



FL roster breakdown: What the Gators have at inside LB

SPORTS, 1B

The Gainesville Sun

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Big winter storm pummels Northeast



Over 568,000 power outages were reported across the Northeast by the morning of Feb. 23, with most occurring in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, according to poweroutage.us. PETER PEREIRA/NEW BEDFORD STANDARD-TIMES

Cities report whiteouts, mass power outages

Christopher Cann, N'dea Yancey-Bragg, Dinah Voyles Pulver, Eduardo Cuevas, Doyle Rice and Brandi D. Addison
USA TODAY NETWORK

NEW YORK – An intensifying winter storm pummeled the Northeast on Feb. 23, unleashing blizzard conditions that blanketed major cities in snow, brought travel to a standstill and caused mass power outages.

The powerful nor'easter dumped more than 2 feet of snow across much of the Eastern Seaboard by the afternoon. The weather service had received at least 22 preliminary reports of 24 inches of snow or more spanning a distance of nearly 200 miles, stretching from Freehold, New Jersey, to New Bedford, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island.

See **STORM**, Page 2A



New Jersey extended travel restrictions and remained in a state of emergency "in all 21 counties," Gov. Mikie Sherrill posted on X early Feb. 23. At the time, 24.2 inches of snow had been recorded in Freehold in Monmouth County, according to the National Weather Service report.

JULIAN LESHAY GUADALUPE/NORTHJERSEY.COM

UF criticizes changes to sociology courses

Chelsea Long
Gainesville Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

The United Faculty of Florida urged college faculty to resist state efforts to censor introductory sociology courses during a Feb. 18 webinar, held after the release of a state-approved syllabus and textbook that removes key discussions of race, gender, class, and inequality from the curriculum.

According to its website, the union represents more than 25,000 faculty members at all 12 of Florida's public universities, and 16 state and community colleges.

Florida State University and Florida International University have adopted the revised syllabus and textbook, though colleges are not required to do so. The University of Florida has not yet adopted the materials.

"Sociology is a rigorous science produced by trained sociologists...to be sure, untrained individuals and politically appointed boards of governors are unqualified to do sociology in any form or fashion," said Aldon Morris, sociology professor at Northwestern University and former president of the American Sociological Association.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has long pushed to eliminate what he calls "woke ideology" from higher education. In 2023, he signed legislation barring the use of state and federal funds for diversity, equity, and inclusion programs and activities, triggering a sweeping course review that converted hundreds of previously required courses into electives.

Sociology was the first course removed from the list of options eligible to fulfill the required social sciences credit.

In 2025, the Board of Governors — largely composed of DeSantis appointees — and a group of sociologists formed a "working group" to draft a syllabus and review textbooks for the Introduction to Sociology course (SYG1000/2000) across the State University System. When state officials were unable to identify a textbook that complied with state law, they opted to revise a free online text, OpenStax's Introduction to Sociology 3e.

The revised textbook is roughly half the length of the original. Four

See **COURSES**, Page 2A



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