

## SOCL 2001 Section 8: Introductory Sociology

Dr. Michelle Meyer

Lecture: Coates 143 T/TH 12:00-1:20

Office Hours: TH 8-11, Stubbs 18, mmeyer@lsu.edu

### Course Description

This is a General Education course in the Social Sciences. The goal of courses in this area is to ensure LSU graduates demonstrate an understanding of factors associated with global interdependence, including economic, political, psychological, cultural and linguistic forces. This course will be an introduction to the basic concepts and methods of sociology as a scientific discipline, exploring the functions, structures, and meanings of social organizations, and some of the theories that have been proposed to account for them. Specific topics to be covered include groups, sex and gender, social stratification, ethnicity, globalization, values and norms, socialization, deviance, democracy, environment, and social change.

### Course Objectives

You will leave this class with:

- An understanding of the three main sociological perspectives;
- An understanding of several important sociological theories;
- The ability to apply these perspectives and theories to contemporary social problems;
- Insight into the critical link between social structures, social forces and individual circumstances; and
- Insight into how you shape society and how society shapes you.
- The ability to identify sections of a journal article
- The ability to search the scholarly literature for research

### Required Text

Henslin, J. (2014). *Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach*. Pearson. (with REVEL and Learning Catalytics). ISBN: 9780134350264

### Evaluation

Assignment	% of Overall Grade
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Exam 4	15%
Revel quizzes	30%
In-class participation	10%

#### Exams

There will be four exams throughout the semester. The exams are multiple choice. All exams will be held at the regular class time, except the final. For each exam you will need to bring a small Scantron sheet (50 items per side) and a #2 pencil. Make-ups are only given in EMERGENCY cases (with proof of your emergency). No tests can be taken before a scheduled exam, including the final exam. Make up exams will be given in essay format. No exams will be returned in class; however, you are welcome to go over your exam in my office.

Range	Grade
98-100	A+
92-97.99	A
90-91.99	A-
88-89.99	B+
82-87.99	B
80-81.99	B-
78-79.99	C+
72-77.99	C
70-71.99	C-
68-69.99	D+
62-67.99	D
60-61.99	D-
Below 60	F

#### Quizzes and Attendance

This course uses a Pearson digital product, which contains important assignments and resources used throughout the semester. The required link below is unique to this course. Here is how to register:

1. Visit this link: <https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/e07rwu>

2. Sign in with your Pearson Account. You can either: sign in with an existing Pearson username and password OR create a new Pearson account if this is your first Pearson digital product.

3. Choose your course under 'My Courses' and choose an access option: redeem an access code that you got from the school's bookstore or purchase access online. There is a free trial if you are waiting for financial aid.

We will also use Learning Catalytics (<https://learningcatalytics.com/>), a web-based platform as a tool to gauge attendance and participation.

Extra Credit is available for attending research presentations on campus. Each presentation is worth 1% toward your final grade. Up to 3 presentations can be attended. I require a "selfie" of you at the presentation or with the speaker and a 1-page review of the presentation including topic, research methods, and your critique.

## Disabilities

If you are a student who will need accommodations in this class, please let me know early in the semester. Please see Disability Services to register for accommodations at 115 Johnston Hall ([www.lsu.edu/ods](http://www.lsu.edu/ods).)

## Commitment to Community

*Louisiana State University is an interactive community in which students, faculty, and staff together strive to pursue truth, advance learning, and uphold the highest standards of performance in an academic and social environment.*

In the current age where it seems debate is only vicious and malicious, this class is a place where we express thoughtful opinions, questions, and suggestions as a way to think through the material. We respect each other for who we are and what ideas and experiences we bring to the table. Thus, we engage in active debate with the material; this means asking for clarity of someone else's comments and discussing and debating the perspective they present. I expect everyone to try on different perspectives, like trying on different clothes, and see whether something you always discounted may fit pretty well. There is an enormous difference between disagreeing with someone's perspective and attacking them as a person. The first is the hallmark of scientific inquiry; the second is for talk shows and reality TV and will not be tolerated in this space. Any person who regularly disrupts class will be asked to leave. **Class starts promptly at 12:00.** Be respectful of your classmates and do not be late. No cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. We will learn the importance of our intellectual property in the course and honor ourselves by doing our own work. Suspected cases of cheating will be dealt with through department and university channels.

## Schedule

- 14-Jan-16 Introduction to the Course
- 19-Jan-16 Origins of Sociology
- 21-Jan-16 Doing Sociological Research
- 26-Jan-16 What is Culture? *Final date for dropping courses without receiving a grade of "W", 4:30 p.m. deadline*
- 28-Jan-16 Socialization into the Self and Mind
- 2-Feb-16 Test 1**
- 4-Feb-16 Cultural Diversity Around the World
- 9-Feb-16 *No Class- Mardi Gras*
- 11-Feb-16 Agents of Socialization
- 16-Feb-16 What Holds Society Together?
- 18-Feb-16 Do Your Social Networks Perpetuate Inequality?
- 23-Feb-16 What is Deviance?
- 25-Feb-16 System of Social Stratification
- 1-Mar-16 What is Social Class?
- 3-Mar-16 Race and Ethnicity
- 8-Mar-16 Test 2**
- 10-Mar-16 Issues of Sex and Gender
- 15-Mar-16 Power, Authority, & Violence
- 17-Mar-16 Who Rules the United States?
- 22-Mar-16 *No Class – spring break*
- 24-Mar-16 *No Class – spring break*
- 29-Mar-16 The Globalization of Capitalism
- 31-Mar-16 Test 3** *Final date for dropping course 4/4/16, 4:30 p.m. deadline*
- 5-Apr-16 Marriage and Family
- 7-Apr-16 Education and Industrialization
- 12-Apr-16 The Hidden Curriculum
- 14-Apr-16 What is Religion?
- 19-Apr-16 Population in Global Perspective
- 21-Apr-16 Urbanization
- 26-Apr-16 How Social Change Transforms Social Life
- 28-Apr-16 Sociology and New Technology- Last day of class
- 4-May-16 Test 4- 12:30 -2:30pm**