Introduction to Sociology

**Professor:** Liz Chiarello  
**Office:** Morrissey Hall 1921  
**Email:** chiarello@slu.edu  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment  
**Classroom:** McGannon Hall 262  
**Course Number:** SOC 1110  
**Meeting Day/Time:** MWF 12:00-12:50PM  
**Website:** blackboard.slu.edu

**Course Description**

This survey course offers students the opportunity to examine the world through a sociological lens. By developing and strengthening their sociological imaginations, students will become adept at linking individual challenges to broad social problems, recognizing how nested sets of social systems relate to each other and impact social life. We will begin by tracing the history of the field, noting key theorists and their critical perspectives. Next, we will address how sociology developed as a social science and the scientific tools sociologists use to examine our social world. We will examine key socializing agents such as family, peers, educators, religion, the internet, and mass media as they affect individuals’ lives and broad social trends. We will consider the historical and contemporary factors that shape inequalities in terms of class, race/ethnicity, gender, and sexuality and how these inequalities persist on a domestic and global scale. We will broaden our understandings of topics such as politics and health and illness by adopting sociological perspectives. Overall, this course will help students map the diverse and dynamic field of sociology. This course will offer an engaged, student-centered learning environment in which students actively participate in the construction of knowledge and analysis of social, cultural, and political trends.

**Course Objectives**

- Establish a strong working knowledge of the field of sociology  
- Learn to consume media critically by assessing the quality and positionality of sources  
- Synthesize sociological theory with contemporary data  
- Enhance real-world understandings of social phenomena  
- Improve writing skills by writing for academic audiences

**Required Readings**


All other readings are located on the Blackboard site for this course.

**Course Requirements**

1. **Pop Quizzes (worth 200 points):** Quizzes are designed to test your understanding of course material. Ten quizzes will be offered over the course of the semester. Quizzes can cover any topic we have addressed prior to the quiz date, not just the readings from that week. Quizzes will take place at the
beginning of class. If you are late to class, you will not receive extra time to take the quiz, so be sure to come to class on time and prepared to work. No make-up quizzes will be offered without official (doctor’s note or equivalent) documentation to explain your absence.

2. **Living Sociologically: Student Experiences (worth 300 points)**: We are not just sociologists in the classroom, we are sociologists out in the world. These experiences are designed to help you direct your budding sociological imaginations towards daily experiences and to use those experiences to sharpen your sociological imaginations. To that end, you will choose three out of four student experiences to complete and discuss in class. Details on these experiences will be included in separate assignments on Blackboard.

3. **Mid-Term Exam (worth 200 points)**: The mid-term exam will gauge your understanding of course material. Any topics covered prior to the exam date are fair game for inclusion on the exam. If you are late to class, you will not receive extra time to take the exam, so be sure to come to class on time and prepared to work. No make-up exams will be offered without official (doctor’s note or equivalent) documentation to explain your absence.

4. **Final Exam (worth 200 points each)**: The final exam will gauge your understanding of course material. The exam is comprehensive, meaning that any topics covered prior to the exam date (including materials covered prior to the midterm) are fair game for inclusion on the exam. If you are late to class, you will not receive extra time to take the exam, so be sure to come to class on time and prepared to work. No make-up exams will be offered without official (doctor’s note or equivalent) documentation to explain your absence. The date and location of the final exam are noted on the syllabus in the section titled “Daily Assignments” in the row titled “Exam Period.”

5. **Attendance/Participation (worth 100 points)**: This class involves building knowledge over time through reading, lecture, and discussion. You cannot participate in this process if you are not present. **I take attendance each day** and award participation points based on making thoughtful contributions and asking compelling questions. **BE ON TIME! If you enter class after I have taken attendance, you will not receive attendance points for that day.** If you have extenuating circumstances that will make it difficult for you to get to class on time, let me know and I will do my best to accommodate you (but be prepared to offer proof). The first two classes missed will result in 3 points removed from your attendance grade. If you miss between three and four classes, absences 3 and 4 will result in a removal of 10 points from your attendance grade for each absence. Missing 5 or more classes will result in a lowering of your course grade by one letter grade in addition to the attendance points lost. In a nutshell, don’t miss class!

**Grade Breakdown – 1000 Points Possible**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% to 100%</td>
<td>930-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90% to 92.9%</td>
<td>900-929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87% to 89.9%</td>
<td>870-899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84% to 86.9%</td>
<td>840-869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80% to 83.9%</td>
<td>800-839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77% to 79.9%</td>
<td>770-799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74% to 76.9%</td>
<td>740-769</td>
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</table>
**SLU’s Undergraduate Grading Scale: Arts & Sciences**

The undergraduate grading system at Saint Louis University follows a 0 - 4.000 grade point scale. Grades are assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.000</td>
<td>High achievement and intellectual initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.700</td>
<td>Approaching high achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.300</td>
<td>Slightly higher than above average achievement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.000</td>
<td>Above average achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.700</td>
<td>Approaching above average achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.300</td>
<td>Slightly higher than average achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.000</td>
<td>Average achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.700</td>
<td>Below average achievement. Grade may not fulfill “C or better” course requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>Inferior but passing achievement. Students should check individual School or departmental policies for further information on potential implications of “D” grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Class Policies - Important Things to Know For This Class

BE PREPARED!
This course works better when everyone is engaged, and you can engage best when you have done the reading and arrive prepared to discuss it. A large proportion of your grade comes from in-class work (attendance/participation) so it is essential that you attend each class and come prepared to discuss the material. I will not give incompletes in this course. Joining the class late is never an excuse for missing assignments. You will lose points for any assignment(s) you missed during your absence. Pay attention to deadlines.

ETIQUETTE – WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU IN THIS COURSE
As with all classes, your behavior should be professional and academic. This means getting to class on time, turning off cell phones, computers, tablets, ending chat sessions and being prepared to work. If you are waiting for an emergency call, let me know before class starts and I am happy to accommodate you.

BLACKBOARD/EMAILS
Please visit the course Blackboard site frequently to check for updates. All handouts are posted on Blackboard. Also, check your emails frequently, I send out important information via email. If you have not activated your SLU account or you do not clean out your email disk space frequently, you will not get these emails. Please let me know if you have an alternate email account that you want me to use. If you have something you would like to discuss, meet with me before or after class or set up an appointment with me at another time. E-mailing is often not the best or most efficient way for me to help you. I attempt to respond to e-mails within 24 hours, but do not respond in the evenings or on weekends, so be sure to leave yourself plenty of time to prepare for your assignments in case questions arise (and they inevitably do).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND HONESTY
Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy was adopted in Spring 2015, and can be accessed on the Provost's Office website at: http://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic_affairs/University-wide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%206-26-15.pdf.

Additionally, each SLU College, School, and Center has adopted its own academic integrity policies, available on their respective websites. All SLU students are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions, and appeals. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the
department of your academic program, or the Dean/Director of the College, School or Center in which your program is housed.

**TITLE IX**

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU’s Title IX coordinator, Anna R. Kratky (DuBourg Hall, room 36; akratky@slu.edu; 314-977-3886) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK. To view SLU’s sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address: [http://www.slu.edu/general-counsel-home/office-of-institutional-equity-and-diversitysexual-misconduct-policy](http://www.slu.edu/general-counsel-home/office-of-institutional-equity-and-diversitysexual-misconduct-policy) www.slu.edu/here4you.

**DISABILITY SERVICES AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Please contact Disability Services, located within the Student Success Center, at Disability_services@slu.edu or 314.977.3484 to schedule an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services and viewed within Banner via the instructor’s course roster.

**STUDENT SUCCESS**

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. The Student Success Center, a one-stop shop, which assists students with academic and career related services, is located in the Busch Student Center (Suite, 331) and the School of Nursing (Suite, 114). Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, academic coaching, career services, and/or facets of curriculum planning) by visiting the Student Success Center or by going to [www.slu.edu/success](http://www.slu.edu/success).
- Student Success Center: [www.slu.edu/success](http://www.slu.edu/success)
- Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching & Learning: [www.slu.edu/cttl](http://www.slu.edu/cttl)

**COURSE CONTENT DISCLAIMER**

In this course, students may be required to read text or view materials that they may consider offensive. The ideas expressed in any given text do not necessarily reflect the views of the instructor, the Sociology Department, or Saint Louis University. Course materials are selected for their historical and/or cultural
relevance, or as an example of stylistic and/or rhetorical strategies and techniques. They are meant to be examined in the context of intellectual inquiry of the sort encountered at the university level.

WRITING CENTER
I encourage you to take advantage of the writing services in the Student Success Center; getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. Trained writing consultants can help with any writing, multimedia project, or oral presentation. During the one-on-one consultations, you can work on everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. These services do fill up, so please make an appointment! For more information, or to make, change, or cancel an appointment, call 977-3484 or visit http://www.slu.edu/writingservices.xml.

Course Evaluations

INSTRUCTOR/COURSE EVALUATION
The instructor and course will be evaluated at the end of the term by students through the use of Webct. Each evaluation will cover the quality and relevance of course material and the quality of instruction. The intent is to seek information which will help to improve both the quality of the course and instructional competence. In completing these evaluations, the each student should be mindful of the extent to which the course objectives have been met.

All course evaluations will be conducted online towards the end of the semester. Your feedback is important for improving the course next time around, so please be sure to fill out the evaluation form.
### Daily Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 1</th>
<th>AN INTRODUCTION TO THINKING SOCIOLOGICALLY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MONDAY, 8/24</strong></td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY, 8/26</strong></td>
<td>In-Class Activity Icebreaker Course Overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRIDAY, 8/28</strong></td>
<td>In-Class Activity Identifying Contemporary Social Problems: Newspaper Activity</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 2</th>
<th>SOCIOLOGY: THEORY AND METHOD; SOCIALIZATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MONDAY, 8/31</strong></td>
<td>Required Reading Essentials of Sociology, Chapter 1, pp. 3-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY, 9/2</strong></td>
<td>Required Reading Essentials of Sociology, Chapter 1, pp. 23-39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRIDAY, 9/4</strong></td>
<td>Required Reading Essentials of Sociology, Chapter 3, pp. 74-88</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 3</th>
<th>SOCIALIZATION, THE LIFE COURSE, AND AGING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MONDAY, 9/7</strong></td>
<td>NO CLASS: LABOR DAY!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY, 9/9</strong></td>
<td>In-Class Activity Video: Killing Us Softly 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRIDAY, 9/11</strong></td>
<td>In-Class Activity Video: Killing Us Softly 4 Video Notes Due End of Class Discussion: Killing Us Softly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 4</th>
<th>SOCIALIZATION, THE LIFE COURSE, AND AGING (CONT.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MONDAY, 9/14</strong></td>
<td>In-Class Activity Critically Examining Mass Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY, 9/16</strong></td>
<td>DUE Experience #1 (due at the beginning of class)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>In-Class Activity Discussion: Experience #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, 9/18</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>SOCIAL INTERACTION AND EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE AGE OF THE INTERNET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 9/21</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY, 9/23</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, 9/25</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In-Class Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 6</td>
<td>GROUPS, NETWORKS, AND ORGANIZATIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 9/28</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY, 9/30</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, 10/2</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
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<td>In-Class Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 7</td>
<td>POLITICS AND ECONOMIC LIFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 10/5</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY, 10/7</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, 10/9</td>
<td>In-Class Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 8</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 10/12</td>
<td>DUE</td>
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<td>In-Class Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY, 10/14</td>
<td>In-Class Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, 10/16</td>
<td>In-Class Activity</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>WEEK 9</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 10/19</td>
<td>NO CLASS: FALL BREAK!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY, 10/21</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, 10/23</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>WEEK 10</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 10/26</td>
<td>In-Class Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY, 10/28</td>
<td>In-Class Activity</td>
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<td>Video Notes Due End of Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, 10/30</td>
<td>In-Class Activity</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>WEEK 11</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 11/2</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY, 11/4</td>
<td>In-Class Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, 11/6</td>
<td>In-Class Activity</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK 12</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 11/9</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DUE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity Description</td>
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<td>---------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY, 11/11</td>
<td>DUE In-Class Activity</td>
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<td>FRIDAY, 11/13</td>
<td>In-Class Activity</td>
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**WEEK 13: GENDER INEQUALITY; EDUCATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 11/16</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
<td>Essentials of Sociology, Chapter 9, pp. 262-284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY, 11/18</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
<td>Essentials of Sociology, Chapter 9, pp. 284-295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, 11/20</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
<td>Essentials of Sociology, Chapter 12, pp. 362-377</td>
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**WEEK 14: RELIGION**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 11/23</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
<td>Essentials of Sociology, Chapter 12, pp. 377-393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY, 11/25</td>
<td>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, 11/27</td>
<td>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK!</td>
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**WEEK 15: RELIGION (CONT.): THE SOCIOLOGY OF THE BODY: HEALTH, ILLNESS, AND SEXUALITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Video/Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 11/30</td>
<td>In-Class Activity</td>
<td>Video: Jesus Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY, 12/2</td>
<td>In-Class Activity</td>
<td>Video: Jesus Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Video Notes Due End of Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, 12/4</td>
<td>Required Reading</td>
<td>Essentials of Sociology, Chapter 14, pp. 436-469</td>
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**WEEK 16: EXAM PERIOD**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes/Review</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 12/7</td>
<td>In-Class Activity</td>
<td>Wrap-Up and Final Review</td>
</tr>
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THE FINAL EXAM FOR THIS CLASS WILL BE HELD
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH FROM 12:00-1:50PM IN MCGANNON HALL ROOM 262

Good luck on your finals and have a wonderful winter break!