



COURSE CHANGE REQUEST Undergraduate Programs

**FLORIDA
ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITY**

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 3120 **Current Course Title**
Contemporary Social Theory

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 the major contemporary theoretical traditions in sociology, ranging from symbolic interactionism to postmodernism. Students will learn about the continued development of sociology after the classical period, as well as how to use different sociological theories to make sense of contemporary social life and current events.

Change prerequisites/minimum grades to:
SYG 1000 or SYD 3792

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 Patricia Widener/pwidener@fau.edu/561-297-3270

Approved by	Date
Department Chair <u>Ann Branaman</u>	<u>11/6/23</u>
College Curriculum Chair <u>[Signature]</u>	<u>11/13/23</u>
College Dean <u>[Signature]</u>	<u>11/14/23</u>
UUPC Chair <u>Korey Sorge</u>	<u>12/4/23</u>
Undergraduate Studies Dean <u>Dan Meeroff</u>	<u>12/4/23</u>
UFS President _____	_____
Provost _____	_____

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

Contemporary Social Theory
SYA 3120-001 (CRN 15252) (3 credit hours)

Prof. Widener
Summer 2024

Florida Atlantic University, Department of Sociology
Online only through Zoom on Canvas

Prerequisites: SYG 1000 or SYD 3792

Major/minor: This course can be counted towards the sociology major or minor.

Meets: Mondays & Wednesdays: 5-8:10pm, online only through Zoom

Professor Patricia Widener

Email: pwidener@fau.edu

Office: Davie West 408 (Davie)

Office hours: Tuesdays 5-7pm through WebEx on Canvas; and by appointment

Office phone: 954-236-1079

Course overview

From the course catalog: “An examination of the basic ideas of Classical and Modern Sociological thought.”

Course description

This course introduces students to the major contemporary theoretical traditions in sociology, ranging from symbolic interactionism to postmodernism. Students will learn about the continued development of sociology after the classical period, as well as how to use different sociological theories to make sense of contemporary social life and current events.

Course objectives

- To think critically of micro- and macro-level perspectives that aid in explaining social experience.
- To apply key contemporary sociological theories to better understanding social life.
- To become conversant in sociological perspectives and to deepen one’s reflexivity, or one’s own ability to locate oneself in a system of social relations and dynamics.

Skills developed or practiced

- Critical reading, critical thinking and critical writing skills
- Ability to witness and apply sociological theories to contemporary experience

Course delivery mode

Given Covid-19, this is a fully online course with classes conducted through Zoom. You must log into Canvas with your FAU ID and password to access the materials and assignments in this course and to join the online classes. Office hours are held through WebEx, which is also accessible through Canvas.

Assignments

Exam I: This exam consists of three short essays. Each essay is worth up to 33pts (+1pt) for an exam total of 0-100 points. These essays test your critical reading and critical thinking skills, and your ability to apply sociological concepts as based on the assigned readings to novel and

contemporary case studies. Each essay is due at different times during the first-half of the semester and will be made available to you after the corresponding lecture and before the due date. On occasion, there may be optional in-class group essays to replace one of the three required essays.

- Essay #1: Due Monday, May 24 (before the beginning of class, before 5pm)
- Essay #2: Due Wednesday, June 2 (by the end of class, so before 8:10pm)
- Essay #3: Due Wednesday, June 2 (by the end of class, so before 8:10pm)

Specific directions for each essay will be available on Canvas under Files. For each day that an essay is late, beginning at the time and day that the essay is due, five points will be deducted from your grade. Each essay must be emailed directly to me (pwidener@fau.edu) (not through Canvas), and also submitted through TurnItIn on Canvas under Assignments. Exam I is worth 35% of your overall grade.

Exam II: The same guidelines for Exam I apply to Exam II. Exam II is worth 35% of your overall grade.

- Essay #1: Due Thursday, June 17 (before 8:10pm)
- Essay #2: Due Monday, June 21 (by the end of class, so before 8:10pm)
- Essay #3: Due Monday, June 21 (by the end of class, so before 8:10pm)

Photovoice Project: There are three components to this project: 1) provide one photograph that you have personally taken that speaks to a specific theory and Covid-19; 2) a short explanation of your photo and its connection to the selected theory and your experience during the global pandemic; and 3) a short in-class (but online) presentation of your photos. Additional guidelines are available on Canvas under Files.

Photographs: Take one photograph that represents one aspect or meaning of your experiences living, studying, and/or working in a time of the Coronavirus. Choose from one of these four themes:

- 1) Goffman: self-presentation during Covid-19;
- 2) Foucault: biopolitics and/or surveillance during Covid-19;
- 3) Mills & Gramsci: elite power or cultural hegemony during Covid-19; and
- 4) Bourdieu: cultural capital and/or habitus during Covid-19.

Email me the photograph as a jpeg attachments (not through Canvas, but directly to my FAU email: pwidener@fau.edu), so that I can incorporate them into a group PowerPoint presentation. If photos are emailed late, you will not be able to present on presentation day.

****Do not do anything unusual, risky, or public to “document” your experiences, and follow all public health and student health directions. Most of us are homebound so demonstrate what that means. You do not need to leave your home to complete this assignment. Just document what the Coronavirus means to you and as it related to one of the four themes. You must take your own photos.**

Written explanation: Prepare a one-page explanation or brief description of the meaning of your photo and how the photo reflects your experience and its connection to the theme. LABEL the theme you select so that it is clear. Email me your explanation as a Word document attachment and submit it through TurnItIn on Canvas under Assignments.

Presentation: Each student will present, explain, or give voice to their photo. I will prepare a Powerpoint presentation of your photos, grouped by theme. During class, students will

take turns presenting their photos to the group, who have the opportunity to ask questions or share similar or different experiences.

- The photo and written explanation are worth 15% of your overall grade, and are due on Wednesday June 16.
- The presentation is worth 5% of your overall grade, and will occur on June 23.

Attendance: Attendance is likely to improve your understanding and assignment scores, and is worth 10% of your overall grade. Percentage points will be deducted for full absences (10% per absence) and partial absence (5% per partial absence). Partial absence includes late arrivals, early departures, constantly leaving the classroom (or virtual class space), deep sleeping, and/or chronic phone/computer distractions, or disruptive behavior or disruptive interactions with others.

Policy on attendance, late assignments and make-up exams

- Excused absences will be granted for religious observation, documented and required participation in university activities (such as athletics), certain documented civic responsibilities (such as jury duty), and military duty. Students are expected to notify me in advance of these absences. Since these are planned absences, assignments due during the absence should be submitted before the absence.
- Each day that an assignment is late (beginning at the time and date that it is due), five points will be deducted from your grade, unless other accommodations or agreements have been reached between the professor and the student.
- For the online course, there are no make-up exams. Students will have more than 48 hours to complete each essay.

Classroom and Online Etiquette & Participation

- I expect everyone to contribute to course discussion, ask questions (in class, by email, and/or during office hours), and to apply course material to social experience.
- In-class and online behavior should be suitable to a group and university setting: turn off your cell phones, be courteous when someone is speaking, be courteous if you arrive late to class, and use computers for in-class purposes only.
 - *In-class or online behavior should not be disruptive to other students or to the in-class and online learning and discussion of other students.
- Please see the FAU statement on netiquette: <http://www.fau.edu/oit/student/netiquette.php>
- Time for comments and questions will be designated each class period. During those times, discussions should be in a manner that is inclusive and respectful of the opinions, insights, and contributions of others. In the spirit of collaboration, be attentive, courteous, supportive, and engaged.
- Attendance is likely to improve your understanding and test scores.

Suggestions for Success

Do the readings. Come to class, be fully attentive (every class for the full class), and be on time. Turn off phones, distractions, and outside entertainment. Listen and take detailed notes during lecture and class discussion. Ask questions in class, by email and/or during office hours if you

are confused. Return to the readings (perhaps reread the readings). Review the class outline on Canvas. Read the group emails. Follow directions on all assignments; carefully prepare and proofread any written assignment; and submit assignments on time.

Minimum technology and computer requirements for this online class

Hardware

- Dependable computer
- Computer speakers
- Webcam

Software

- Microsoft 365 Suite
- Reliable web browser (Google Chrome is recommended for Canvas)
- Canvas access

Internet connection

- Recommend broadband internet connection with a speed of 4 Mbps or higher.
- To function properly, Canvas requires a high-speed internet connection. The minimum speed to access Canvas is a consistent 1.5 Mbps (megabits per second) or higher.

<u>Final grade assessment</u>	<u>Percent worth</u>	<u>Date due</u>
Exam I	35%	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay #1: Due before class begins (before 5pm) • Essay #2: Due at the end of class (before 8:10pm) • Essay #3: Due at the end of class (before 8:10pm) 		May 24 June 2 June 2
Exam II	35%	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay #1: Due before 8:10pm • Essay #2: Due at the end of class (before 8:10pm) • Essay #3: Due at the end of class (before 8:10pm) 		June 17 June 21 June 21
Photovoice project		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo & written explanation • Presentation 	15% 5%	June 16 June 23
Attendance	10%	Every class
	100%	

Grading Scale

93-100	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
90-92	A-	77-79	C+	63-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	60-62	D-
83-86	B	70-72	C-	0-59	F

Required texts

- Calhoun, C., J. Gerteis, J. Moody, S. Pfaff, and I. Virk (editors). 2012 (3rd ed.) *Contemporary Sociological Theory*. Wiley-Blackwell.

- Each class's readings will be applied to contemporary issues in order to demonstrate the significance and insight of contemporary social theorists.

Canvas & Group Emails: An outline of each class will be posted on Canvas under Files. Canvas under Files will also be the site for essays, handouts, some assigned readings, and writing and assignment guidelines. Canvas is also the site to join Zoom classes and WebEx office hours. And always check for group emails about instructions and potential changes or adjustments.

University policies & advice

Attendance Policy Statement: 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.

Code of Academic Integrity & Honor Code: The honor code states: "Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, 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: http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Honor_Code.pdf.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: 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 – in 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.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center: 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/>

For more information on the Davie campus, go to:

<http://www.fau.edu/student/broward/counselingbroward/>

Religious Accommodations for Students and Faculty: 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.

Davie Campus Library: The BC-FAU library is open to FAU students. There is a computer room and printing station on the first floor designated specifically for FAU students, and shared or communal study space throughout the library. Students are able to reserve specialty rooms, including audio-visual recording labs, and schedule one-on-one appointments with faculty librarians, who are available to offer assistance with research and citations. See: <http://ucl.broward.edu/> Please check website for Covid-19 changes.

Writing Center: For assistance in writing on the Davie campus, visit the Center for Excellence in Writing: LA 220; 954-236-1111. You may also schedule an online appointment via Skype. For more information, see www.fau.edu/UCWE

Food pantry: Beyond Food is a campus resource provides resources, toiletries, and a three-day supply of food to assist students who may be experiencing hunger. Beyond Food also takes donations. There are pantries on both the Davie and Boca campuses. If you want a personal contact on the Davie campus, just let me know. See: www.fau.edu/dean/beyondfood

Student Resources website: <http://www.fau.edu/studentresources/>

Questions about COVID-19: If you have questions, consider:

- Student Health Services – 561-297-3512
- Counseling and Psychological Services – 561-297-3540
- Student Accessibility Services – 561-297-3880
- CAPS Crisis Hotline - 561-297-3540
- FAU Coronavirus Webpage - fau.edu/coronavirus
- Questions about COVID-19 – FAUCOVID19@fau.edu

Semester in Review

****Due to Covid-19, we may need to be flexible regarding this timetable. Always check for group emails about potential changes or adjustments.***

Introductions

Class 1: May 17

- Course overview

Micro- & Meso-level Analyses: Presentation of Self & Social Exchange

Class 2: May 19

- Introduction & Intro to Part I (Calhoun et al.) & Ch 2 (Goffman)
- Intro to Part 2 (II) (Calhoun et al.), Ch 6 (Blau)

Macro-Sociological Analysis, Elite Power & Cultural Hegemony

Class 3: May 24

- Intro to Part 4 (IV) (Calhoun et al.); Ch 14 (Mills) & Ch 15 (Gramsci)
- **Essay #1 is due before class, so before 5pm.**

Foucault: Biopolitics

Class 4: May 26

- Intro to Part 5 (V) (Calhoun et al), & Chs 19-21 (Foucault)

Class 5: May 31 – NO CLASS DUE TO MEMORIAL DAY

Exam I

Class 6: June 2

- **Essays #2 and #3 are due at the end of class, so before 8:10pm.**
- There is no lecture today as you will have class time to work on your essays. I will be online during class to answer any exam questions or discuss anything else that may be of interest to you.

Bourdieu: Cultural Capital

Class 7: June 7

- Intro to Part 6 (VI) (Calhoun et al.) & Chs 23-24 (Bourdieu)

Critical Race & Gender & Intersectionality

Class 8: June 9

- Intro to Part 7 (VII) (Calhoun et al.), Ch 27 (Collins), Ch 28 (Fanon), & Ch 29 (Patterson)

Otherness & Structural Violence

Class 9: June 14

- Memmi, Albert. 2006[1968]. “Assigning Value to Difference.” Chapter in *Beyond Borders* by P. S. Rothenberg. [Available as a pdf on Canvas]
- Farmer, Paul. 2003. Ch1: “Suffering and Structural Violence.” Pp. 19-50 in *Pathologies of Power*. [Available as a pdf on Canvas]

Habermas: Communicative Action

Class 10: June 16

- Intro to Part 8 (VIII) (Calhoun et al.) & Chs 31-32 (Habermas)
- **Your photo and explanation for the photovoice project are due today – before class.**
- **Essay #1 is due by Thursday, June 17, before 8:10pm.**

Exam II

Class 11: June 21

- **Essays #2 and #3 are due at the end of class, so before 8:10pm.**
- There is no lecture today as you will have class time to work on your essays. I will be online during class to answer any exam questions or discuss anything else that may be of interest to you.

Photovoice Presentations

Class 12: June 23

- **Student presentations of their photographs**
- *Grades are due in the Registrar’s Office by 9am, Monday, June 28.*