

Sociology

This course is an introductory study in sociology, the study of social behavior and the organization of human society. Students will learn about the historical development of the field of sociology and the procedures for conducting research in sociology. Students will also learn the importance and role of culture, social structure, socialization, and social change in today's society.

Foundations and Research

SOC.1: Students will explain the origins of sociology and the sociological perspective, and how sociology relates to the other social sciences by

- explaining sociology, sociological perspective, and the sociological imagination;
- describing the origins of sociology as a social science and the significance of its historical framework;
- explaining the relationship of sociology to the other social sciences;
- identifying careers where sociological knowledge is applicable.

SOC.2: Students will explain the research methodologies used in sociology by

- identifying the major research methods used in sociology;
- explaining how various methods are used to conduct research in sociology;
- evaluating the strengths and weakness of the methods of sociology research;
- explaining the importance and influence of ethics in guiding research and data collection in sociology.

SOC.3: Students will explain the major theoretical perspectives in sociology by

- explaining and apply the theoretical perspectives of Structural Functionalism, Symbolic Interaction, and Conflict Theory;
- comparing and evaluating the theoretical perspectives of Structural Functionalism, Symbolic Interaction, and Conflict Theory.

Culture and Social Structure

SOC.4: Students will explain the development and importance of culture by

- describing how culture is a social construction;
- identifying the basic characteristics of culture;
- explaining the importance of culture as an organizing tool in society;
- describing the components of culture to include language, symbols, norms, and values.

SOC.5: Students will evaluate how cultures develop and evolve by

- explaining cultural change and diversity include ethnocentrism, cultural relevance, folk culture, pop culture, counterculture, subculture, and culture shock;
- comparing material and non-material culture;
- analyzing the impact of globalization on US and other world cultures.

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- SOC.6: Students will analyze social structure and interaction within society by
- explaining the components of social structure; include status, role and social institutions;
 - describing and compare various types of societies;
 - categorizing groups within a society by comparing primary and secondary groups, in and out groups, reference groups, and social networks;
 - analyzing the components, varieties, and functions of group dynamics; include such factors as group size, leadership and authority, and such processes as bystander effect and groupthink;
 - analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of formal organizations and bureaucracies.

Socialization and Social Control

- SOC.7: Students will explain the process of socialization by
- identifying and describes the roles and responsibilities of an individual in society;
 - analyzing the individual development theories of Cooley and Mead;
 - identifying and evaluate the stages of socialization; include childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and death/dying;
 - evaluating the factors that socialize the individual; include family, peers, education, media, and religion;
 - analyzing how individuals are socialized by gender and race/ethnicity.

- SOC.8: Students will analyze deviance in society by
- explaining the socially constructed nature of deviance;
 - explaining the relationship of social control and power in society;
 - analyzing the causes of deviant behavior;
 - explaining the impact of deviance on society.

- SOC.9: Students will analyze the impact of social control on deviance in society by
- explaining theories of social control; include control and labeling theories.
 - explaining conformity in relationship to deviance and social control.
 - describing adaptation, cooperation, accommodation, and competition in the context of social control.

- SOC.10: Students will analyze the function of social institutions as agents of social control across differing societies and times by
- analyzing the function of social institutions in society; include family, education, religion, economy, government/politics, health care, and media;
 - evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of various social institutions;
 - evaluating other possible social institutions such as sports and science;
 - analyzing functions and inequalities of the criminal justice system in relationship to a society's construct of crime and punishment;
 - explaining the role of total institutions;
 - analyzing the re-socialization process.

Social Inequalities and Change

- SOC.11: Students will analyze forms of social inequality by
- a. explaining how unequal distribution of power and resources affects the life chances of individuals in that society;
 - b. analyzing the sources and effects of stratification on the basis of social class; race and ethnicity; gender; age; and emotional, mental, and physical disabilities;
 - c. analyzing the sources of global stratification and inequality;
 - d. evaluating the impact of global stratification and inequality on global relations.
- SOC.12: Students will analyze social change processes in a society by
- a. describing the various forms of collective behavior;
 - b. explaining the impact of globalization on social change;
 - c. evaluating the impact of technology on social change;
 - d. analyzing the impact of demographic changes and changes in settlement patterns on a society.