

## Introductory Sociology

---

Laurie Chancey, M.A.  
30-A-1 Stubbs Hall  
225-578-5360  
[lchancey@lsu.edu](mailto:lchancey@lsu.edu)

Fall 2009  
SOCL 2001.6  
6 Lockett Hall, 1:40-3:00pm Tue/Thu  
Office hours: 11-12:00 Tue/Thu or by appt

---

*"The unexamined life is not worth living." -Socrates*

### Catalog Description

SOCL 2001 Introductory Sociology (3) Major subject areas and principles of sociology.

### Course Objectives

Sociology is the scientific study of human society. Sociologists study how we act in public and private, get educated, participate in religion, commit crimes, get hired, become rich or poor, and form families. There is a sociological component to nearly everything we do.

In this course, several **goals** of general education will be met as you:

1. Define and explore important concepts and highlights in sociological theory, methods, and major areas of research.
2. Develop a **sociological imagination**—the ability to visualize the social forces that affect your life and the world at large.

A well-developed sociological imagination is a skill that will serve you long after this course is over, helping you to think critically and challenge assumptions about the social world. To this end, we will work frequently on applying sociological concepts to real-life situations.

### Required Text

Conley, Dalton. 2008. *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist*. 1<sup>st</sup> edition. New York: W.W. Norton and Company. ISBN: 978-0-393-92760-3 (paperback).

The textbook is **essential** to your success in this course. You are expected to have a copy by the second week of class. The ebook version is available at <http://www.nortonebooks.com>.

### Communication

You will interact frequently with **Moodle** to take quizzes, check your grade, and read expanded course policies and supplementary information. Check your official LSU email regularly for announcements throughout the semester. If any issues or problems may affect your performance in this course, tell me as early as possible.

Grade Components and Weights		Grading Scale	
Exam 1	25%	A	89.45% - 100%
Exam 2	25%	B	79.45% - 89.44%
Exam 3 (final)	25%	C	69.45% - 79.44%
Quizzes	20%	D	59.45% - 69.44%
Research Participation	5%	F	59.44% and below
Extra Credit	+2%		

### Examinations (25% each, 75% total)

There will be three in-class examinations, each with 50 multiple-choice, true/false, and matching questions. Exams will test your ability to **recall**, **connect**, and **apply** material covered in the **lecture** (textbook material is covered in quizzes, not exams). Come prepared with a #2 pencil and a small green Scantron for each exam. The final will not be comprehensive.

### Quizzes (20%)

There will be a Moodle quiz on every textbook chapter (18 total) with 10 multiple choice and/or true/false questions each. Questions are randomly selected for each attempt. You are allowed **two** attempts at each quiz, and the higher of those two grades will be saved. Quizzes have a time limit of 10 minutes. Exceeding the time limit **or** missing a quiz will automatically result in a grade of **zero**. Your final quiz grade is the average of your **10 highest quiz scores**.

Quizzes (except Chapters 1 and 2) open **one week** before they are due. Keep up with them and be aware of **closing times**. Quizzes close at **1:00pm** on the day we begin the related material. The answers are available once quizzes are closed, so they will not be reopened after the deadline. Take the quiz early enough so that any technical issues can be resolved before the quiz closes.

### Social Research Participation (5%)

You will gain first-hand experience with sociological research through the Center for Social Research at LSU. Required activities are an **online survey** (5-10 minutes) and participation in a **laboratory study** (30-60 minutes). The Center will contact you by email to schedule your lab study. You will receive a zero if you complete only one activity or if you miss your lab study without rescheduling.

### Extra Credit (+2%)

On most days (starting after drop/add ends), I will call several randomly-selected names from the roster. If you are in class when I call your name, you will get one extra credit point for answering.

Throughout the semester, your name will be called three times **or** until you have earned two points, whichever comes first. This allows for one absence on a random day. Otherwise, you are taking the chance of missing extra credit when you miss class for any reason, **documented or not**.

## Attendance and Absence

I will not take formal attendance, but I will award extra points to some who are present in class (see Extra Credit). If you miss class, there is **no need** to notify me or show me an excuse, unless you have missed an exam. If you missed an extra credit point, a zero will appear for one of your extra credit grades on Moodle. Do **not** ask me if I called your name while you were absent.

You are responsible for announcements and content covered in class. Lecture notes are **not** posted online, so you should consult a classmate for any notes you may be missing.

## Make-Ups

Make-ups will be offered for exams, but not for any other graded components of the course. To make up an exam, you must have a **valid, documented excuse**, such as a required university trip, jury duty, or medical emergency. Valid excuses are defined by LSU Policy Statement 22.

Students without an approved excuse may still be allowed to take a make-up exam, but **10 points will be deducted** immediately and for each weekday afterward until you take the exam. Make-up exams must be taken within one week of the original exam or the student will receive a zero.

## Special Accommodations

Inform me of any instructional accommodations and/or special learning needs as soon as possible. Accommodations are not retroactive. Assistance is available to eligible students through the **Office of Disability Services**. Please note that my office is in a basement, only accessible by a flight of stairs. If you have impaired mobility and need to see me, contact me beforehand so we can arrange another meeting place.

## Academic Honesty

LSU students are bound by the Student Code of Conduct. Suspected cases of academic misconduct (including cheating, plagiarism, falsifying records, and any other act designed to give you an **unfair advantage**) will be referred to the Dean of Students. If you are found responsible for academic misconduct, likely penalties are an F for the course, disciplinary probation, or (in some cases) expulsion from the university.

## Classroom Environment

Avoid behavior that distracts me, your classmates, and yourself. Students who engage in distracting behavior will be **moved** to a different seat or, if necessary, **removed** from the classroom.

Personal electronic devices should be **silenced** and used only for class-related purposes. Notify me if you wish to record the class. If you must leave class early or arrive late, sit by the door to **minimize the disturbance**. Do **not** hold side conversations while I or your fellow students address the class.

## **Sensitive Issues**

Sociology covers all aspects of human society. The human experience includes sensitive topics, such as **race, politics, and religion**. It also includes adult content, such as **violence, sexuality, and profanity**. My goal is to expose you to authentic and diverse social realities. Therefore, controversial and/or uncensored content will often appear in the course material.

I am **not** interested in offending you, or convincing you of the truth of any particular world view. You can decide on your own whether and how to incorporate sociology into your personal belief system.

Even though the course content is potentially sensitive, we will discuss it **respectfully**, without hostility toward opposing views. All students should feel safe enough to participate in discussion without being personally attacked. At the same time, no students should feel pressured to share any information that they would rather keep private.

## **Disclaimer**

This syllabus is subject to change at my discretion.

**Course Schedule**

<b>Day</b>	<b>In-Class Topics</b>	<b>Moodle Chapter Quiz Closings (1:00pm)</b>
8/25 Tue	Introduction	
8/27 Thu	The Sociological Imagination	
9/1 Tue	Methods	
9/3 Thu	Culture <i>In-class random extra credit begins</i>	Ch. 3
9/8 Tue	Media	
9/10 Thu	Socialization	Ch. 4
9/15 Tue	Networks	Ch. 5
9/17 Thu	Deviance	Ch. 6
9/22 Tue	Crime	
9/24 Thu	<b>Exam 1</b>	
9/29 Tue	<b>NO CLASS: Day off for research participation</b>	
10/1 Thu	<b>NO CLASS: Fall Holiday</b>	
10/6 Tue	Family	Ch. 7
10/8 Thu	Family	
10/13 Tue	Education	Ch. 8
10/15 Thu	Religion	Ch. 9
10/20 Tue	Capitalism	Ch. 10

**Course Schedule, ctd.**

<b>Day</b>	<b>In-Class Topics</b>	<b>Moodle Chapter Quiz Closings (1:00pm)</b>
<b>10/22 Thu</b>	Authority	Ch. 11
<b>10/27 Tue</b>	Authority	
<b>10/29 Thu</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>	
<b>11/3 Tue</b>	Gender	Ch. 12
<b>11/5 Thu</b>	Gender <i>November 6: last day to drop with "W"</i>	
<b>11/10 Tue</b>	Race	Ch. 13
<b>11/12 Thu</b>	Race	
<b>11/17 Tue</b>	Stratification	Ch. 14
<b>11/19 Thu</b>	Poverty	Ch. 15
<b>11/24 Tue</b>	Health	Ch. 16
<b>11/26 Thu</b>	<b>NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	
<b>12/1 Tue</b>	Science	Ch. 17
<b>12/3 Thu</b>	Social Change	Ch. 18
<b>12/9 Wed</b>	<b>Exam 3 (FINAL) 10:00am</b>	Ch. 1, Ch. 2 (closing 11:55pm)