

Syllabus

FYC 3401: Introduction to Social and Economic Perspectives on Community

3 Credit Hours

Instructor and Teaching Assistants	Course Information
<p>Instructor: Jorge Ruiz-Menjivar, Ph.D.</p> <p>Office: 3025C McCarty Hall D</p> <p>Telephone: 352-392-0404</p> <p>Email: jorgerm@ufl.edu</p> <p>Office Hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday: 10:00-12:00h.• Tuesday: 13:00-14:00h. <p>Teaching Assistants (TAs) Ms. Soniy Alamdari Ms. Isabella Alobele Ms. Makenzie Cole Ms. Paola Jaramillo Sullivan</p>	<p>Term: Spring 2025</p> <p>Call number: 12365</p> <p>Section: 07G2</p> <p>Meeting Time / Location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday: Periods 8 and 9 (15:00-15:50h & 16:05-16:55h) / MCCA 100• Thursday: Period 9 (16:05-16:55h) / MCCA 1142

**** The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus to meet the course's objectives. ****

FYC 3401: Introduction to Social and Economic Perspectives on Community 3 Credit Hours

Course Description

Introduces the study of community in American society. Addresses the theoretical underpinnings of the concept of community and explores changes that have affected urban and rural communities.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify and understand the roles and functions of communities in the larger social system.
2. Use social theory to understand and analyze issues facing contemporary communities.
3. Analyze the interaction between children, families, and the communities they live in and how characteristics of communities impact social processes.
4. Use social theory to evaluate the potential impacts of different kinds of programs designed to address the problems that face contemporary communities.

Required Materials

- Green, G., & Haines, A. (2016). *Asset building & community development*. SAGE Publications, Inc, <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781483398631>

Besides the required textbook listed above, this class requires students to listen to podcasts, read blog posts, watch videos, and read journal articles or book chapters. Book chapters are available on Canvas, but students are responsible for locating all other class prep materials themselves. The course calendar provides a complete APA reference for each class prep assignment. All journal articles can be accessed via the UF Library website for free if accessed using campus WIFI or the UF VPN. **Students should never need to pay for access to class prep materials.** Links are provided for blogs and/or podcasts; however, sometimes links change, and those provided may be inactive at times; students are still responsible for locating and completing class prep materials using the APA reference if a link is broken. All podcasts can be accessed through any podcast app or web browser. In some cases, a full transcript is available if accessed Online (this is noted for you on the course calendar); students with disabilities needing a written transcript to complete the class prep assignment successfully should contact the instructor immediately for an alternate class prep assignment if a transcript is not available.

Disclaimer: On some occasions, the content of the class prep material may be provocative or biased in some way. This content was intentionally selected to facilitate discussion and provoke critical thinking; this does not mean I support the ideas expressed or advocate for a particular set of beliefs and values.

Communication Policy

- **Email inquiries:** Please only contact me via Canvas or your UF email account. UF policies prohibit me from discussing your grade through any other email servers.
- I will respond to email inquiries within 24-48 hours during business days. Questions submitted during the weekend will be answered within 48 hours of the next business day.
- Email me your favorite meme – you will get five extra points if you do so by the end of the first week of class.
- **Office Hours:** Monday: 10:00-12:00h and Tuesday: 13:00-14:00h.

Grading

Grades will be determined based on the following:

Individually graded	
Mini-Assignments (Each assignment is worth 30 pts)	300 points
Exam 1	150 points
Exam 2	150 points
Discussions (4 discussions total)	100 points
Total	700 points

Grade Ranges:

A = 93.00% and above	C = 73.00-76.99%
A- = 90.00-92.99%	C- = 70.00-72.99%
B+ = 87.00-89.99%	D+ = 67.00-69.99%
B = 83.00-86.99%	D = 63.00-66.99%
B- = 80.00-82.99%	D- = 60.00-62.99%
C+ = 77.00-79.99%	E = 59.99% and below

Current UF grading policies, including grade points assigned per letter grade, can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Attendance & Make-up Work

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. Click here to read the university attendance policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

Policy Regarding Late Work

All assignments must be submitted via Canvas by the deadline specified on the course calendar and Canvas. Mini-assignments and written discussions are due at 5:00 PM,

with no submissions accepted after this time. A one-week grace period applies to mini-assignments; however, late work beyond the grace period will not be accepted. Note that there is no grace period for written discussions. Exams cannot be rescheduled; failure to take an in-class exam on the designated date will result in a score of zero.

APA Formatting Guidelines

Use the APA Style Guide, 7th Edition, to complete all assignments and tasks in this course. Use proper APA formatting for all components of an assignment, including in-text citations, tables, figures, appendices, section headings, titles, abstracts, and references. The FYCS Department has chosen to use the Professional title page guidelines, *not the student title page format*. Guidelines for formatting can be found in:

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7 ed.). (2019). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Note: There are many citation generators and APA guides available online. While these can be good resources, they often produce citations that are incomplete or incorrectly formatted. If you use a citation generator for your work, it would be wise to review the references to ensure they are formatted correctly before submitting your assignment. *The only source that ensures 100% compliance with APA is the APA Style Guide itself.*

Troubleshooting Technical Issues

Students should contact the UF Help Desk at 352-392-HELP/4357 or helpdesk@ufl.edu with all technical issues. Some issues may be resolved using resources on the Help Desk website: helpdesk.ufl.edu. Do not contact the instructor or TA to help you solve a technical issue. If a technical issue impedes your ability to submit an assignment on time, email the instructor explaining the situation and provide your UFIT ticket number (assigned to you by the Help Desk). Accommodations will not be made for technical issues unless a UFIT ticket number is provided.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is essential for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

Policy Regarding Testing Accommodations

- Any student who requires testing accommodations must follow university procedures for securing the accommodations. Please see <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/students> for information on accessing resources and setting up accommodations.
- Students who require testing accommodations should follow DRC policy for making an appointment to take the test(s) at the DRC. Do not assume that I can

provide additional assistance for testing needs. If you fail to follow through on making arrangements with the DRC to take a test, you will take the test with the rest of the class and will be given the same amount of time to take the test as the rest of the course.

In-Class Recording Policy

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the University, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Online Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email, they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Academic Honesty Policy:

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to upholding the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community. On all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*

Moreover, academic honesty includes, for specific assignments such as exams, essays, discussions, and papers, abstaining from using text written by a generation system and presenting it as one's own work (e.g., entering a prompt into an artificial intelligence tool and using the output in an assignment).

(a) Cheating. A Student shall not use or attempt to use unauthorized materials or resources in any academic activity for academic advantage or benefit. Cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Using any materials or resources prepared by another person or Entity without the other person or Entity's express Consent or without proper attribution to the other person or Entity.

Entity defined as: This includes but is not limited to generative artificial intelligence, large language models, content generation bots, or other non-human intelligence or digital tools.

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor explicitly permits you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g., assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to the appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the student honor code, please see: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

About ChatGPT and other AI-generated text systems

In this class, you are NOT allowed to use ChatGPT or other AI-generated text systems to develop responses for prompts, questions, mini-assignments, discussions, or exams.

Academic studies have shown that these tools do a poor and questionable job when summarizing evidence-based literature about a particular issue, presenting reliable and up-to-date statistics, synthesizing the body of knowledge supported by peer-reviewed studies, and providing relevant and trusted citations that support claims or arguments generated.

Below are three articles that discuss some of the issues and limitations of AI-generated text tools:

Haman, M., & Školník, M. (2023). Using ChatGPT to conduct a literature review. *Accountability in Research*, 1-3.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/08989621.2023.2185514>

Najafali, D., Camacho, J. M., Reiche, E., Galbraith, L., Morrison, S. D., & Dorafshar, A. H. (2023). Truth or lies? The pitfalls and limitations of ChatGPT in systematic review creation. *Aesthetic Surgery Journal*, sjad093.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/asj/sjad093>

Tlili, A., Shehata, B., Adarkwah, M. A., Bozkurt, A., Hickey, D. T., Huang, R., & Agyemang, B. (2023). What if the devil is my guardian angel: ChatGPT as a case study of using chatbots in education. *Smart Learning Environments*, 10(1), 15.

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40561-023-00237-x>

You may utilize AI tools outside of class to get additional clarification on a concept that might have been confusing. However, I encourage you to be a critical consumer of output generated by these tools and employ a fair degree of skepticism about the accuracy of the information presented. You may also use AI tools to proofread (after providing detailed instructions), informally brainstorm key ideas about a particular issue or problem, and classify and organize input data.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the University's resources. The following resources are available at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

Health and Wellness Resources

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/.
- *University Police Department*: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care, call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

Academic Resources

- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- *Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services career.ufl.edu/.
- *Library Support*: cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask various ways to receive assistance concerning using the libraries or finding resources.
- *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010, or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. teachingcenter.ufl.edu/
- *Writing Studio*: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/
- *Student Complaints On-Campus*: sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/
- *On-Line Students Complaints*: distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process.

Course Schedule¹

Week		Topics and Modules	Assignment/Due Dates	Format
1	Jan 13 – Jan 19	Introductions and Syllabus Review What is Community?	Introduction Sheet due Jan 17 at 5:00 pm	Synchronous (in-person)
2	Jan 20 – Jan 26	Schools & Communities Families, Children & Youth in Communities		Synchronous (in-person)
3	Jan 27 – Feb 2	The Role of Assets in Community-Based Development (G&H-Chapter 1) The Community Development Process (G&H-Chapter 4)	Mini-Assignment #1 due Jan 31 at 5:00 pm	Synchronous (in-person)
4	Feb 3 – Feb 9	The Role of Community-Based Organizations (G&H-Chapter 5)	Discussion #1 due Feb 3 at 5:00 pm Mini-Assignment #2 due Feb 7 at 5:00 pm	Synchronous (in-person)
5	Feb 10 – Feb 16	Social Networks Social Capital (G&H-Chapter 7)	Mini-Assignment #3 due Feb 14 at 5:00 pm	Asynchronous
6	Feb 17 – Feb 23	Social Inclusion/Exclusion Human Capital (G&H-Chapter 6)	Mini-Assignment #4 due Feb 21 at 5:00 pm	Asynchronous
7	Feb 24 – March 2	Multiculturalism in Communities Creating Inclusive Communities Cultural Capital (G&H-Chapter 12)	Mini-Assignment #5 due Feb 28 at 5:00 pm	Synchronous (in-person)
8	March 3 – March 9	Physical Capital (G&H-Chapter 8)	Discussion #2 due March 3 at 5:00 pm In-Class Exam 1: March 4	Synchronous (in-person)
9	March 10 – March 16	Conflict Theories (Theoretical Perspectives I) Financial Capital (G&H-Chapter 9)	Mini-Assignment #6 due March 14 at 5:00 pm	Synchronous (in-person)

¹ The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus at any time. Any changes will be announced during class and on Canvas.

10	March 17 – March 23	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
11	March 24 – March 30	Symbolic Interactionism (Theoretical Perspectives II) Political Capital (G&H-Chapter 11)	Discussion #3 due March 24 at 5:00 pm Mini-Assignment #7 due March 28 at 5:00 pm	Synchronous (in-person)
12	March 31 – April 6	Structural Functionalism (Theoretical Perspectives III) Environmental Capital (G&H-Chapter 10)	Mini-Assignment #8 due April 4 at 5:00 pm	Asynchronous
13	April 7 – April 13	Social Psychological Theory (Theoretical Perspectives IV) Food, Energy and Community (G&H-Chapter 13)	Mini-Assignment #9 due April 11 at 5:00 pm	Asynchronous
14	April 14 – April 20	Natural Disasters and Climate Change (G&H-Chapter 14) Community Sustainability (G&H-Chapter 3)	Discussion #4 due April 14 at 5:00 pm Mini-Assignment #10 due April 18 at 5:00 pm	Synchronous (in-person)
15	April 21 – April 27		In-Class Exam 2: April 22	Synchronous (in-person)
16	April 28 – May 4	Finals Week	Finals Week	Finals Week