

Sociology 2001: Introductory Sociology, Spring 2005

Section 8: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:40 pm-3:00 pm, Room 6 Lockett

Instructor: Professor Susan Dumais

Office Location: 119 Stubbs Hall

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:00-4:00, and by appointment

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Introductory Sociology is a course intended to provide you with an overview of the discipline of sociology. You will learn the various definitions of sociology, society, and social research, and you will explore some of the major fields of sociology: relationships between individuals and between groups; socialization, deviance, and crime; social inequality across gender, race, and social class categories; social institutions such as the family, religion, and the educational system; and types of social change, including social movements and changes in the population.

Required Books:

There are two required books for the course. The first is a basic introductory sociology textbook, while the second (*Life in Society*) is a collection of readings from various sociological sources. The *Life in Society* reader is intended to clarify and illustrate the concepts that are covered in the textbook and in lecture. You can purchase both books at the campus bookstore in the Student Union.

Henslin, James M. 2005. *Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach*. Seventh Edition. Boston: Pearson (Allyn and Bacon) Publishing.

Henslin, James M. *Life in Society: Readings to Accompany Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach*. 2005. Boston: Pearson (Allyn and Bacon) Publishing.

Course Website:

This course makes use of the Blackboard website. You should be able to access Blackboard through your PAWS account. After you log into PAWS, you will find the link to Blackboard under the "Student Services" category. I will post slides from lecture on the website, as well as any announcements. I will try to post the slides before each class, so that you have the option of printing out the slides, bringing them to class, and adding your own notes to them during lecture. Make sure to check the website regularly.

Course Requirements:

Attendance at lecture and good note-taking are necessary to pass the course. I will cover topics in lecture that are not necessarily covered in the course readings. If you are not able to attend class on a particular day, you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate. I will not distribute my own lecture notes to students. You are more than welcome to come to my office hours to go over anything from lecture that is not clear.

It is also very important that you keep up with the reading assignments. I will not cover all the readings in lecture, but there will be test questions based on the reading. You should definitely complete all the reading for a section by the time we have finished that section in lecture; ideally, you will do the reading for each section before we cover the section in lecture.

Finally, since we are such a big class, it is important for you to respect your fellow students by arriving on time, not talking during lectures, and staying until the end of class. It is distracting both to me and to the other students when people are holding conversations while I am trying to speak. You are welcome to raise your hand to ask me questions during lecture, but please do not start up conversations with other students. Make sure that your cell phones are turned off for the duration of the lecture.

Exams:

There will be four multiple choice, true-false exams in this course. Each exam will have 50 questions, with the questions coming from the readings, the lectures, and any videos that we may watch in class. I will post review materials/study guides for each exam on the course website a few days before each exam. Please bring a #2 pencil, a small Scantron, and your student ID to each exam.

The exams will be held on: Thursday, February 17
 Tuesday, March 15
 Thursday, April 14
 Thursday, May 12

Since this is a college-level course, I require more than just memorizing the material and being able to recall it in the exams. You should understand the concepts and theories that we learn in class, and you should be able to take this information and apply it to new examples/situations. We will work on these skills in class.

If you miss an exam, *you must provide written documentation for an excusable absence within 24 hours of exam day.* Otherwise, you will not be permitted to take a make-up exam. Make-up exams will be scheduled by my graduate assistant, and may include essay questions.

Grading:

Your final grade for the course is based on attendance (10%) and on the four exams (90%). The exam on which you receive the lowest score will count for 15% of your final grade, and the remaining three exams will count 25% each toward your final grade.

There are twenty-six class meetings for this course, not including the exam dates. I will take attendance on **twelve** of the class meetings, by asking students to write a short response to a question that I ask at the end of lecture. To get the full 10% for your attendance, you must be present and turn in a response paper on **ten** of these days. I understand that illnesses and emergencies come up, which is why you have two “free” attendance days (in other words, you only have to be present for ten out of the twelve

attendance days to receive full credit for attendance). Each day I take attendance is worth 1 attendance point, which is also 1 percentage point toward your final grade. For example, if you are present on only six of the days that I take attendance, you will only get 6% toward your final grade instead of 10%.

Your final grade is calculated as:

89.45 – 100	A
79.45 – 89.44	B
69.45 – 79.44	C
59.45 – 69.44	D
0 – 59.44	F

All Louisiana State University students are responsible for observing the highest standards of academic and personal integrity. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable excuse. All cases of alleged academic misconduct will be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students.

UNIT 1: FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGY

1/18: Introduction

Textbook pages 1-16 (stop at Sexism in Early Sociology)

1/20, 1/25: Sociological Theories and Perspectives

Textbook pages 22-30 Theoretical Perspectives in Sociology
pages 94-95 Levels of Sociological Analysis
pages 99-105 Social Institutions
pages 106-117 The Microsociological Perspective

1/27: Culture and Structure

Textbook pages 36-40 What is Culture?
pages 40-48 Components of Symbolic Culture
pages 49-56 Values in U.S. Society
pages 95-99 The Macrosociological Perspective
pages 154-161 Groups within Society
pages 161-171 Group Dynamics

2/1: How Sociologists Do Research

Textbook page 124 Common Sense & Need for Sociological Research
pages 124-128 A Research Model
pages 128-139 Research Methods

2/3: Socialization

Textbook pages 64-68 What is Human Nature?
pages 68-71 Socialization into the Self and Mind
pages 75-79 Socialization into Gender
pages 79-84 Agents of Socialization
pages 84-85 Re-Socialization

Life in Society #3. Anybody's Son Will Do

2/10, 2/15: Deviance and Social Control

Textbook pages 200-203 What is Deviance?
pages 205-210 The Symbolic Interactionist Perspective
pages 210-216 The Functionalist Perspective
pages 216-218 The Conflict Perspective
pages 218-224 Reactions to Deviance (stop at "The Medicalization of Deviance")

Life in Society #8. Unintended Consequences of Undercover Work

Exam #1: Thursday, February 17, 2005

UNIT 2: THE FORMS AND DIMENSIONS OF INEQUALITY

2/22, 2/24: Social Classes and Social Stratification

<u>Textbook</u> pages 236-238	What Determines Social Class?
pages 239-241	Why is Social Stratification Universal?
pages 241-242	How do Elites Maintain Stratification?
pages 244-249	Global Stratification: Three Worlds
pages 260-266	What Is Social Class?
pages 266-272	Sociological Models of Social Class
pages 272-275	Consequences of Social Class
pages 275-278	Social Mobility
pages 278-284	Poverty (stop at Deferred Gratification)

Life in Society

#10. Making It By Faking It

3/1, 3/3: Racial and Ethnic Inequality

<u>Textbook</u> pages 324-334	Laying the Sociological Foundation
pages 335-337	Sociological Perspectives
pages 340-354	Race and Ethnic Relations in the U.S.
pages 354-357	Looking Toward the Future

Life in Society

#12. Good People and Dirty Work

3/8, 3/10: Gender Inequality

<u>Textbook</u> pages 290-294	Issues of Sex & Gender
pages 295-299	Gender Inequality in Global Perspective
pages 299-302	How Females Became a Minority Group
pages 302-309	Gender Inequality in the U.S.
pages 309-314	Gender Inequality in the Workplace
pages 318-319	The Changing Face of Politics

Life in Society

#11. Girls and Boys Together...But Mostly Apart

Exam #2: Tuesday, March 15, 2005

UNIT 3: SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

3/17, 3/29: The Educational System

Textbook pages 484-486 The Development of Modern Education
pages 490-493 The Functionalist Perspective
pages 494-499 The Conflict Perspective
pages 499-500 The Symbolic Interactionist Perspective
pages 501-508 Problems in U.S. Education

Life in Society #17. Preparing for Power

3/31: The Family

Textbook pages 448-450 Marriage and Family in Global Perspective
pages 450-454 Marriage and Family in Theoretical Perspective
pages 457-459 Child Rearing
pages 466-470 Trends in U.S. Families
pages 470-474 Divorce and Remarriage

Life in Society #16. When Work Becomes Home and Home
Becomes Work

4/5, 4/7: Religion

Textbook page 512-513 What is Religion?
pages 513-517 The Functionalist Perspective
pages 517-520 The Symbolic Interactionist Perspective
page 520-521 The Conflict Perspective
pages 523-528 The World's Major Religions
pages 528-532 Types of Religious Groups
pages 532-539 Religion in the United States

4/12: Politics and the State

Textbook pages 420-424 Power, Authority, and Violence
pages 425-427 Types of Government
pages 427-434 The U.S. Political System
pages 434-436 Who Rules the United States?

Life in Society #15. The Power Elite

Exam #3: Thursday, April 14, 2005

UNIT 4: SOCIAL CHANGE

4/19, 4/21: Social Change and Social Movements

<u>Textbook</u> : pages 644-648	How Social Change Transforms Social Life
pages 648-650	Theories & Processes of Social Change
pages 626	Social Movements
pages 627-634	Types and Tactics of Social Movements
pages 634-636	Why People Join Social Movements
pages 637-639	On the Success and Failure of Social Movements

Life in Society

- #21. The Animal Rights Crusade
- #22. Jihad vs. McWorld

4/26, 4/28: Population Changes and Aging

<u>Textbook</u> : pages 578-583	Population in Global Perspective
pages 583-590	Population Growth
pages 362-366	Aging in Global Perspective
pages 366-370	The Symbolic Interactionist Perspective
pages 370-373	The Functionalist Perspective
pages 373-374	The Conflict Perspective
pages 378-382	Problems of Dependency

Life in Society

- #13. "But This is My Mother!" The Plight of Elders in Nursing Homes

5/3: Health and Medicine

<u>Textbook</u> : page 544	Sociology and the Study of Medicine
pages 544-545	The Symbolic Interactionist Perspective
pages 545-546	The Functionalist Perspective
pages 546-550	The Conflict Perspective
pages 551-559	Issues in Health Care
pages 571-572	Health Care in Sweden, Russia, and China

Life in Society

- #19. Just Another Routine Emergency

5/5: Urbanization

<u>Textbook</u> : pages 591-597	The Development of Cities
pages 598-600	Models of Urban Growth
pages 601-604	City Life: Alienation and Community
pages 605-609	Urban Problems and Social Policy

Exam #4: Thursday, May 12, 2005, 12:30 - 2:30pm (same format as previous exams, but held during final exam period)