

**Course name:** SOC 101

**Course title:** Introduction to Sociology

**Units:** 3

**Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to sociology as a way of understanding the world. Sociology is a field of study that explains social, political, and economic phenomena in terms of social structures, social forces, and group relations. The course will introduce students to the field by focusing on several important sociological topics, including socialization, culture, the social construction of knowledge, inequality, race and ethnic relations, poverty, and political sociology.

**Prerequisites:**

Completion of SOC 101

**Course Objectives:**

1. Evaluate the difference between the sociological imagination and "common sense."
2. Apply basic sociological concepts and theories to analyzing issues related to globalization process.
3. Compare and contrast the theoretical perspectives of functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interaction.
4. Appraise the similarities and differences between sociology and psychology, anthropology, political science, and economics.
5. Categorize methods of research as stemming from either positivist or interpretive approaches.
6. Weigh the relative influence of culture and social structure on behavior.
7. Compare and contrast sociological and psychological theories of socialization.
8. Describe the social constructionist, dramaturgical, and ethnomethodological approaches to the study of social interaction.
9. Apply theory to substantive areas, such as race, class, medicine, deviance, and gender.
10. Identify and discuss current issues, and how they are shaped by population structure and change.
11. Assess the relative influence of assimilationist and culturally pluralistic ideologies in shaping multicultural American society

**Course Content:**

- I. The Sociological Perspective
  - A. The Sociological Imagination
  - B. Globalization
  - C. The Origins of Sociology
- II. Sociological Investigation
  - A. Science and Scientific Investigation
  - B. Correlation and Causation
  - C. Positivist and Interpretive Methods
  - D. Examining Different Methodologies

- III. Culture
  - A. Definitions of Culture
  - B. Language and Culture
  - C. Multiculturalism and Cultural Pluralism
  - D. Cultural and Biological Explanations for Human Behavior
- IV. Society and Social Structure
  - A. Different types of human societies
  - B. Marxist theory and the question of social conflict
  - C. Durkheimian theory and the question of social order
  - D. Weberian theory and the bureaucratization of society
- V. Socialization
  - A. Psychological Approaches: Freud, Piaget, Kohlberg and Erikson
  - B. Sociological approaches: Mead, Cooley, Goffman
  - C. Agents of Socialization: the family, the school, the media
  - D. Socialization and the life course
  - E. Socialization across historical time and cultural space.
- VI. Social Interaction
  - A. The Social Construction of Reality
  - B. The Dramaturgical Model
  - C. Ethnomethodology
- VII. Groups and Organizations
  - A. Types of Groups
  - B. Formal organizations and bureaucracy
  - C. "McDonaldization"
- VIII. Deviance
  - A. The functionalist, conflict, and symbolic interaction approaches to deviance
  - B. Biological, Psychological, and Sociological approaches to deviance
  - C. Crime
- IX. Stratification
  - A. Population
  - B. Gender, Race and Economic Stratification
  - C. Sociological explanations for stratification
  - D. Social Mobility
  - E. Poverty
  - F. Global Stratification
- X. Social Institutions
  - A. The Family
  - B. Religion
  - C. The Political System
  - D. The Education System
- XI. Multiculturalism
  - A. The Melting Pot Ideology
  - B. Cultural Correlates with Status Mobility and Educational Achievement

**Methods of Instruction:**

Methods of instruction may include, but are not limited to, the following: audio-visual resources, and class discussion. Assignments may include readings, use of library and independent learning resources, exams, and individualized projects.

**Out-of-Class Assignments:**

1. Field studies at charitable and government service agencies.
2. Surveys of people's attitudes towards specific social issues.

3. Experiments concerning group conformity, obedience, deviance or other course issues.
4. Documents describing personal experiences concerning sociological issues.
5. Viewing of assigned or recommended media materials.
6. Field trips to lectures, conferences or appropriate sites.
7. Library, electronic, or archival research.

**Methods of Evaluation:**

A student's grade will be based on multiple measures of performance. These methods may include, but are not limited to, the following:

The student's grade will be determined by no less than two evaluation techniques, at least one of which must demonstrate writing skills.

**Examples of Appropriate Texts or Other Required Reading:**

Title: Sociology  
Author: Macionis  
Date: 2010