

**Lehigh University**  
**Spring 2017**  
**SOC001: Introduction to Sociology**

Professor: Danielle Lindemann ([djl315@lehigh.edu](mailto:djl315@lehigh.edu))  
Office: 223 Williams Hall / Office Hours: By Appointment

Lectures:

Tuesday/Thursday 10:45-11:35 am (Packard Lab 101)

Recitations and TAs:

Section 110 (Thurs., 12:10-1:00 pm in Chandler-Ullmann Hall 317) – Austin Toth  
([aat416@lehigh.edu](mailto:aat416@lehigh.edu))

Section 111 (Thurs., 1:10-2:00 pm in Chandler-Ullmann Hall 317) – Austin Toth  
([aat416@lehigh.edu](mailto:aat416@lehigh.edu))

Section 113 (Thurs., 3:10-4:00 pm in Chandler-Ullmann Hall 317) - Cynthia Pando  
([clp316@lehigh.edu](mailto:clp316@lehigh.edu))

Section 114 (Fri., 9:10-10:00 am in Chandler-Ullmann Hall 317) – Elise Wolff  
([elw316@lehigh.edu](mailto:elw316@lehigh.edu))

Section 115 (Fri., 10:10-11:00 am in Chandler-Ullmann Hall 317) - Cynthia Pando  
([clp316@lehigh.edu](mailto:clp316@lehigh.edu))

Section 116 (Fri., 11:10 am-12:00 pm in Maginnes Hall 101) – Elise Wolff  
([elw316@lehigh.edu](mailto:elw316@lehigh.edu))

Section 117 (Fri. 12:10-1:00 pm in Chandler-Ullmann Hall 317) – Chris Minnich  
([cam815@lehigh.edu](mailto:cam815@lehigh.edu))

Section 118 (Fri. 1:10-2:00 pm in Chandler-Ullmann Hall 317) – Chris Minnich  
([cam815@lehigh.edu](mailto:cam815@lehigh.edu))

**Course Description:**

What does it mean to have a “sociological imagination”? How are our everyday decisions, actions, tastes, and attitudes constrained and enabled by broader social forces? In this class, we will explore the theories, methods, and research relevant to contemporary sociology. In analyzing the relationship of the individual to broader society, we will engage with themes such as patterns of social interaction, group behavior and attitudes, social structure, and social change.

After discussing the primary theoretical frameworks and research methods that sociologists use, we will delve into some of the major topics within the discipline, including culture and media, deviance, class stratification, gender and sexuality, race, health and medicine, family, education, religion, and social movements. In each of these areas, we will focus on the tension between the constraining nature of the social structure and the agency of the individual.

Grading is based on class participation, two multiple-choice exams, one short writing assignment, and a final 5-to-7-page research paper, which each student will develop over the course of the semester with the aid of a TRAC Fellow. The required textbook is Dalton Conley’s *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist* (Fourth Edition).

## Course Objectives:

*By the end of the semester, students should be able to...*

- ...define “sociology” and understand the major terms and debates within the discipline.
  - ...understand the basic methodological procedures used in the discipline.
  - ...have a basic understanding of a variety of sub-fields within sociology.
  - ...understand how sociology “makes the familiar strange.”
  - ...understand and apply the concept of a “sociological imagination.”
  - ...think critically about their own lives, and the lives of others, using a sociological framework.
  - ...identify the tension between “structure” and “agency” and grasp how these two concepts operate in everyday life.
- and*
- ...write a research paper, developing a coherent, unified argument and accurately citing relevant scholarship to support that argument.

## TRAC Writing Program & TRAC Fellows:

This course will be participating in Lehigh University’s Writing Across the Curriculum Program. An assigned TRAC Fellow (a trained peer writing tutor) will work individually with every student to help craft and strengthen the writing of his or her final research paper. You must meet with your TRAC Fellow twice during the semester. Your Fellow will reach out to you to schedule these meetings. Details will be explained in greater depth in class and are also available on the assignment sheet for the final research paper (Coursesite). The lead TRAC fellow for this course is **Angie Rizzo** ([amr714@lehigh.edu](mailto:amr714@lehigh.edu)).

## Grading:

*(See “Calculating Your Grade” sheet on Coursesite for additional information.)*

**Participation (10% of final grade)** – Participation includes attendance in both lecture and your recitation section, as well as regular engagement (speaking). You must do both (attend and engage) to receive a high grade in this area. If you have more than two unexcused absences from either lecture or recitation, it will impact your participation grade. Absences will only be “excused” for illness or Lehigh-related activities *with appropriate documentation* (e.g. note from medical provider, Dean, etc.). You should give documentation to your TA.

**“Nacirema” short writing assignment (15% of final grade)** – Each student will write a short (2-4 page) assignment on the theme of “Making the Familiar Strange.” This assignment should be uploaded to Coursesite prior to the start of lecture (10:45 am) on **Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**. *See assignment sheet on Coursesite.*

**In-Class Exam #1 (25% of final grade)** – The first in-class, multiple-choice exam on **Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** will cover material from the first half of the course. Questions will be drawn from both lecture material and the textbook.

**In-Class Exam #2 (25% of final grade)** – The second in-class, multiple-choice exam on **Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** will cover material from the second half of the course. Questions will be drawn from both lecture material and the textbook.

**Final Research Paper (25% of grade)** – Each student will write a 5-to-7-page paper on the theme of “Structure and Agency at Lehigh University.” The final version of this assignment should be uploaded to Coursesite prior to the start of lecture (10:45 am) on **Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**. *See assignment sheet on Coursesite.*

Please note that you must upload your papers to Coursesite in Word or PDF formats only. Otherwise we may not be able to open them and you will be penalized for lateness.

- If you do not upload your *paper proposal* to Coursesite for your TRAC Fellow by the deadline (10:45 am on **Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**), you will lose ½ a grade on the final paper.
- If you do not *meet with your TRAC Fellow* to discuss the proposal before the first draft is due, you will lose ½ a grade on the final paper.
- If you do not upload your *first draft* to Coursesite for your TRAC Fellow by the deadline (10:45 am on **Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**), you will lose ½ a grade on the final paper.
- If you do not *meet with your TRAC Fellow* to discuss your paper draft, **before 5 pm on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**, you will lose ½ a grade on the final paper.

### **Missed Exams and Late Papers:**

With rare exceptions, students must take exams with the rest of the class on the day they are administered. Regarding both the short writing assignment and final research paper, you will lose ½ a grade for each day these assignments are late. Written assignments that are turned in more than three days after the deadline will not be accepted.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodations, please contact both your TA and the Office of Academic Support Services, Williams Hall, Suite 301 (610-758-4152) as early as possible in the semester. You must have documentation from the Academic Support Services office before accommodations can be granted.

### **The Principles of Our Equitable Community:**

Lehigh University endorses The Principles of Our Equitable Community [[http://www.lehigh.edu/~inprv/initiatives/PrinciplesEquity\\_Sheet\\_v2\\_032212.pdf](http://www.lehigh.edu/~inprv/initiatives/PrinciplesEquity_Sheet_v2_032212.pdf)]. We expect each member of this class to acknowledge and practice these Principles. Respect for each other and for differing viewpoints is a vital component of the learning environment inside and outside the classroom.

### **Student Senate Statement on Academic Integrity:**

“We, the Lehigh University Student Senate, as the standing representative body of all undergraduates, reaffirm the duty and obligation of students to meet and uphold the highest principles and values of personal, moral and ethical conduct. As partners in our educational community, both students and faculty share the responsibility for promoting and helping to ensure an environment of academic integrity. As such, each student is expected to complete all academic course work in accordance to the standards set forth by the faculty and in compliance with the University's Code of Conduct.”

### **Coursesite:**

Lecture slides and all other course-related documents (*e.g.* assignment descriptions, syllabus, *etc.*) are available on the website (<http://coursesite.lehigh.edu/>) for this class.

### **Required Textbook:**

Aside from the “Nacirema” reading (which is available on Coursesite), all readings for the course will be drawn from Dalton Conley’s *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist* (Fourth Edition, Norton, 2015). You may buy an older version of the textbook; however, page numbers vary between editions. You are responsible for making sure you are reading the correct sections for each class.

The textbook is available at the Lehigh bookstore and through other sellers. You can also get the textbook as an e-book for \$35 on the publisher’s website: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/youmayask4>.

## Schedule of Assignments:

### WEEK 1: What Is Sociology?

Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

*There are no readings assigned for this class session.*

Thursday, January 26<sup>st</sup>

*Read for today: "Body Ritual among the Nacirema" (available on CourseSite) **and** Conley, pp. 3-32 (Ch. 1, up to "Sociology and Its Cousins")*

### WEEK 2: How Do We Do Sociology? (Research Methods)

Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 43-56 (Ch. 2, up to "Data Collection")*

Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 56-70 (Ch. 2, from "Data Collection" to end of chapter)*

### WEEK 3: Topics in Sociology: Culture and Media

Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 73-90 (Ch. 3, up to "Media")*

Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 90-111 (Ch. 3, from "Media" to end of chapter)*

**"Nacirema" short writing assignment due to Coursesite prior to the start of lecture (10:45 am) today.**

--I will discuss your final paper assignment in lecture today.

--Gregory Skutches (Director, Writing Across the Curriculum) will be in class today to speak about the TRAC Fellows program.

### WEEK 4: Library Resources / Socialization and Groups

**It is important for you to attend this week's recitation, which will focus on library resources. If you have a laptop, please bring it to your recitation section this week.**

Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

Lehigh University librarian Carrie Baldwin-Sorelle will come to lecture today to speak about library resources and citation for your final papers.

*There are no readings assigned for this class session.*

Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 113-139 (Ch. 4, up to "Ethnomethodology")*

### WEEK 5: Social Networks

**Note: There are no recitation sections this week. Your professor and TAs will be away at a conference.**

Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 149-172 (Ch. 5, up to "Network Analysis in Practice")*

Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>

**There is no lecture today. However, you must upload your 1-page paper proposal to Coursesite for your TRAC fellow by 10:45 am today.**

WEEK 6: Topics in Sociology: Stratification: Class and Gender

Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 246-272 (Ch. 7, from “Forms of Stratification” to end of chapter)*

Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 275-296 (Ch. 8, up to “Sociology in the Bedroom”)*

WEEK 7: Topics in Sociology: Sexuality (and Exam #1)

**Note: There are no recitation sections this week.**

Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 296-304 (Ch. 8, from “Sociology in the Bedroom” up to “Growing Up, Getting Ahead, and Falling Behind”)*

We will also do a brief review for the exam in lecture today. Please come to lecture prepared with any lingering questions you may have about the material prior to the exam.

Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – **IN-CLASS EXAM #1**

WEEK 8: Spring Break

Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> - NO CLASS

Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> - NO CLASS

WEEK 9: Topics in Sociology: Social Control and Deviance

Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 185-211 (Ch. 6, up to “Broken Windows Theory of Deviance”)*

Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 211-230 (Ch. 6, from “Broken Windows Theory of Deviance” to end of chapter)*

WEEK 10: Topics in Sociology: Race and Health

Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 321-346 (Ch. 9, up to “Minority-Majority Group Relations”)*

Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 407-439 (Ch. 11, up to “The Age of AIDS”)*

WEEK 11: Topics in Sociology: Family and Education

Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 449-473 (Ch. 12, up to “Swimming and Sinking: Inequality and American Families”)*

Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 493-527 (Ch. 13, up to “All in the Family”)*

**You must upload your paper first draft to Coursesite for your TRAC fellow by 10:45 am today.**

WEEK 12: Two Thing You Should Never Talk about at the Dinner Table: Politics and Religion

Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 577-607 (Ch. 15: from “Authority, Legitimacy, and the State” to end of chapter)*

Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 609-639 (Ch. 16, up to “Selling God and Shopping for Faith”)*

WEEK 13: How Does Change Happen?

Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 691-717 (Ch. 18, up to “Premodern, Modern, and Postmodern Societies”)*

Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

*Read for today: Conley, pp. 717-729 (Ch. 18, from “Premodern, Modern, and Postmodern Societies” to end of chapter)*

**Students must have met with their TRAC Fellows to discuss their paper drafts by 5 pm today.**

WEEK 14

**Note: This is the last week of recitation sections.**

Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> – Exam review. *There are no assigned readings for today’s class session.*

However, please come to lecture prepared with any lingering questions you may have about the material prior to the exam.

Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> – **IN-CLASS EXAM #2**

*There are no assigned readings for today’s class.*

WEEK 15

**Note: There are no recitation sections this week.**

Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Individual conferences (Attendance in this class session is optional). The professor and TAs will be available in the lecture hall to answer questions and provide feedback on final drafts of papers.

*There are no assigned readings for today’s class.*

Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – Course wrap-up and evaluations (Attendance is mandatory!)

**Final research paper must be uploaded to Coursesite prior to the start of lecture (10:45 am) today.**

*There are no assigned readings for today’s class.*

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER! ☺