

Introductory Sociology

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SOCL 2001.6
5 Lockett Hall, 3:10-4:30 MW
Office hours: 10-12 MWF

"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, find a job, 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*. 1st 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 will need a copy by the second week of class to prepare for quizzes.

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. Email me anytime if you have questions or concerns that are not addressed on the syllabus. Tell me as early as possible if any issues may affect your performance in the course.

Grade Components and Point Values		Grading Scale	
Exam 1	100 points	A	360 - 400 points
Exam 2	100	B	320 - 359
Exam 3 (Final)	100	C	280 - 319
Quizzes	100	D	240 - 279
Bonus Points	?	F	0 - 239

Examinations (100 points each, 300 points total)

There are three in-class exams, each with 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions. Exams test your ability to **recall**, **apply**, and **analyze** material covered in the **lecture** (quiz questions will **not** appear on exams). Bring a #2 pencil and small green Scantron. Students who arrive **late** (after the first student is finished) will be penalized **10 points** (a letter grade) on the exam. The final will **not** be comprehensive.

Quizzes (100 points, top 10 quiz grades counted)

There will be a Moodle quiz on every textbook chapter (18 total) with 10 multiple-choice questions each. Your final quiz grade is the total of your **10 highest scores** out of 18 quizzes.

You are allowed **3 attempts** at each quiz, and 30 minutes for each attempt. Your highest-graded attempt will be saved. If you exceed 30 minutes during a quiz attempt, you will receive a zero for that attempt. Questions are **randomly selected**, so each new attempt will contain **different questions** from the same chapter.

Quizzes (except chs. 1 and 2) open **one week** before they are due. Quizzes close at **11:55pm the night before** we begin the related material. I will not necessarily remind you of each quiz—I expect you to keep up with the schedule yourself. Missed quizzes will count as **zeroes**. The answers are available once quizzes are closed, so there are **no extensions or make-ups** for any reason. **Email me** as soon as possible if you encounter a problem while taking a quiz. Take the quiz **early** enough so I can help you before the quiz closes.

Syllabus Quiz

To ensure that you understand the syllabus early in the semester, you will complete a 10-question quiz on the syllabus material by 11:55pm on **Wednesday, February 3**. Your grade will count the same as your other quiz grades. The syllabus quiz has no time limit, and you have unlimited attempts. Be sure to retake it until you get a **perfect score**—this is your only chance to **boost your quiz grade**.

Bonus Points

During some class meetings, I will award bonus points those in attendance. I may assign a minute paper during the lecture or pass around a sign-in sheet on low attendance days. The **only way to get bonus points** is to **attend class**.

Missing Class

You are responsible for content covered in class—remember that exams are on **lecture material** only. I do **not** post my PowerPoints online or distribute them to students for any reason. Exchange contact info with a few of your classmates so you will have a source for notes if you miss class.

I will not take formal attendance, but I will occasionally award bonus points to those present in class. If you miss class, there is **no need** to notify me or show me an excuse, unless you have missed an exam.

Make-Ups

If you miss an exam, you must contact me to schedule a make-up. To make up an exam, you must have a **valid, documented excuse**, such as a required university trip, jury duty, or medical emergency (see LSU Policy Statement 22). Other excuses, such as family or work responsibilities, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Students without an appropriate 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. If you miss your make-up appointment, you 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 Behavior

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

1/20, Wed

Introduction

1/25, Mon

The Sociological Imagination

1/27, Wed

Methods

2/1, Mon, 11:55pm: Ch. 1 quiz

2/2, Tue, 11:55pm Ch. 3 quiz

2/3, Wed, 11:55pm: Syllabus quiz

2/1, Mon; 2/3, Wed

Culture

2/7, Sun, 11:55pm: Ch. 4 quiz

2/8, Mon

Socialization

2/9, Tue, 11:55pm: Ch. 5 quiz

2/10, Wed

Networks

2/15, Mon; 2/17, Wed: MARDI GRAS

2/21, Sun, 11:55pm: Ch. 6 quiz

2/22, Mon; 2/24, Wed

Deviance

3/1, Mon: EXAM 1

3/7, Sun, 11:55pm: Ch. 7 quiz

3/3, Wed; 3/8, Mon

Family

3/9, Tue, 11:55pm: Ch. 8 quiz

3/10, Wed

Education

3/14, Sun, 11:55pm: Ch. 9 quiz

3/15, Mon

Religion

3/16, Tue, 11:55pm: Ch. 10 quiz

3/17, Wed

Capitalism

3/21, Sun, 11:55pm: Ch. 11 quiz

3/22, Mon

Authority

3/24, Wed: EXAM 2

3/28, Sun, 11:55pm: Ch. 12 quiz

3/29, Mon; 3/31, Wed

Gender

4/1: Last day to drop with a "W"

4/5, Mon; 4/7, Wed: SPRING BREAK

4/11, Sun, 11:55pm: Ch. 13 quiz

4/12, Mon; 4/14, Wed

Race

4/18, Sun, 11:55pm: Ch. 14 quiz

4/19, Mon; 4/21, Wed

Stratification

4/25, Sun, 11:55pm: Ch. 15 quiz

4/26, Mon

Poverty

4/27, Tue, 11:55pm: Ch. 16 quiz

4/28, Wed

Health

5/2, Sun, 11:55pm: Ch. 17 quiz

5/3, Mon

Science

5/5, Wed

Social Change

5/7, Fri, 11:55pm: Ch. 2 quiz

5/7, Fri, 11:55pm: Ch. 18 quiz

5/15, Sat, 12:30pm: EXAM 3 (Final)