

Dr. Danielle Thomas
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SOCL 2001 Introduction to Sociology
Class: T/Th 12-1:20pm in 002 Lockett
Office: Stubbs 10 (basement)
Office Hours: Thursdays 10-11:30am or by appointment

Course Description

This is a General Education course. Credit will not be given for this course and SOCL 2002. Major subject areas and principles of sociology.

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.

Sociology is technically defined as “the study of human society.” But that may not mean much to someone who has never heard of sociology or never sat in a sociology class. Perhaps a more helpful way to define sociology is as “a way of looking at the world around us.” Sociologists use the sociological imagination—which is the ability to connect our everyday lives to larger socio-historical patterns—to ask questions about nearly everything in society and to try to figure out the whys and hows of human social life. We study human relationships (i.e. the family), human identities (i.e. gender and sexuality), human change (i.e. social movements), and social problems that are an inevitable part of humans doing life together (i.e. racism and poverty). We use our sociological imaginations to study human society with the hope of finding ways we can do it better...utopia, or a perfect society, might be impossible, but positive change is within reach if we are willing to work together to look at things carefully and then take action based on what we learn. Sociology is just one of many ways of looking that will be helpful for you in whatever degree and/or career you pursue.

Course Objectives

To succeed in this course, you will need to:

- 1) Understand the basics of the discipline of sociology (history of the discipline, key ideas, the basics of using sociology for research, the sociological imagination etc.)
- 2) Use sociological imagination to study (or “look at”) a variety of topics, such as inequality, the family, and social change

To accomplish these objectives, you will need to:

- 1) Read required assignments from the textbook
- 2) Attend and contribute to class twice a week, take notes, participate actively
- 3) Reflect critically on your own experiences; gain a deeper understanding of how you are shaped by and able to shape society

Required Textbook:

Witt, Jon. *SOC 2016*. 4th edition. New York: McGraw Hill.

It is a slightly older edition and is available in the LSU bookstore and online. It should be affordable, around \$20 for used copies online. It’s required for the course, so please do your best to get a copy quicky. There are hard copies and online copies available. Either is fine!

Exams

You will have three exams in this course: **9/18, 10/18, and 12/5 (final)**. The exams will be weighted in your favor, which means your highest exam will count the most toward your final grade as “Exam A” and your worst exam will count the least toward your final grade as “Exam C.”

Each exam will be 50 multiple choice questions that cover material from the textbook chapters, class lectures, and other course materials (e.g. videos we watch in class). Each question will be worth 2 points, and the total points possible is 100.

On exam days, make sure you come to class on time with a **pencil and a scantron** to take your exam. There will be 4 versions of each exam – A, B, C, D – write your name and exam version on the scantron. If you don't write which version of the exam you have, it will not be graded correctly.

Attendance

I will randomly take roll 10 times during the semester. Students who are present in class these days will receive attendance credit. If you are absent, you will lose credit for that day unless I receive documentation (e.g. doctor's note) excusing the absence. If the absence is excused, then it will not count against you.

I will take a head count to make sure the number of names on the role sheet matches the number of students present in class. **Attendance will be worth 10% of your final grade** in the class as a way to reward students who are committed to attending class and engaging in conversations about what we are learning.

Extra Credit

Each student will have the opportunity to earn up to 3 points extra credit in their final grade. To earn the extra credit, you have two options to choose from. You can only earn up to 3 points, so there is no need to do both.

PLEASE NOTE: since this is a very generous extra credit offer – 3 points in your FINAL grade (e.g. a 88 in the class would become a 91) – I will not negotiate grades or come up with additional extra credit opportunities at the end of the semester. Final grades are final grades.

Option 1:

I do a lot of community outreach work in the Gardere neighborhood. There are opportunities for college students to tutor Mondays-Thursdays from about 3-6pm. There are also opportunities to assist with sports programs (football, soccer, dance/cheer).

For this option, you would be required *to serve in Gardere with the tutoring and/or sports programs for a minimum of 15 hours during this semester. You would then write a 2-page essay that:* 1) briefly discusses some of your observations made while serving and 2) connects your experience to at least 2 concepts we have covered in class. Be very specific with your connections and include page #s from the textbook or reference to specific course materials.

You will need to email me to express interest in serving and I will help connect you with the right opportunity. There will be a service log to track your hours and have someone from the community organizations (or me, if I am present when you are) sign off on.

Option 2:

Sociologists often write books based on large research projects. For this option, you will choose a book from a list I provide (on Moodle). Each book is based on a large social research project conducted by a sociologist or

anthropologist. *You will read one of the books and write a 2 page essay* that 1) summarizes the main findings of the research project – what are the author’s conclusions? – and 2) discusses two things you found most interesting about the author’s conclusions.

The essay should clearly demonstrate you read the entire book. If there is not enough evidence you have read the book in your essay—if I suspect cliff notes or online summaries were used—you will not receive full credit.

****for options 1 and 2, essays must be submitted on Moodle by before midnight on Tuesday, November 20 (before Thanksgiving break)****

Make sure any quotations from other sources – including the book you read for option 2 – are cited appropriately. DO NOT plagiarize your essay. Plagiarized essays will not be graded and will be reported to the Office of Student Accountability at LSU. If you have questions about plagiarism, please ask before turning in your essay. For more information concerning plagiarism, review the following document: <https://www.lsu.edu/lsuonline/docs/Academic-Integrity-Orientation-Moodle-Module.pdf>

Grades

Exam A:	35%
Exam B:	30%
Exam C:	25%
Attendance:	10%
Total:	100%

Grade Scale

A+:	97.5-100% (4.3)
A:	92.5-97.49% (4)
A-:	89.5-92.49% (3.7)
B+:	87.5-89.49% (3.3)
B:	82.5-87.49% (3)
B-:	79.5-82.49% (2.7)
C+:	77.5-77.49% (2.3)
C:	72.5-77.49% (2)
C-:	69.5-72.49% (1.7)
D+:	67.5-69.49% (1.3)
D:	62.5-67.49% (1)
D-:	59.5-62.49% (0.7)
F:	59% or below (0)

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

I follow LSU’s guidelines to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information, visit the Office of Disability Services website: <https://www.lsu.edu/disability/students/types-accommodations.php>

If you qualify for accommodations such as a note taker or extra time for exams, please make sure to submit your accommodations letter during the first week of the semester so there is no delay in services.

If circumstances in your life are making it difficult for you to succeed in this course, please reach out to me sooner than later so we can discuss possible options and assistance. I am committed to facilitating a course where all students have an opportunity to learn and contribute.

Course Calendar

	Reading	Assignment
T 8/21	NA	
Th 8/23	Ch. 1	
T 8/28	Ch. 2	
Th 8/30		
T 9/4	Ch. 3	
Th 9/6		
T 9/11	Ch. 4	
Th 9/13		
T 9/18	Exam 1	
Th 9/20	Ch. 5	
T 9/25		
Th 9/27	Ch. 6	
T 10/2		
Th 10/4	Fall Break, no class	
T 10/9	Ch. 7	
Th 10/11		
T 10/16	Ch. 9	
Th 10/18	Exam 2	
T 10/23	Ch. 13	
Th 10/25		
T 10/30	Ch. 12	
Th 11/1	<i>The Mask You Live In</i>	*if you miss class, you are responsible for watching the movie, which you may have to pay for online
T 11/6	Ch. TBA	Students will vote to determine which chapter we will cover (8, 11, or 14)
Th 11/8		
T 11/13	Ch. 10	
Th 11/15		
T 11/20	<i>Inequality for All</i>	*if you miss class, you are responsible for watching the movie, which you may have to pay for online Extra Credit Essays due on Moodle by 11:59pm
Th 11/22	Thanksgiving Break (no class)	
T 11/27	Ch. 15	
Th 11/29	Exam Review	
W 12/5, 10am-12pm	Final Exam (not comprehensive)	