

## SOC 150: Introduction to Sociology

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### Class on Tuesdays & Thursdays in Sperry 304

Section: 004 CRN: 91464 4:25 P.M. to 5:40 P.M.  
Section: 005 CRN: 93266 6:00 P.M. to 7:15 P.M.

### Office Hours in Moffett 2110

7:15-9:00pm on Tuesday & Thursday  
(Also By Appointment)

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### Course Description

This course examines social structure, social institutions, social processes and major social forces that impact our lives. The course has an emphasis on the structures and features of American society. (No prerequisites)

### Class Format

This class is highly interactive, and will involve the use of various media including video, music, online tools, and in-class presentations. The class is discussion driven, with several required interactive class activities. Students are expected to engage in regular discussion, and be active and involved participants in the learning process. Most lectures will focus on the material presented in the assigned text, offering expansion, clarification and in-depth analysis; however the course will also employ additional learning tools and activities. Also, opportunities to explore campus activities, academic planning, and campus services will be available throughout the term.

### Paperless Class Initiative

This class is part of a paperless course initiative. As a result, whenever possible course materials will be distributed electronically. Exams and quizzes are generally delivered on paper (unless delivered via eLearning). Class notes, the syllabus and course schedule(s) are posted to eLearning for your use. Paper-saving processes are in place as well, including double-sided printing, space-conserving copy, and the use of partly or completely recycled paper. You can learn more here: <http://www2.cortland.edu/about/sustainability/>

### Required Textbook

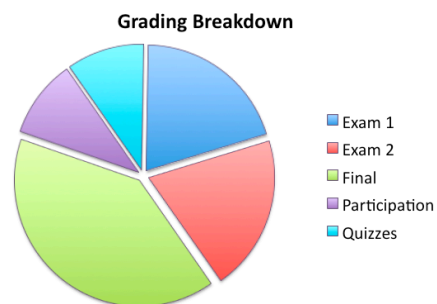
We have only one required textbook for the class: Think Sociology, authored by *John D. Carl* (ISBN 0-13-175459-9). The textbook is very visual, with a unique and contemporary way of presenting course material. The textbook will cost about \$55 new, and you can obtain a used copy online for as little as \$35 (found on Amazon). The textbook is available on campus, online and at Mando books downtown. You may also buy an electronic version (e-Textbook) for \$30. You will NOT be required to tote your book to class, so an online version might be a good option for you. I do not endorse or recommend any option above another.

### Additional Reading Material

Some brief excerpts from source material may be provided throughout the semester. These will be required or may serve as optional /supplemental reading. Additional reading will always be timed to correspond with textbook readings, daily topics, or class discussions.

## Grading: Exams & Quizzes

The class will consist of three exams. The first exam is worth 20%, the second exam is 20% of your final, and the third is 40% of your final grade. The final exam is the most substantial, and has cumulative elements. Study guides and review opportunities presented by the instructor will be made available prior to each exam. Students are responsible for all assigned readings, which may appear on the exam. To encourage reading and class participation, a number of unannounced quizzes will occur. The quizzes will have scores evenly averaged and applied as a weighted element of your grade. The timing of the quizzes, the day of the quizzes and the material within them, is at my discretion. The quizzes will relate to current material, which may include specific discussions or events within the class on the given day. (10% of total grade)



## Grading: Class Participation

Participation, based mostly on attendance, with class discussion and external activities factored in, will round off the final 10% of your grade. Please be in attendance, and be attentive, to receive full credit for participation.

## Class / Teaching Policy

In accord with College policy, and the ethics of teaching and university administration, the syllabus, course policies, and grading policies will be adhered to. These rules exist in order to ensure that all students are informed, and have the same levels of access to course materials and coursework that may impact their grades. I do not negotiate on the contents of the syllabus. If you remain enrolled in the class, you accept the conditions of the syllabus.

The professor reserves the right to: (1) alter reading and assignments if it is deemed to be in the best interest of learning the subject (2) alter the schedule to adjust for time constraints or better-than expected progress and (3) correct any errors present in the syllabus. The schedule is most often adjusted to make room for time constraints. Additional assignments, tests etc. will not be added to change the criteria for grade assessments.

The grading criteria will be adhered to strictly. Test assessments and grades may be adjusted only in the event of grading, content or processing error made by the instructor or grading devices. Any grade changes, as the result of error, will be universally applied to all students who fall under the error.

If you are struggling, or otherwise not comprehending the material, please see me immediately. If you have a disability or work with the Office of Disability Services, please provide me with notice, documentation or instructions so I may help you succeed in the class.

Extra credit opportunities open to all students may be built into the class structure to allow for an opportunity to be rewarded for additional independent efforts. The principle of equal access and parity in assessment prohibits instructors from providing only some students with extra opportunities without justification.

Grades and final grade assessments cannot be reconsidered unless there is an error resulting from instructor error or processing errors. Incomplete grades cannot, and will not, be used to offer students an extension in order to complete assignments unless such an extension is warranted due to uncontrollable or warranted

circumstances as recognized by the College (illness, religious beliefs, bereavement etc..).

## Attendance Policies

As required by the College, attendance is taken at each class period, and is kept in my class file. You must have a valid excuse for missing class. Valid excuses are defined by College policies. You can miss class only three times without an excuse with no grading penalty. You are still responsible for delivering any assignments due on these days, on these days, not after. You are also responsible for any material, notices, in-class grading, group work, or new assignments you may have missed when absent. Following the third missed class (the fourth class), you (1) are dropped 25% of your participation grade (2) the next additional absence (fifth class) results in 50% on participation (3) the next absence (sixth class), you receive 0% participation. For each absence following, you are deducted an entire letter grade from your overall grade, in addition to the participation reductions above.

Excuses, medical excuses, athletic absences or paperwork must be appropriately dated. Any documentation provided must cover all days missed. Attendance sheets will be handed out at every class; it is your responsibility to be sure that it is signed. If your name is not on the sheet, write it in. You must be present for the entire class to be considered in attendance. If you leave early, or come late, you may be considered absent. I reserve the right to circulate the attendance sheet multiple times. Only the first class day, religious holidays, and special event days as defined by the College calendar will not be counted in attendance counts.

If I cancel class due to weather, or an unavoidable absence on my part, I will adjust the schedule accordingly. Obviously, when I cancel class, in accord with College policy I will make accommodations to suit students, and adjust the schedule or exam content to accommodate missed class time.

## Plagiarism & Academic Integrity

The College is an academic community whose mission is to promote scholarship through the acquisition, preservation and transmission of knowledge. Fundamental to this goal is the institution's dedication to academic integrity. Providing an atmosphere that promotes honesty and the free exchange of ideas is the essence of academic integrity. In this setting all members of the institution have an obligation to uphold high intellectual and ethical standards.

All written assignments are verified using E.V.E. (Essay Verification Engine) or Turn-It-In. If you plagiarize, you will fail this course. All other forms of academic dishonesty, including cheating in any form, will result in failure as well. In addition, the College administration may seek further action, up to and including expulsion.

SUNY Cortland's policy on academic integrity is published in the College Handbook and in the Code of Student Conduct. The policy reads in part:

- 1. Students are responsible for knowing the policy on academic integrity. Failure of a faculty member to remind a student of what constitutes academic integrity and academic dishonesty will not obviate this responsibility.*
- 2. Students should not provide opportunities for others to obstruct academic integrity.*
- 3. Students should inform a faculty member or member of the administration if any infringement of academic integrity takes place.*

Plagiarism must be proven, observable by the instructor, and attestable. If there is a suspected act of

plagiarism, I will provide you with formal notice, and a formal opportunity to respond and defend your action. I will also involve other third parties in the interest of fairness and as required by College policy. You will have the right to appeal any finding under the College policies. You can learn more about academic honesty procedures here: [http://www.cortland.edu/handbook/hb08\\_10/part3.html#Anchor-CHAPTER-55306](http://www.cortland.edu/handbook/hb08_10/part3.html#Anchor-CHAPTER-55306)

## Testing Arrangements

Tests are to be taken at the time and place scheduled, unless arrangements have been made at least one week in advance, or a sudden and/or unavoidable event occurs. Students with disabilities / documented needs will receive any and all needed accommodations. Please make me aware of your needs and I will work with the College and support services to meet them. If you have other issues that may impact your ability to take an exam at the prescribed time or location, please let me know in advance. If you miss an exam due to a sudden emergency or issue, please let me know as soon as you are able, so a make-up can be considered.

## Classroom Environment

It is my intention to create and maintain an open and comfortable learning and teaching environment. Please adhere to the following rules of conduct to help me reach this goal:

- Please do not come to class late or leave early. If you must enter class late, do so quietly and do not disrupt the class by walking between the class and the instructor. Coming late, by the way IS BETTER than not coming at all.
- Do not leave class before dismissal unless it is an absolute necessity. You must be present for the entire class to be considered in attendance. If you must leave early, please see me at the start of class for permission (when possible).
- Please do not speak with other classmates while the instructor or another student is speaking. If you have a question or comment, please raise your hand, rather than starting a conversation about it with your neighbor. Please also refrain from talking when the class is watching media or presentations.
- Please turn off electronics: cell phones, pagers, and music players. Recording devices and assistive technologies are absolutely welcome and permitted, as are laptops provided you use them to view and record class material.
- Please avoid audible and visible signs of restlessness. These are both rude and disruptive to the rest of the class.
- Please focus on class material during class time. Sleeping, talking to others, doing work for another class, reading the newspaper, and checking e-mail (for example) are unacceptable and disrupting.

## Students with Disabilities

SUNY Cortland is committed to upholding and maintaining all aspects of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) approved in 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students with disabilities can request accommodations through the Office of Disabilities Services in Van Hoesen Hall, Room B-1 (607-753-2066). Any information regarding your disability will remain strictly confidential with both the instructor and the office. Because many accommodations require early planning, requests for accommodations should be made as early as possible. I will make every attempt to accommodate students.

## Learning Outcomes

SOC 150 conforms to the following NCATE Liberal Learning outcomes:

- S: Social Justice

- G: Global Understanding

This course conforms to the following Teacher Candidate Learning Outcomes:

- 1: Demonstrate a solid foundation in the arts and sciences.
- 2: Possess in-depth knowledge of the subject areas to be taught.
- 11: Demonstrate sufficient technology skills and the ability to integrate technology into teaching/learning.
- 12: Foster respect for individual's abilities and disabilities and an appreciation of variations of ethnicity, culture, language, gender, age, class and sexual orientation.



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