

 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	NEW COURSE PROPOSAL Undergraduate Programs		UUPC Approval <u>3-24-25</u> UFS Approval _____ SCNS Submittal _____ Confirmed _____ Banner Posted _____ Catalog _____
	Department Sociology College Arts and Letters <i>(To obtain a course number, contact erudolph@fau.edu)</i>		
Prefix SYA Number 4304	<i>(L = Lab Course; C = Combined Lecture/Lab; add if appropriate)</i> Lab Code	Type of Course <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">Lecture</div>	Course Title Sociology of Happiness: Research Capstone
Credits <i>(See Definition of a Credit Hour)</i> 3.0	Grading <i>(Select One Option)</i> Regular <input checked="" type="radio"/> Sat/UnSat <input type="radio"/>	Course Description <i>(Syllabus must be attached; see Template and Guidelines)</i> In this course, you will be learning how to conduct sociological research on the topic of happiness. What you will learn about sociological research is something that could be applied to any topic having to do with people and societies. But in this course our topic will be happiness. Students will complete a final term paper based on their own original sociological research on the topic of happiness.	
Effective Date <i>(TERM & YEAR)</i> Fall 2025			
Prerequisites, with minimum grade* SYA 3010 and SYA 3300 with minimum grades of "C"	Corequisites None	Registration Controls <i>(Major, College, Level)</i> None	
*Default minimum passing grade is D-. Prereqs., Coreqs. & Reg. Controls are enforced for all sections of course			
WAC/Gordon Rule Course <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to proposal. See WAC Guidelines .		Intellectual Foundations Program (General Education) Requirement <i>(Select One Option)</i> None General Education criteria must be indicated in the syllabus and approval attached to the proposal. See Intellectual Foundations Guidelines .	
Minimum qualifications to teach course Ph.D. in Sociology			
Faculty Contact/Email/Phone Ann Branaman/branaman@fau.edu/561-297-0261		List/Attach comments from departments affected by new course	
Approved by Department Chair <u>Ann Branaman</u> College Curriculum Chair <u>Robin Larson</u> College Dean <u>[Signature]</u> UUPC Chair <u>Korey Sorge</u> Undergraduate Studies Dean <u>Dan Meeroff</u> UFS President _____ Provost _____			Date <u>3/3/2025</u> <u>03/12/2025</u> <u>3/17/2025</u> <u>3-24-25</u> <u>3-24-25</u> _____ _____

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



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

SYA 4304 15200

Soc of Happiness: Research Capstone

3 Credit(s)

Fall 2025 - 1 Full Term

Instructor Information

Ann Branaman

Email: branaman@fau.edu

Office: Culture and Society Building (CU) 253

Office Hours: Mondays 10 am - 12 pm (in-person or Zoom); available many additional times for scheduled appointments (in-person or Zoom).

Phone: 561-297-0261

TA Name:

Office: CU 265

Office Hours:

Email:

Course Description

Prerequisites: SYA 3010 and SYA 3300 with minimum grades of "C"

Sociology of Happiness: Research Capstone

In this course, you will be learning how to conduct sociological research on the topic of happiness. What you will learn about sociological research is something that could be applied to any topic having to do with people and societies. But in this course our topic will be happiness.

Students will complete a final term paper based on their own original sociological research on the topic of happiness.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

Prerequisite(s): All of the following:

- SYA 3010 Graduate / Undergraduate (Minimum Grade of C)
- SYA 3300 Graduate / Undergraduate (Minimum Grade of C)

Sociology majors are required to complete two 4000-level research courses. This course counts as one of the two required courses.

Instructional Method

Fully Online Class

100% of the course is delivered online.

Required Texts/Materials

All required course materials will be available on Canvas.

Recommended Readings and Materials

All recommended readings and materials will be available on Canvas.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

Learning objectives for the course include the following:

1. Students will be able to define several sociological concepts that might affect happiness in individuals and/or in societies.
2. Students will be able to construct hypotheses about social determinants of happiness by thinking about sociological concepts as "independent variables" and happiness (or other alternative measures of life satisfaction and well-being) as "dependent variables."
3. Students will be able to find and make use of existing scholarly research to articulate what is known (and not known) about social determinants of happiness.
4. Students will be able to write an introduction to their research project which includes a review of relevant literature, a clear formulation of their own research question, and a discussion of the

sociological research methodology (or methodologies) they will use to inform their study.

5. Students will conduct in-depth interviews and participate in the design and implementation of a survey and will analyze the data collected by the class as a whole
6. Students will follow the conventions of sociological research publications in preparing their final project paper.

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities

Florida Atlantic University respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede their exercise. To ensure these rights, faculty members have the prerogative to:

- Establish and implement academic standards.
- Establish and enforce reasonable behavior standards in each class.
- Recommend disciplinary action for students whose behavior may be judged as disruptive under the Student Code of Conduct [University Regulation 4.007](#).

Disability Policy

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/.

Course Evaluation Method

The goal of the course is for you to complete a research project in the area of the sociology of happiness. I will guide you through the process with a series of assignments that will accumulate to become all of the necessary ingredients of your final project. Normally, you will have one assignment per week, although these may sometimes be broken into separate, smaller assignments. These will be due on Monday, with your first assignment being due on August 26th at 11:59 pm. You will receive prompt feedback on your work and will be allowed to resubmit assignments after receiving feedback.

Your grade in the course will be based on your weekly assignments (50%) and your final project (50%). With the exception of the final project, you will be allowed to resubmit assignments after receiving feedback and will receive the assignment grade based on the higher grade you should

receive on your resubmission. If you complete your weekly assignments on time and complete revisions using the feedback you have been given, you will have already done most of the work required to complete a successful final project.

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Code of Academic Integrity

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](#).

Attendance Policy Statement

Students are expected to attend all 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.

Religious Accommodation Policy Statement

In accordance with the rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs regarding admissions, registration, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work

assignments. University Regulation 2.007, Religious Observances, sets forth this policy for FAU and may be accessed on the FAU website at www.fau.edu/regulations.

Any student who feels aggrieved regarding religious accommodations may present a grievance to the executive director of The Office of Civil Rights and Title IX. Any such grievances will follow Florida Atlantic University's established grievance procedure regarding alleged discrimination.

Time Commitment Per Credit Hour

For traditionally delivered courses, not less than one (1) hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction each week for fifteen (15) weeks per Fall or Spring semester, and a minimum of two (2) hours of out-of-class student work for each credit hour. Equivalent time and effort are required for Summer Semesters, which usually have a shortened timeframe. Fully Online courses, hybrid, shortened, intensive format courses, and other non-traditional modes of delivery will demonstrate equivalent time and effort.

Course Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Letter Grade
A	94 - 100%
A-	90 - 93%
B+	87 - 89%
B	83 - 86%
B-	80 - 82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67 - 69%
D	63 - 66%
D-	60 - 62%
F	Below 60

Grade Appeal Process

You may request a review of the final course grade when you believe that one of the following conditions apply:

- There was a computational or recording error in the grading.
- The grading process used non-academic criteria.

- There was a gross violation of the instructor's own grading system.

[University Regulation 4.002](#) of the University Regulations contains information on the grade appeals process

Policy on Make-up Tests, Late work, and Incompletes

Students are strongly encouraged to submit their assigned work by the posted deadlines. Submitting work on time is particularly important in this course so that students may receive prompt feedback and revise and resubmit their work by the revision deadline. I will permit a 12-hour grace period beyond the 11:59 pm weekly deadline without any penalty.

If you must miss a submission deadline (beyond the 12-hour grace period) due to participation in University-approved activities, religious observances, illness, or other exceptional circumstances, please inform me in advance when possible and as soon after the conclusion of the illness or exceptional circumstance if not possible to notify me in advance. No penalty will be applied for late work due to university-approved circumstances.

Because it is essential that students complete *all* weekly assignments in preparation for the completion of their final research project, late work will be accepted with a 10% penalty if received within one week of the deadline and with a 20% penalty for work submitted more than one week after the deadline. Revision and resubmission of weekly assignments will not be allowed for any work submitted more than two days late, unless the student receives instructor approval for the late submission for a university-approved reason.

Students who are passing the course with at least 50% of the coursework completed may request a grade of incomplete ("I") in the course if exceptional circumstances interfere with completion of the course requirements by the end of the semester.

Policy on the Recording of Lectures

Students enrolled in this course may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject.

Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to student presentations (whether individually or as part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), labs, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the lecturer, is prohibited.

Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Academic Integrity.

Artificial Intelligence Preamble

FAU recognizes the value of generative AI in facilitating learning. However, output generated by artificial intelligence (AI), such as written words, computations, code, artwork, images, music, etc., for example, is drawn from previously published materials and is not your own original work.

FAU students are not permitted to use AI for any course work unless explicitly allowed to do so by the instructor of the class for a specific assignment. [\[Policy 12.16 Artificial Intelligence\]](#)

Class policies related to AI use are decided by the individual faculty. Some faculty may permit the use of AI in some assignments but not others, and some faculty may prohibit the use of AI in their course entirely. In the case that an instructor permits the use of AI for some assignments, the assignment instructions will indicate when and how the use of AI is permitted in that specific assignment. It is the student's responsibility to comply with the instructor's expectations for each assignment in each course. When AI is authorized, the student is also responsible and accountable for the content of the work. AI may generate inaccurate, false, or exaggerated information. Users should approach any generated content with skepticism and review any information generated by AI before using generated content as-is.

If you are unclear about whether or not the use of AI is permitted, ask your instructor before starting the assignment.

Failure to comply with the requirements related to the use of AI may constitute a violation of the [Florida Atlantic Code of Academic Integrity, Regulation 4.001.](#)

Proper Citation: If the use of AI is permitted for a specific assignment, then use of the AI tool must be properly documented and cited. For more information on how to properly cite the use of AI tools, visit <https://fau.edu/ai/citation>

AI Language Specific To This Course

AI Flexible: The use of AI to assist in work assigned in this specific course is permitted only for specific assignments as indicated by the instructor. Use must be properly documented and cited per instructor guidelines (<https://fau.edu/ai/citation>).

Unauthorized or unacknowledged use of AI will result in a score of '0' on the assignment on the first occurrence. A second occurrence of unauthorized or unacknowledged use of AI will result in failure in

the course and a notation of violation of the university's academic integrity policies on the student's transcript.

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/>

Student Support Services and Online Resources

- ♦ [Center for Learning and Student Success \(CLASS\)](#)
- ♦ [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)
- ♦ [FAU Libraries](#)
- ♦ [Math Learning Center](#)
- ♦ [Office of Information Technology Helpdesk](#)
- ♦ [Center for Global Engagement](#)
- ♦ [Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry \(OURI\)](#)
- ♦ [Science Learning Center](#)
- ♦ [Speaking Center](#)
- ♦ [Student Accessibility Services](#)
- ♦ [Student Athlete Success Center \(SASC\)](#)
- ♦ [Testing and Certification](#)
- ♦ [Test Preparation](#)
- ♦ [University Academic Advising Services](#)
- ♦ [University Center for Excellence in Writing \(UCEW\)](#)
- ♦ [Writing Across the Curriculum \(WAC\)](#)

Course Topical Outline

1. Introduction to research in the sociology of happiness
2. Defining happiness and related concepts: the dependent variable

3. Sociological research methodologies I, Interpretive approaches and the social construction of reality
4. Sociological research methodologies II, Quantitative and survey-based approaches
5. Conducting a literature review, Part I
6. Literature review, Part II
7. Designing a survey
8. Conducting a survey / Designing an interview guide
9. Conducting and transcribing interviews
10. Coding interviews
11. Formulating and testing hypotheses using compiled interview data
12. Analyzing survey data
13. Combining analysis of interview data, survey data, and secondary data in relationship to research topic
14. Write draft of final research report
15. Complete final research report

Due Dates for Module Assignments:

1. August 26, 11:59 pm
2. September 3, 11:59pm
3. September 9, 11:59pm
4. September 16, 11:59pm
5. September 23, 11:59pm
6. September 30, 11:59pm
7. October 7, 11:59 pm
8. October 14, 11:59pm
9. October 21, 11:59pm
10. October 28, 11:59 pm
11. November 4, 11:59 pm
12. November 12, 11:59 pm

13. November 18, 11:59pm

14. November 25, 11:59pm

15. Final Paper Due Date: Monday, December 9, 11:59pm