Living, working, and studying in Miami, as students in this class are doing, is a huge opportunity to see and understand events firsthand that are rapidly changing the USA and the world. This is the place to understand leading economic and population/migration trends, weather/climate change impacts, and new transnational cultural forms emerging. However, this opportunity also brings a risk because Miami is so complex, and so much happening now has to be understood in terms of Miami’s and South Florida’s unique history and environment. Since its beginning as a city Miami has been the subject of glib overgeneralizations and satirical humor. The purpose of this class is to go beyond those stereotypes by in-depth study of Miami history and data-based research.

The name of the class includes the word “sociology” but the three required texts include work in anthropology, geography, and sociology covering all the disciplines in the GSS department. When you finish this class you will have a much better understanding of Miami and its setting, and also of how research on urban areas needs to link all three disciplines in GSS (and others).

Required Texts


Aranda, Elizabeth, Sallie Hughes, and Elena Sabogal. Making a Life in Multiethnic Miami: Immigration and the Rise of a Global City. (note: due to its cost this text has been listed with the bookstore as optional. However it will be used extensively so you should buy it if you can. Each student team (see below) will need to have a few copies at hand during all classes).

In addition to these books there will be readings and discussions on Blackboard.

Course Organization and Requirements:

This class will be primarily lecture and class discussion with a mid-term and final exam. There will be readings and often a quiz to be completed before each class.

There will also be student teams working together learning class material and doing short presentations on it. Later in the course teams will chose a topic of interest to them and a presentation to the class at the end of the course. Students in the class will be randomly assigned to teams during the second class Sept 4. Part of a student’s grade comes from their team’s performance. However, grading procedures are designed to ensure that team performance will not lower individual course grades from individual quizzes and exams.

Tentative grade distribution:

- 20% from team and class participation in class discussion and quizzes
- 20% from midterm exam October 9
- 30% from final exam December 11
- 25% for team final projects.
- 5% from peer review assessments by your team members
Schedule of readings and classes

August 28
  *Miami Mistress of the Americas*
  1 Early liaisons
  2 Shades of a city
  [note: Tuesday, September 2nd is the last day to Add/Drop]

September 4
  3 Extreme makeover
  4 The Miami growth machine
  5 The birth of the world city
  6 Transience and civil society

September 11 (online lecture, no class meeting)
  7 Locals, exiles, and mobiles
  8 Elusive subtropical urbanism
  9 The first hemispheric city

September 18
  *Making a Life in Multiethnic Miami: Immigration and the Rise of a Global City*
  1 Immigration in the age of global insecurity

September 25
  2 The Contexts of departure

October 2
  3 The Context of reception
  4 Inequalities and perceptions of social mobility

October 9
  MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS
  5 Politics, membership, and representation
  6 Race, discrimination, and ethnic rivalries

October 16
  7 Immigrant emotions and strategies of co-presence
  8 Translocal placemaking and belonging

October 23 (online lecture, no class meeting)
  9 The Security of home in a global era

October 30
  *Swamplife: people, gators, and mangroves entangled in the Everglades.*
  Reading assignment to be scheduled over this and the next class
  [note: next Monday is the last day to drop with a DR grade]

November 6
  Reading: Swamplife

November 13
  Work on team projects

November 20
  Work on team projects

November 27 Thanksgiving no class

December 4 Team project presentations

December 10-11 FINALS WEEK
  Team project reports due by email to Prof Gladwin by 5pm December 13
**Attendance policy.** Attendance is required and students will sign an attendance sheet at the beginning of each class. You will have two possible absent days you will not be penalized for, after that it will cost ½ letter grade per absence (e.g. B+ -> B). Absence will be allowed for mandatory religious requirements and other major personal required events, but only if arranged and scheduled during the first two weeks of class. In case of medical or other emergencies absences will be counted as such unless circumstances are truly exceptional.

The reason for the attendance policy is that participation in class and with teams is essential to this course. Since it is a one day a week double period class, missing one class means missing a lot of learning opportunities for you and what you can contribute. A second reason is that Prof Gladwin would like to record lectures and class discuss to post online for review. However, this would be counterproductive if students use it as a reason for frequent absenses.

**Class Structure:** this is not a pure lecture/exam course; it utilizes modified Team-Based Learning (TBL). In addition to individual quizzes and exama, there will be a final team project, and teams will work together on weekly reading assignments.

If you have not taken a class using TBL please read carefully. TBL is a teaching and learning strategy that maximizes class time for students to apply their new knowledge to do in-class team projects. To ensure that you are studying the course content, many classes will involve short quizzes at the beginning to assess your understanding of the course content. You will take these first individually and then together with your team. It is important that team members all work hard and cooperatively with each other. Dr. Gladwin considers that that teams are like work groups that have the goal of getting the job done together as well as possible. They are not “debating groups” where team members are in competition with each other. They are also not groups where cliques form and do not value the work and opinions of team members outside of their small group.

**Official FIU statement on academic conduct**

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and to honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.