

# SOC 133: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

SPRING 2014 | Sections 11563 OR 11564

## Dr. Redmond

Class time:	M W F 9:30-10:20 OR 10:30-11:20
Class location:	Faculty Hall 500
Office location:	Faculty Hall 501D
Office hours:	Mondays and Wednesdays 1-3pm, Fridays 1-5, and by appointment
Office phone:	270-809-4632
Email:	<a href="mailto:dredmond2@murraystate.edu">dredmond2@murraystate.edu</a>

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

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Sociology is the systematic study of society that explains how structure and interaction shape the behavior of individuals and groups. To engage in this type of investigation, sociologists use what C. Wright Mills (1959) calls the “sociological imagination;” that is, sociologists think critically about the world around them. This course has three goals: to introduce students to the field of sociology, to provide students with an understanding of the social forces at play in their everyday lives, and to help students develop their sociological imaginations.

This is a 100-level Sociology course; therefore, it is designed to give a broad-survey of general sociological topics. Toward this end, we will cover the core substantive areas in the field, including culture, socialization, stratification and inequality, race & ethnicity, and the social institutions of family, education, politics and the economy. By the close of the semester, students will be knowledgeable about the discipline’s purpose and will be able to discuss different aspects of our social world.

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### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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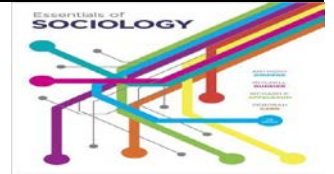
1. Students will communicate effectively sociological concepts/ideas in a variety of formats.
  - a. Students will demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively sociological concepts/ideas in a written document.
2. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of the sociological perspective and core concepts, including the key theoretical perspectives, and their application to social life.
  - a. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the development of sociology, the social forces which shaped its development.
  - b. Students will demonstrate knowledge of key theorists and their contribution to sociology.
  - c. Students will demonstrate knowledge of major theoretical perspectives in sociology (i.e., functionalist, conflict, interactionist) and the ability to apply these perspectives to social life.
3. Students will demonstrate knowledge of principles and methods used in sociological research.
  - a. Students will describe different research methodologies (survey, observation, experiment) used in sociology.
  - b. Students will identify the advantages/disadvantages of different research methodologies.

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## REQUIRED READINGS

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**Giddens, Anthony, Mitchell Duneier, Richard P. Appelbaum, and Deborah Carr.**  
2013. *Essentials of Sociology*. New York: WW Norton & Company  
Incorporated.



### Articles to download from the class webpage

Throughout the semester, readings will be posted on our Canvas webpage under the “files” tab. The name given in this syllabus matches the name given on Canvas.

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## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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### 80% Exams (4 @ 100 points each = 400 points)

Each exam will test your knowledge of the prior weeks’ readings, lectures, and discussions. Exams will typically include multiple-choice, true-false, short answer, or essay questions. The final exam is cumulative in the sense that important core concepts and theories will be evaluated.

Students who have **perfect attendance** and who have thus far earned **an A in the course** will not be required to take the final exam. For their final exam score, these students will receive the average their first three exam scores. Students not taking the final exam must take a no credit quiz via Canvas at the end of the semester.

### 10% Quizzes (10 @ 5 points each = 50 points)

I will administer 12 quizzes via Canvas. Quizzes will be posted in the morning and must be completed before 5:00pm on the day they are posted. (It would not be wise to start a quiz at 4:50pm as the quiz will take more than ten minutes to complete.) These quizzes will be either short answer or multiple-choice and will require you to demonstrate a clear understanding of the course material. I will drop your two lowest quiz scores.

### 10% Response paper (1 @ 50 points = 50 points)

You will be required to write one 2-3 page response paper. Details for the paper are posted on our Canvas page under the “files” tap in the “paper” folder. The paper is due by 5:00pm on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and must be uploaded to Canvas. For every day your paper is late, I will reduce your grade by five points.

### Attendance

Class attendance is required and **lateness is unacceptable**. You may miss four (4) class periods (regardless of the excuse) without penalty. For every absence after the fourth (regardless of the excuse), I will reduce your final grade by 2% (i.e., 10 points). Exam and quiz questions will be based heavily on lecture content, as well as readings. If you are not present, your grade will inevitably suffer.

Observance of religious holidays is considered an excused absence, but **notification (in writing)** should be made to the professor **in the first week of the semester**. If you miss class, for whatever reason, you are responsible for getting assigned materials, notes, and so forth from a classmate.

Classmate information:	
Name	Email
Name	Email

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## GRADING

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			<b>Letter grades</b>		
Quizzes	10%	50	A	500-450	Exceptionally high quality
Paper	10%	50	B	449-400	Good
Exam 1	20%	100	C	399-350	Satisfactory
Exam 2	20%	100	D	349-300	Poor
Exam 3	20%	100	E	299-0	Failure, no credit
Final Exam	20%	100			
	100%	500			

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## COURSE POLICIES

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### **Make-up policy**

There will be no opportunities to make-up missed exams or quizzes. If you absolutely must miss the exam or a quiz, you must **notify me in advance and provide proper documentation**. If (and only if) you provide proper documentation will you be allowed to take the quiz or exam on a different day. Keep in mind that you will only be allowed to take the missed assessment after the class has taken it (i.e., I will not administer early exams). The difficulty of the assessment will reflect the fact that you had more time to study.

### **Incompletes**

I will not grant incompletes unless there are extremely unusual (and documented) circumstances. Please see <http://www.murraystate.edu/Academics/RegistrarsOffice/Registration/Grades.aspx> for more information on the university's grading policies.

### **Academic honesty**

I have failed students for academic dishonesty in the past, and I will do it again. Students are expected to complete their work without the assistance of others. If you need assistance or are having trouble with the course, come see me. All students are expected to conform to the standards of academic honesty (i.e., no cheating, plagiarism, or supplying false information). The university's policy on academic integrity will be fully enforced. The use of sources (i.e., ideas, quotations, and paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. Racer Writing Tutorial Services, which is located on the Main Floor of the Waterfield Library, is a free campus resource. If you have any questions concerning this or other issues of academic honesty, please talk to me. You can find information about the school's policy here:

<http://www.murraystate.edu/Academics/ContinuingEducation/CorrespondenceCourses/PoliciesProcedures.aspx>.

### **Murray State University's Academic Honesty Policy**

Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students' academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

### **Violations of academic honesty include:**

**Cheating** - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.

**Fabrication and falsification** - Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves

inventing or counterfeiting information.

**Multiple submission** - The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

**Plagiarism** - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgement.

Academic dishonesty will result in disciplinary action being taken. Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).
- 2) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.
- 3) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.

### **Students with disabilities**

Students who feel they need accommodations based on the impact of a disability should see me to discuss these needs. You can obtain proper documentation at the Office of Student Disability Services in 423 Wells Hall (or by calling 270-809-2018). Their policies and forms can be found here:

<http://www.murraystate.edu/HeaderMenu/Administration/StudentAffairs/departments/StudentDisabilityServices.aspx>.

### **Non-discrimination policy statement**

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact the Executive Director of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access, 103 Wells Hall, (270) 809-3155 (voice), (270) 809-3361 (TDD).

### **Class conduct**

To promote a positive learning environment, we will follow guidelines for class participation. Appropriate attention and respect should be given to all participants in the class at all times. You show respect by not chatting, passing notes, sleeping or "resting your eyes," making fun of others, leaving early, listening to an MP3 player, or text messaging during class. Cell phones must be turned-off and put away during the entire class session. For every instance (over the course of the entire semester) that I see a cell phone, I will add one question to the final exam. **Please be on time. You are not to use a laptop or iPad during class, except under special circumstances.**

### **Communication**

The best way to contact me is via email (dredmond2@murraystate.edu). Please write "S133" in the subject line. I will check my email twice per day, once in the morning and once in the evening. If you email me later than 5:00pm, I will not receive your email until the next morning. I will try to respond to your email within 24 hours, but do not expect that I can respond immediately. I will check email until 5:00pm on Fridays, but will not reach my email again until Monday morning. I expect that you will check your university email and Canvas at least once per business day.

### **Email etiquette**

Here are guidelines on how to compose your emails:

1. Be sure to include a meaningful subject line; this helps to clarify what your message is about. Your

email subject should begin with the course information (i.e., S133). This should be followed by a colon; then, provide a glimpse of what your email is about.

2. Just like in a written letter, your email must open with a greeting. This means that I expect your email will address me by name, “Professor Redmond.” There is nothing more annoying than an email that begins, “Hey!”
3. Use standard spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN AN EMAIL SCREAMING A MESSAGE IN ALL CAPS. Multiple instances of “!!!” or “???” are perceived as rude or condescending.
4. Read your email out loud before sending it to ensure the tone is that which you desire.
5. When we are engaging in a conversation that continues for several emails—which means that we have volleyed emails back-and-forth –it is okay to remove the formal greeting and closing, but do not become careless by losing your professional tone.

## SEMESTER SCHEDULE\*

DAY	TOPIC	READINGS*
<i>Complete the reading <b>BEFORE</b> class. This is a tentative schedule.</i>		
<b>January 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup></b>		
M	Orientation	
W	The sociological imagination	Gould “The sociological imagination”
F	The sociological imagination	Giddens Chapter 1
<b>January 22<sup>nd</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup></b>		
M	<i>No class</i>	<i>No class</i>
W	Theory	Giddens Chapter 1
F	Methods	Giddens Chapter 1
<b>January 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup></b>		
M	Methods	
W	American culture	Giddens Chapter 2
F	Comparing cultures	Giddens Chapter 2
<b>February 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup></b>		
M	Socialization	Giddens Chapter 3 pages 74-85
W	Socialization	In class video <i>The Secret of A Wild Child</i>
F	Socialization	Giddens Chapter 3 pages 74-85
<b>February 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup></b>		
M	Gender	Giddens Chapter 9
W	Gender	
F	<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>
<b>February 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup></b>		
M	Aging and the life course	Giddens Chapter 3 pages 88-103
W	Aging and the life course	Furstenberg “Growing up”
F	Social interaction	Giddens Chapter 4
<b>February 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup></b>		
M	Impression management	Goffman “The presentation of self”
W	Impression management	
F	Deviance	Giddens Chapter 6
<b>March 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup></b>		
M	Deviance	Levi “Becoming a hit man”
W	Deviance	

F	Family	Giddens Chapter 11
<b>March 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup></b>		
M	Family	Lareau “Unequal childhoods”
W	Family	
F	<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>
<b>March 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup></b> Spring Break. Have fun and BE SAFE		
<b>March 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup></b>		
M	Politics and the economy	In class video <i>The Big One</i>
W	Politics and the economy	Giddens Chapter 13
F	Politics and the economy	
<b>March 31<sup>st</sup>- April 4<sup>th</sup></b>		
M	Social stratification	Giddens Chapter 7
W	Social stratification	
F	Social stratification	Ehrenreich “Introduction” & “serving in Florida”
<b>April 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup></b>		
M	Social stratification	
W	Global inequality	Giddens Chapter 8
F	Global inequality	Auyero “Amidst garbage”
<b>April 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup></b>		
M	Race & ethnicity	<b>PAPER DUE BY 5:00PM</b>
W	Race & ethnicity	Torres “Label us angry”
F	Race & ethnicity	Giddens Chapter 10
<b>April 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup></b>		
M	<b>Exam 3</b>	<b>Exam 3</b>
W	Education	Giddens Chapter 12 pages 362-377
F	Education	Downey “How schools really matter”
<b>April 28<sup>th</sup>-May 2<sup>nd</sup></b>		
M	Health and illness	Giddens Chapter 14
W	Health and illness	In class video <i>In Sickness and In Wealth</i>
F	Health and illness	Scott “Life at the top”
<b>May 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup></b>		
Tuesday	Final exam*	9:30 section 11563 (8:00am on Tuesday, May 6 <sup>th</sup> )
Thursday	Final exam*	10:30 section 11564 (10:30 on Thursday, May 8 <sup>th</sup> )

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#### Dates to Remember

Wednesday, January 15 <sup>th</sup>	Last day to drop any <b>full-semester</b> class within the 100% refund period.
Friday, January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Last day to drop any <b>full-semester class</b> with no grade.
Tuesday, April 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Last day to drop a full semester class.</b> Student will receive a grade of W (no penalty). <b>Last day to change a full semester class from credit to AUDIT.</b> Approved AUDIT form <b>MUST</b> be submitted to the Registration Office, basement Sparks Hall by 4:30 p.m.