

 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	COURSE CHANGE REQUEST Undergraduate Programs		UUPC Approval <u>4-27-20</u> UFS Approval _____ SCNS Submittal _____ Confirmed _____ Banner Posted _____ Catalog _____
	Department Sociology College Arts and Letters		
Current Course Prefix and Number SYA 4300		Current Course Title Sociological Analysis: A Survey of Methods	
<i>Syllabus must be attached for ANY changes to current course details. See Checklist. Please consult and list departments that may be affected by the changes; attach documentation.</i>			
Change title to: Change prefix From: To: Change course number From: 4300 To: 3300 Change credits* From: To: Change grading From: To: Change WAC/Gordon Rule status** Add <input type="checkbox"/> Remove <input type="checkbox"/> Change General Education Requirements*** Add <input type="checkbox"/> Remove <input type="checkbox"/> <small>*Review Provost Memorandum</small> <small>**WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See WAC Guidelines.</small> <small>***General Education criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See GE Guidelines.</small>		Change description to: 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: Fall 2021		Terminate course? Effective Term/Year for Termination:	
Faculty Contact/Email/Phone A.Branaman/Branaman@fau.edu/297-0261			
Approved by Department Chair <u>Ann Branaman</u> College Curriculum Chair <u>[Signature]</u> College Dean <u>[Signature]</u> UUPC Chair <u>Jerry Haky (via email confirmation)</u> Undergraduate Studies Dean <u>Edward Pratt (via email confirmation)</u> UFS President _____ Provost _____		Date <u>4/23/2020</u> _____ <u>4.19.20</u> _____ <u>4-30-2020</u> _____ <u>4-30-20</u> _____ <u>4-30-20</u> _____ _____ _____	

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

SYA 3300 – Sociological Analysis: A Survey of Methods

Section 002, 3 credits

CRN 12442

Spring 2021

General Classroom South (GS) 111

Tuesdays/Thursdays @12:30-1:50 PM

This course counts toward the Sociology Major or Minor

Prerequisites: SYG 1000 or SYD 3792

Instructor: Will R. McConnell
Office: 250 Culture and Society Building (CU)
Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 2:00-3:30 PM and by appointment
Phone: (561) 297-3270 (Sociology office)
Email: wmccconnell@fau.edu

TA: Jessica Shoemaker
Email: jshoema6@fau.edu
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

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 a graphic about vaccines and autism, or maybe the President of the United States says that there was massive voter fraud in the 2016 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 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*, 5th ed., Sage, 2016.

Readings

All non-textbook readings will be posted on Canvas (<https://canvas.fau.edu/>). Readings will be posted at least one week before their due date. Often, I will assign additional materials including news articles, videos, and podcasts that will be linked online. You are expected to complete all assignments before the day they are listed in the syllabus. This will prepare you for 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

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.

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 at least once per week. You have an unlimited number of fully documented University-approved absences (as described above) with no penalty to your grade. In addition, I will allow up to three (3) "unexcused" absences, no questions asked. Each unexcused absence after the third will result in a 2% (20 pt) 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 track attendance using your journals (see below) and count your current absences on Canvas. It is your responsibility to periodically check your attendance grade for accuracy.

In-class Assignments – the Blue Book Journal (15%)

Participating in this class will involve the completion of a daily Blue Book “journal” (I will provide a Blue Book for each student). Each class, I will ask you to write a journal entry. Journal entries could ask you to think critically and answer questions about the assigned readings for that day, ask you to reflect on your personal experiences in light of class topics, or be based on a group activity in class. These journal entries 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 course materials. Periodically, I will collect and grade your journals and use the entries to track attendance. Grades on your journal entries will collectively make up 15% (150 pts) of your final grade.

Exams (60% total)

There will be three exams in this course:

- **Midterm Exam #1, Thursday 2/14**
- **Midterm Exam #2, Thursday 3/21**
- **Final Exam, Thursday 4/25**

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 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 the pilot research projects and presentations. These three exams comprise 60% of your final grade.

Pilot Research Project (25% total – group grade)

Teams of students will apply a data collection method – on a small scale – to a research question chosen by the class as a whole. For about four weeks, your team will plan and conduct data collection, analyze results, and make a formal presentation to the class as a group. Detailed guidelines will be provided in class. All group members are required to contribute equally and substantially to the project. I will ask every student to provide anonymous and confidential feedback about their group members at the end of the course.

Grading

Blue book journal	15%	(150 points)
Midterm exam #1	20%	(200)
Midterm exam #2	20%	(200)
Research presentation	25%	(250)
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>20%</u>	<u>(200)</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.

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. 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 2 days, 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/

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/>, or call 561-297-3540.

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) if they feel comfortable doing so. This will enable the professor to assist students in accessing support.

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). (*Note: this schedule is tentative and I reserve the right to make changes during the semester.)

WEEK 1: What is Social Science Research?

- T 1/8** (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Chapter 1
- R 1/10** (CA) Dunaway, "Traits versus Issues: How Female Candidates Shape Coverage of Senate Gubernatorial Races"

WEEK 2: Research Design Basics

- T 1/15** (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Chapter 2
- R 1/17** (CA) Calarco, excerpt from *Negotiating Opportunities* (p. 1-22)

WEEK 3: Research Ethics & Measurement (part 1)

- T 1/22** (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Chapter 3
(CA) Humphries, "The Tearoom Trade: Impersonal Sex in Public Places"
- R 1/24** (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Chapter 4

WEEK 4: Measurement (part 2)

- T 1/29** (CA) Prasad, "Underserving Rich: 'Moral Values' & the White Working Class"
- R 1/31** (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Chapter 5, p. 91-103 (Probability Methods)

WEEK 5: Sampling

- T 2/5** (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Chapter 5, p. 103-109 (Non-probability Methods)
(CA) Cannon, "Race and Class Bias in Qualitative Research on Women"
- R 2/7** (CA) Rubin, "Measurement of Romantic Love"

WEEK 6: First Midterm Exam

T 2/12 *Review the exam study guide before class!*

R 2/14 **MIDTERM EXAM #1**

WEEK 7: Quantitative Methods Overview

T 2/19 (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Chapter 6 (*Experiments*)

R 2/21 (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Chapter 7 (*Survey Research*)

WEEK 8: Quantitative Data Analysis: Techniques & Examples

T 2/26 (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Chapter 8, p. 167-78 (Graphs & Central tendency)
(CA) Wong, excerpt from *The WSJ Guide to Information Graphics*

R 2/28 (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Chapter 8, p. 182-187 (Tables & Elaboration)
(CA) Dionne, "Feminist Ideology as Predictor of Body Dissatisfaction"

WEEK 9: March 4th-8th Spring Break – No Classes

WEEK 10: Qualitative Methods Overview

T 3/12 (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Chapter 9, p. 199-201 AND 215-226 (*Interviews*)
(CA) Chambliss, excerpt from *Beyond Caring* (focus on Appendix, p. 189-194)

R 3/14 (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Chapter 9, p. 202-215 (*Field Research*)
(TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Chapter 11, p. 265-269 (*Content Analysis*)

WEEK 11: Qualitative Data Analysis: Techniques & Examples

T 3/19 (TEXT) Chambliss & Schutt Chapter 10, p. 229-241 AND p. 254-257
(CA) Calarco, excerpt from *Negotiating Opportunities* (p. 201-216)

R 3/21 **MIDTERM EXAM #2**
Research project instructions will be handed out during class.

WEEK 12: Second Midterm Exam

T 3/26 Team meetings (attendance required)
Carefully review the research project instructions for your group before class!
**Deadlines this week depend on your team's method*

R 3/28 Team meetings (attendance required)
**Deadlines this week depend on your team's method*

WEEK 13: Team Meetings for Research Project

- T 4/2** Team meetings (attendance required)
**Deadlines this week depend on your team's method*
- R 4/4** Team meetings (attendance required)
**Deadlines this week depend on your team's method*

WEEK 14: Team Meetings for Research Project

- T 4/9** Team meetings & Instructions for Presentations (attendance required)
**Deadlines this week depend on your team's method*
- R 4/11** Team meetings (attendance required)
**Deadlines this week depend on your team's method*

WEEK 15: Group Presentations

- T 4/16** **Pilot Research Project Presentations Day 1**
- R 4/18** **Pilot Research Project Presentations Day 2**

Final Exam on Thursday, 4/25 @10:30 AM in the usual classroom

You MUST take your Final Exam on this date.
Please make any arrangements to travel AFTER the exam date.

**SYA 3300 – Survey of Research Methods
Group Member Contact Information**

Name

FAU Email Address

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

(You are also encouraged – but not required – to exchange phone numbers to coordinate.)