
Syllabus

COURSE TITLE: Sociology

GRADE LEVELS: (Recommended) 11, 12

TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL TIME: Half-Year

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To understand the meaning of the sociological perspective.
2. To explore the cultural differences of our society.
3. To evaluate the different societies we live in.
4. To understand how our socialization comes from a variety of sources and inputs.
5. To examine deviant behaviors, and why they are viewed as such.
6. To comprehend the influence social institutions have on our lives: work, politics, family, religion, and education.
7. To explore the origins of social inequality as it relates to: social class, poverty, gender, race and ethnicity, and aging and the elderly
8. To recognize the world as a place of social change, and acknowledge how those changes have shaped us collectively: urbanization, collectivism, and modernity.
9. To prepare students for college level critical thinking and analysis.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Sociology is the study of how people act and react in relationship and response to each other; moreover, sociology uses the world around us as the laboratory. Our daily interactions within the world form the major sources of comparison for the concepts presented within the class. Sociology asks students to utilize a critical eye, and an open mind as we endeavor to understand the complicated process of interpersonal relationships on a local, national and global scale.

This course provides an introduction to the systematic analysis of societies. How do societies evolve and change? What we can learn from comparing them? How do they make us into the kinds of people we are, and which facts either sustain or shatter everyday life? Students learn about themselves by exploring the hidden roots of the world around them.

UNIT TITLES:

UNIT 1: THE SOCIOLOGICAL MODEL

- Section 1 A: The Sociological Perspective
- Section 2 B: Sociological Research
- Section 3 C: Culture and Society

UNIT II: SOCIAL FOUNDATIONS

- Section 1 A: Socialization
- Section 2 B: Groups and Social Interaction
- Section 3 C: Deviance
- Section 4 D: Sexuality

UNIT III: SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- Section 1 A: Marriage and The Family
- Section 2 B: Government and The Economy
- Section 3 C: Religion and Education

UNIT IV: SOCIAL INEQUALITY

- Section 1 A: Social Class and Wealth
- Section 2 B: Race and Ethnicity
- Section 3 C: Gender and Aging

UNIT V: SOCIAL CHANGE AND MOVEMENTS

- Section 1 A: Population, Urbanization and The Environment
- Section 2 B: Collective Behavior and Social Movements
- Section 3 C: Social Change and The Future

STUDENT OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to have an understanding of:

1. The Sociological perspective and the five basic principles behind it:
 - a. Seeing general patterns of human behavior in the behaviors of particular individuals;
 - b. Seeing how individual thoughts and actions are guided by culture and social structure;
 - c. Seeing highly personal and individual behavior in a social context;
 - d. Differentiating between personal troubles and social issues and problems; and,
 - e. Seeing social issues in global perspective.
2. The institutional foundations of our society and how they teach us the rules by which we live.
3. The ways in which we learn from our cultural diversity.
4. The evolution of society and its ever-changing rules, values, norms and folkways; conforming and, deviating from them.
5. The influence of group dynamics.
6. The impact of social class on the United States and the world.
7. The various and disparate challenges faced by the genders.
8. The evolution of race relations and what lies ahead for the 21st Century.
9. The societal impact of aging and the elderly.
10. The ways in which institutions such as education and the work place shape our society.
11. The nature of government and the importance of active citizenship.
12. The roots of the family system; marriage, children, divorce, 21st Century families.
13. The role of religion in the world.
14. The impact of social movements and social change on societal values and norms.
15. The ecological effects of population density and urbanization.
16. The power of social movements and collective behavior.
17. The nature and agents of social change.

SUGGESTED TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS:

1. Sociology; Ninth edition. Macionis, John J., (Prentice Hall, 2001).
2. Society In Focus, 4th Edition. Thompson, William E & Hickey, Joseph V. (Allyn & Bacon, 2002).
3. Sociology: A Down To Earth Approach. 6th Edition. Henslein, James M. (Allyn & Bacon, 2003).
4. Introduction to Sociology: 3rd Edition. Giddens, Anthony & Duneier, Mitchell. (W.H. Norton & Company, INC), 2000.

Readings for Sociology, 3rd Edition. Massey, Garth. Editor. (W.H. Norton & Company, INC), 2000.
5. Sociology, 3rd Edition. Lindsey, Linda L. & Beach Stephen. (Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2004)