HONORS INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY  
Sociology 2002, Fall 2012

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:50  
117 Tureaud Hall

Professor Tim Slack  
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Email: slack@lsu.edu  
Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 3:00-4:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Honors Introductory Sociology is intended to provide you with a broad overview of the major subject areas and principles of sociology, the scientific study of human society and social behavior. This course will cover some of the basic theoretical perspectives and research methods sociologists use to examine the social world. In addition, this course will introduce you to topics including: relationships between individuals and groups; socialization; deviance and crime; inequality across social class, race, and gender; and social institutions such as the educational system and economy. The overarching objective of this course is to develop your sociological imagination, the ability to think critically about the linkages between individual experience, history, and the workings of society. SOCL 2002 is the same as SOCL 2001, but with a special honors emphasis for qualified students. Honors Introductory Sociology is a general education course in the social sciences.

REQUIRED TEXTS


COURSE WEBSITE
This course makes use of the Moodle website. You should be able to access Moodle through your PAWS account. After you log into PAWS, you will find the link to Moodle under “Student Services.” I will use Moodle to post lecture material, grades, and announcements. Make sure to check the website regularly. There is also a website associated with your textbook. While use of the text website will not be formally required for your coursework, I do encourage you to utilize this resource for study purposes.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Formal attendance will not be taken in this course. However, regular class attendance will greatly improve your odds of success. 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. I will not reiterate information provided in class via email if you were not in attendance.

It is also important to keep up with the reading assignments. Ideally, you should do the readings for each section before we cover the material in class.

I encourage you to utilize my office hours (Tues. and Thurs., 3:00-4:00 PM) if you have questions about the course material, your standing in the course, or other related matters. I set this time aside each week specifically for this purpose, so please don’t hesitate to stop by and see me!
REACTION PAPERS: Another reason regular class attendance will help you succeed in this course is that I will assign 8 reaction papers throughout the semester. Reaction papers will be assigned in class and will be due the following class period. You must complete 5 of the 8 assigned reaction papers over the course of the semester. You may elect to write one extra reaction paper, in addition to the five required, to replace your lowest grade on previous essays. Each reaction paper will be worth 5 points, for a possible total of 25 points. Reaction papers cannot be made-up without written documentation of an excusable absence (see LSU Policy Statement 22, posted on the course website, for examples of valid reasons for absences).

The reaction papers are intended to help you reflect on the course material and improve your writing skills. Each paper should be approximately one typewritten page in Times New Roman 12-point font and will be graded on the basis of two criteria: (1) your thoughtful reaction to the questions posed; and (2) spelling and grammar.

EXAMS: There will be two exams in this course, including both multiple choice and essay questions. All exams will be held in our regular classroom, unless you are otherwise notified. The exams will be held on the following dates:

**MIDTERM EXAM:** TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, REGULAR CLASS TIME

**FINAL EXAM:** MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 12:30 PM

For each exam you will need to bring a small Scantron sheet and a #2 pencil. Please note that while tardiness is always frowned upon, it is inexcusable on an exam day. You must be ON TIME FOR EXAMS. No new exams will be administered after the first student has completed his/her exam and has exited the classroom.

DO NOT MISS EXAMS. If you must miss an exam, you will be required to provide written documentation of a valid reason for your absence within one week of the exam day to take a make-up for full credit (see LSU Policy Statement 22, posted on the course website, for examples of valid reasons for absences). If you miss an exam and cannot provide written documentation of a valid reason for your absence you may still be permitted to take a make-up exam, however 10 points will be deducted from your exam score immediately and each day that passes thereafter, including Saturdays and Sundays. All make-up exams will be administered at my discretion and at a time and place of my choosing. If you also miss a scheduled make-up exam you will receive a zero for your exam grade which will make it extremely difficult to pass this course.

TERM PAPER: You will be required to write a short (8-10 page) term paper on a sociological topic of your choice. There are really countless topics you might explore for your term paper, so be creative! I’d be happy to discuss paper topics with you further as your ideas develop. The term paper is due in class on **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8.** Each of you will spend 5-6 minutes presenting your papers during the final weeks of class. We will discuss this assignment in more detail later in the semester, but start brainstorming ideas early on!
GRADING
Your final grade will be calculated as:

Reaction Papers 25%
Midterm Exam 25%
Final Exam 25%
Term Paper 25%

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

89.5 – 100 A
79.5 – 89.4 B
69.5 – 79.4 C
59.5 – 69.4 D
0 – 59.4 F

Note: There are no extra credit options available in this course.

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. Please note that my office is only accessible via a flight of stairs. If this presents a problem in terms of physical access, please let me know and we can determine an alternative place to meet.

IMPORTANT NOTES
1) This syllabus is subject to change at my discretion.

2) 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.

3) 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!

4) **No laptop computers or other gadgets.** While most students use their laptops for legitimate class purposes, too many students do not. Due to distractions caused by the inappropriate use of laptops, it is with regret that I have chosen to ban their use in my classes.
## COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approx. Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/23</td>
<td>What is Sociology?</td>
<td>G, Chapter 1, R&amp;C, Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/28, 8/30</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>G, Chapter 1, R&amp;C, Essay 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>Culture</td>
<td>G, Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/6</td>
<td>Socialization</td>
<td>G, Chapter 3, R&amp;C, Essay 8</td>
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<td>9/11</td>
<td>Discussion of Term Paper Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/13</td>
<td>Social Structure</td>
<td>G, Chapter 4, R&amp;C, Essay 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/18, 9/20</td>
<td>Groups and Organizations</td>
<td>G, Chapter 5</td>
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**MIDTERM EXAM:** TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

| 9/27, 10/2   | Deviance and Crime                   | G, Chapter 6, R&C, Essay 13 |
| 10/4, 10/9   | Class Stratification                 | G, Chapter 7, R&C, Essay 19 |
| 10/11        | Gender Stratification                | G, Chapter 9, R&C, Essay 11 |
| 10/16, 10/18 | Fall Break (no class)                |                           |
| 10/30, 11/1  | Work and the Economy                 | G, Chapter 13             |
| 11/6, 11/8   | Education                            | G, Chapter 12, R&C, Essay 245 |

**TERM PAPER DUE:** THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

| 11/13, 11/15 | Student Term Paper Presentations     |                           |
| 11/20, 11/22 | Thanksgiving Break (no class)        |                           |
| 11/27, 11/29 | Student Term Paper Presentations, Conclusion and Review |                           |

**FINAL EXAM:** MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 12:30 PM

* G corresponds to readings from Giddens et al. R&C corresponds to readings from Ruane and Cerulo.