T 4/18** (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Ch. 10, pages 272-277  
**Interview Project Report DUE 4/19 @11:59PM**

**R 4/20** No readings today – review the exam study guide before class

**Exam #3 scheduled on Thursday, 4/27 @10:30AM-1:00PM**

Please assume that you MUST take your Final Exam on this date and at this time.

Please make any arrangements to travel AFTER the exam date.



Source: <https://xkcd.com/552/>