

**Sociology 2002: Honors Introductory Sociology, Spring 2008**  
**Section 2: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:10 pm-1:30 pm, 424 Hodges**

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Honors Introductory Sociology provides an overview of the discipline of sociology. You will learn the 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 and deviance; social inequality across gender, race, and social class; social institutions such as the family, religion, and the educational system; and types of social change, including social movements and changes in the population.

In addition, this course will teach you how to think sociologically—how to examine the social world in a critical and logical manner, discovering patterns across groups of people and over time. You will learn how to formulate research questions and hypotheses, and you will examine the different kinds of methods that social researchers use. You will have the opportunity to conduct your own analyses of the social world.

**Required Books:**

There are two required books for the course. The first (Henslin) 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. I have ordered the books at the LSU bookstore in the Student Union and at College Supply.

Henslin, James M. 2007. *Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach*. Eighth Edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Henslin, James M., editor. 2007 *Life In Society: Readings to Accompany Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach*, 8/e. Second Edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon

**Course Website:**

This course makes use of the Blackboard website. You should be able to access Blackboard through your PAWS account. 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 and Grading:

There are three components to your grade in this class:

1. Exercises- 12% (four exercises, 3 points each)
2. Exams- 50% (midterm and final; the one on which you score higher is worth 30%; the one on which you score lower is worth 20%)
3. Research Paper- 38%

**Exercises:** You will be assigned short exercises for selected readings in the *Life in Society* book. At the beginning of each reading is a series of questions called “Thinking Critically.” You are responsible for completing four of the sets of questions from the list of twelve below. This will give you some flexibility. All exercises must be typed or printed from a computer—no handwritten exercises, please. The exercises are due at the class meeting after you have finished the reading—for example, you are responsible for reading “Invitation to Sociology” by January 22, and the exercise is due on the next class meeting, January 24. The exercises are:

### Choose four:

1. Questions on “Invitation to Sociology”  
DUE: January 24.
2. Questions on “The Fierce People”  
DUE: January 29.
3. Questions on “Anybody’s Son Will Do”  
DUE: February 7.
4. Questions on “Fraternities and Rape Culture”  
DUE: February 14.
5. Questions on “Life on the Global Assembly Line”  
DUE: February 21.
6. Questions on “How the Jews Became White Folks”  
DUE: February 28.
7. Questions on “Girls and Boys Together...But Mostly Apart”  
DUE: March 6. (extended deadline due to Midterm Exam)
8. Questions on “When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work”  
DUE: April 3.
9. Questions on “India’s Sacred Cow”  
DUE: April 8.
10. Questions on “The Power Elite”  
DUE: April 10.
11. Questions on “The Animal Rights Crusade”  
DUE: April 15.
12. Questions on “Just Another Routine Emergency”  
DUE: April 22.

**Exams:** There will be a midterm (March 6) and a final exam (May 10). The exams will include definitions, short answer questions, and essays. Questions will come from both the readings (textbook and *Life in Society*) and the course lectures. The final exam is not cumulative. I will post review materials/study guides for the exams on the course website a few days before each exam.

Since this is an honors 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, be able to take this information and apply it to new examples/situations, and be able to provide a critical evaluation of the material that we cover. 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.

**Research Paper:** Over the course of the semester, you will be collecting and analyzing your own data and writing a paper describing your research. The paper will also involve getting sources from the library. I will provide more detail about the research paper a few weeks into the semester, and I will provide training and guidance throughout your data analysis. The paper will be due on Tuesday, April 29, and each of you will spend 3 or 4 minutes presenting your findings to the class on April 29 and May 1. The presentations should include your main research question, a description of the methods that you used and the data you collected, and a summary of your main findings.

Finally, **attendance** at lecture and **good note-taking** are necessary to do well in this course. It is important to attend class regularly because 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. You are more than welcome to come to my office hours, or to the teaching assistant's office hours, to go over anything from lecture that is not clear. Because we are a relatively small class, we will spend a lot of time in class discussions about the subject matter, and there will be many opportunities for you to ask questions in class.

**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.**

**Students with disabilities:** If you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). The ODS is located in 112 Johnston Hall. Phone is 225/ 578-5919. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please obtain the proper ODS forms and meet with me at the beginning of the semester.

## **UNIT 1: FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGY**

### **1/15: Introduction**

#### **1/17, 1/22: The Sociological Imagination; Theoretical Perspectives**

<b>Henslin</b> Chapter 1	The Sociological Perspective
pages 96-97	Levels of Sociological Analysis
pages 101-106	Social Institutions
pages 106-119	The Microsociological Perspective
<b>Life in Society</b>	Invitation to Sociology

#### **1/24: Culture and Social Structure**

<b>Henslin</b> Chapter 2	Culture
pages 97-101	The Macrosociological Perspective
pages 153-161	Groups within Society
pages 161-169	Group Dynamics
<b>Life in Society</b>	The Fierce People

#### **1/29: Doing Sociological Research**

<b>Henslin</b> Chapter 5	How Sociologists Do Research
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#### **1/31: Socialization**

<b>Henslin</b> Chapter 3	Socialization
<b>Life in Society</b>	Anybody's Son Will Do

#### **2/7, 2/12: Deviance and Social Control**

<b>Henslin</b> Chapter 8	Deviance and Social Control
<b>Life in Society</b>	Fraternities and Rape Culture

In-Class Video: The Burden of Innocence

## **UNIT 2: THE FORMS AND DIMENSIONS OF INEQUALITY**

### **2/14, 2/19: Social Classes and Social Stratification**

**Henslin** Chapter 9

Chapter 10

**Life in Society**

Global Stratification

Social Class in the United States

Life on the Global Assembly Line

### **2/21, 2/26: Racial and Ethnic Inequality**

**Henslin** Chapter 12

**Life in Society**

Race and Ethnicity

How the Jews Became White Folks

### **2/28: Gender Inequality**

**Henslin** Chapter 11

**Life in Society**

Sex and Gender

Girls and Boys Together...But Mostly Apart

**MIDTERM: Tuesday, March 4, 2008**

## **UNIT 3: SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

### **3/6, 3/11: Instruction on Doing your Research Papers**

**Reading:** For 3/11, read the sample papers I will distribute in class on 3/6

### **3/13, 3/25: The Educational System**

**Henslin** Chapter 17                      Education

In-Class Video: Secrets of the SAT

### **3/27, 4/1: The Family**

**Henslin** Chapter 16

**Life in Society**

Marriage and Family

When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes  
Work

### **4/3: Religion**

**Henslin** Chapter 18

**Life in Society**

Religion

India's Sacred Cow

### **4/8: Politics and the State**

**Henslin** Chapter 15

**Life in Society**

Politics

The Power Elite

## **UNIT 4: SOCIAL CHANGE**

### **4/10: Social Change and Social Movements**

<b>Henslin</b> Chapter 21	Collective Behavior and Social Movements
<b>Life in Society</b>	The Animal Rights Crusade

### **4/15: Population Changes and Aging**

<b>Henslin</b> pages 580-585	Population in Global Perspective
pages 585-593	Population Growth
pages 362-366	Aging in Global Perspective
pages 366-369	The Symbolic Interactionist Perspective
Chapter 13	The Elderly

### **4/17: Health and Medicine**

<b>Henslin</b> Chapter 19	Medicine and Health
<b>Life in Society</b>	Just Another Routine Emergency

### **4/22: Urbanization**

<b>Henslin</b> pages 594-601	The Development of Cities
pages 601-603	Models of Urban Growth
pages 603-608	City Life
pages 608-612	Urban Problems and Social Policy

**4/24: Research paper workshop: come with any questions about your papers**

### **4/29: Presentations of Research Papers**

**RESEARCH PAPERS DUE IN CLASS**

### **5/1: Presentations of Research Papers, continued**

**FINAL EXAM: Saturday, May 10, 7:30-9:30 AM in our regular classroom**