

Introduction to Sociology
Sociology 2001 Section #4, Fall 2019

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 12:30-1:20
6 Lockett

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 10-11am and by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course is to introduce you to the topic of sociology. We will explore: what makes a sociological perspective unique, the kinds of research that sociologists do, how we produce and experience culture, how we learn about culture in order to become members of our society and how sociologists understand social structure and interaction. We will pay particular attention to how we organize society in terms of social class, race and gender/sexuality. We will then use this new perspective to examine social phenomena such as: deviance, families, education, religion, economy, politics. We will also focus on larger social issues including population, health and environment and how societies change. We will not only learn about important scholarly development and research in these areas, but we will also practice seeing these phenomena with our sociological imaginations. This course will challenge you to examine, evaluate, and analyze the complex and diverse world we live in.

Specific course objectives are to:

1. **Define** the sociological perspective and **explain** how sociology is different from other social sciences.
2. **Understand** and **apply** key sociological concepts, terminology, theory, and methods.
3. **Discuss** how larger social forces, including systems of race, class and gender impact our personal experiences.
4. **Develop** critical thinking skills to **address** social problems.
5. **Identify** the kinds of jobs available to sociologists and the subjects that they might study.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Witt, Jon. 2018. Soc (5th edition). New York, New York: McGraw Hill.
ISBN: 978-1-259-70272-3

The textbook will be available at the LSU bookstore, or you can purchase/rent a textbook via your online outlet of choice. Please make sure you have course materials before the course begins, as we will be moving very quickly through the material. If you do not have your textbooks in time to start class, you may get behind and that may prohibit you from doing well in this course. You do not need any Smart Book or Course Connect options.

MOODLE

This course makes use of Moodle, which is accessed through your *myLSU* account. I will use Moodle to post any announcements, Powerpoint presentations, grades and any additional course resources. Make sure to check the website regularly. **Course Powerpoint slides will be posted before class, although I do not guarantee how far in advance.**

GENERAL POINTERS

Regular class attendance and participation will greatly improve your odds of success in this course and will also facilitate the collective success of the class, in addition to assuring that you are present for in-class exercises. If you are unable to attend class on a particular day it is your responsibility to find out what you missed, either from a classmate or by visiting me during my office hours.

It is also important to keep up with the reading assignments. All assigned reading is fair game for the exams. I aim to use class time to *supplement* your textbook reading, so please be aware that you may be tested on material that is included in assigned readings but not specifically addressed during class meetings. You should do the assigned readings *before* class, then review again *after* class to both make sure you are understanding course material and also to see what you might need more time to go over independently when studying.

I encourage you to utilize my office hours if you have any questions about the course material, your standing in the course, or other related matters. I set this time aside each week specifically to meet with my students, so please don't hesitate to stop by! If this time does not work for you, please email me and I will be happy to set up an appointment!

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Quizzes:

There will be FIVE quizzes in this course. Each quiz will be comprised of **50 multiple choice questions** reflecting the material assigned during each unit. Quizzes are NOT cumulative. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Therefore, each quiz is worth 20% of your final grade (totaling 80% of your final grade). Each quiz will be administered in our regular classroom unless you are notified otherwise. The quizzes will be held on the following dates on the class day immediately following the end of each unit:

Quiz 1: September 9

Quiz 2: September 30

Quiz 3: October 21

Quiz 4: November 11

Quiz 5: During our final exam slot: Thursday December 12; 7:30-9:30am

Students **MUST TAKE ALL FIVE EXAMS.**

You should bring a small green Scantron to the test and an appropriate writing utensil to use (i.e. #2 pencil, black ink pen).

Please note that while tardiness is always frowned upon, it is inexcusable on a quiz day. **You must be ON TIME for quizzes.** No new quizzes will be administered after the first student has completed her/his quiz and has exited the classroom.

In Class Writing Responses:

Once a week, we will do brief (2-10 minutes) individual or group exercises in class (note that there will be 14 throughout the semester). In class writing responses will not be announced ahead of time and will be given on a random class day at a random time during the period. These responses involve answering a question, applying concepts or theories, or reflecting on an issue related to sociology. Each student will turn in a hand-written write-up for each response. Most of the time, all students who complete these responses will receive full credit. I reserve the right, however, to use these responses as graded pop-quizzes. Students are allowed to miss **three** of these assignments without losing points.

Absence and Make-Up Policy: In order to be excused for an absence you will be required to provide written documentation of a valid reason for your absence within one week's time (see **LSU Policy Statement 22**, posted on the course website, for a list of valid reasons for student absences). No assignments (exams, term paper, etc.) can be made-up without such documentation.

GRADING

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Quizzes	80% (20% each and the lowest quiz will be dropped)
In Class Writing Responses	20%

Based on the cumulative score earned on these components, letter grades will be assigned as follows:

97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
59 & below	F

EXTRA CREDIT

Suggesting a Song

You can earn one extra credit point toward your final grade for suggesting a song that can be played before class. To suggest a song, please write a new thread on the Song Suggestions forum on Moodle and tell me:

1. Which song you are suggesting (title and artist)
2. Which topic you think it is a good fit for and why.

If you post your selection and it is a good fit, I will give you one extra credit point toward your final grade (up to one per student).

Academic Coaching

The Center for Academic Success offers academic coaching sessions in order to help advise and prepare you for your studies. If you attend an [academic coaching session at the Center for Academic Success](#), I will give you an extra credit point toward your final grade. You can schedule an academic coaching session at this website: <https://www.lsu.edu/cas/about/services/academiccoaching.php>

I created a form to have your coach sign if you do this. **You can find this form on our course Moodle page.** Please print and fill out the form and have your academic coach sign it. Complete the one qualitative question on the form and turn it into me either before/after class or during office hours for your extra credit point. I will accept this extra credit course up until our final exam day.

Additional Extra Credit

I reserve the right to offer additional extra credit assignments throughout the semester, but all extra credit assignments will be available to ALL students. **Announcements about such assignments will be made in class.** I will not offer extra credit to individual students.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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

SPECIAL NEEDS

Louisiana State University is committed to promoting an atmosphere to end discrimination against individuals with special needs, to bring persons with special needs into the social and economic mainstream, and to provide enforceable standards to address discrimination against individuals with special needs. In order to ensure reasonable accommodations, students with special needs should register with the Office of Disability Services. If you anticipate needing special accommodations in this course, please contact me early in the semester so that we can reach a mutual understanding on how to best set you up for success.

IMPORTANT NOTES

1) If you are concerned about your course performance, contact me as soon as possible.

Together we can identify why you are having problems and how you can better position yourself for success. If you wait until the end of the semester to contact me about your status in this course it will be too late! Please also note that new academic policies have been put in place that put serious restrictions on the ability of students to drop and retake classes. These changes make it more important than ever that you take personal responsibility for your course performance.

2) Be respectful of others. Among other things, this means refraining from conversations with other students during lecture, turning off cell phones upon entering the classroom, and waiting until the end of class to pack up your things. If you must leave class early, please choose a seat near the door in order to minimize your disruption of others when exiting the classroom. Last, it is always important that you be respectful of those with opposing points of view. Remember, the open exchange of ideas is a big part of what a college education is all about!

COURSE SCHEDULE

Unit Questions	Week	Topic & Reading	Date	Important Schedule Notes
<u>Unit 1</u> What is Sociology? How do Sociologists Know What They Know?	Week 1	The Sociological Imagination Witt Chapter 1	August 26	Welcome!
			August 28	
			August 30	
	Week 2	Sociological Research Witt Chapter 2	September 2	NO CLASS- LABOR DAY
			September 4	
			September 6	
<u>Unit 2</u> How do we understand, make sense of, learn about and interact with the social world?	Week 3	Culture Witt Chapter 3	September 9	Quiz 1
			September 11	
			September 13	
	Week 4	Socialization Witt Chapter 4	September 16	
			September 18	
			September 20	
	Week 5	Social Structure & Interaction Witt Chapter 5	September 23	
			September 25	
			September 27	
<u>Unit 3</u> How do social class, gender/sexuality and race/ethnicity shape our social experiences?	Week 6	Social Class Witt Chapter 10	September 30	Quiz 2
			October 2	
			October 4	NO CLASS
	Week 7	Gender and Sexuality Witt Chapter 12	October 7	
			October 9	
			October 11	
	Week 8	Race and Ethnicity Witt Chapter 13	October 14	
			October 16	
			October 18	NO CLASS- FALL HOLIDAY
<u>Unit 4</u> How do people conform to and break from norms? How do social forces impact our family life, education and religion?	Week 9	Deviance Witt Chapter 6	October 21	Quiz 3
			October 23	
			October 25	
	Week 10	Families Witt Chapter 7	October 28	
			October 30	
			November 1	
	Week 11	Education and Religion Witt Chapter 8	November 4	
			November 6	
			November 8	

<p><u>Unit 5</u> How do macro social forces impact our lives? How do we impact macro social forces?</p>	Week 12	Economy and Politics	November 11	Quiz 4	
					November 13
		Witt Chapter 9			November 15
	Week 13	Population, Health and Environment Witt Chapter 14		November 18	
				November 20	
				November 22	
	Week 14	NO CLASS		November 25	NO CLASS- THANKSGIVING BREAK
				November 27	
				November 29	
	Week 15	Social Change Witt Chapter 15		December 2	
				December 4	
				December 6	
	Final Exam Period	Thursday December 12		7:30-9:30am	Quiz 5