

SOCIOLOGY 101
INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

BULLETIN INFORMATION

SOCY 101 – Introductory Sociology

Course Description:

An introduction to sociological facts and principles: an analysis of group-making processes and products.

SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is a selective introduction to sociological research and theory. It will begin with classical theory and an overview of social science research. Because it is impossible to cover all topics within the field of sociology, the course will mainly focus on issues such as inequality, race, gender, the interplay between individuals and structure, class and status, the evolution of human societies, and social theory. Students will learn the material through textbook readings, journal articles, in-class videos, class lectures, and class discussions.

ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of SOCY 101, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the works of the classical scholars in sociology.
2. Recognize the different types of social science research and the differences between qualitative and quantitative methods.
3. Explain and define major sociological concepts such as class, status, social institution, socialization, identity, deviance, etc.
4. Explain social inequalities related to race, gender, class and status.

SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS

1. Sociology Now: The Essentials, edited by Michael Kimmel and Amy Aronson, 2nd edition. 2010.

SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAMS

1. **Exams:** There will be two exams given during the semester, and a non-cumulative final exam. All exam questions will be multiple choice and true/false. Exam material will come from the textbook readings, other assigned readings, class lecture/discussion, and videos. Lectures will not always cover the readings or directly relate to them. Nevertheless, all material is fair game for exam questions.
1. **Reflection Papers/Writing Assignments:** 10 short writing assignments will be due during the semester. Directions and grading rubrics for each paper will vary; for instance, one assignment might ask for your opinion on a topic (graded on effort, not answer), while

another might ask you to explain the components of a sociological theory (correct answer required for full credit). Information for each assignment will be provided in class and on Blackboard. Written assignments about classical sociological theorists will ask the student to identify correctly the theorist's scientific paradigm based on value and model assumptions, to identify what is/are considered the theorist's most important contribution(s), and to identify an example of how the theory or elements of it have been tested (for example, using survey data to test hypotheses about religiosity). Written assignments about inequalities of race, gender, class and status will ask the student to define the terms, to discuss basic patterns of inequality in U.S. society, how race, gender, class and status intersect with respect to inequality, and reasons for changing levels of inequality.

SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS

- Week 1:** Introduction to the course
- Week 2:** Sociology, Societies and Culture, Sociology Now (SN): 1 & 2
Sociology as a way of seeing
Doing Sociology
Contemporary Sociology
Elements of Culture
Cultural Expression
Cultural Change
- Week 3:** Interactions, Groups, Organizations, SN: 3
The Social Construction of Reality
Elements of Social Structure
Groups
Social Networks
Organizations
- Week 4:** Methods, SN: 4
Types of Sociological Research Methods
Doing Sociological Research
Issues in Conducting Research
Socialization, SN: 5
Socialization and Biology
Socialization in Action
Models and Agents of Socialization
- Week 5:** Finish week 4 topics, prep for exam
- Week 6:** Deviance and Crime, SN: 6
What is Deviance?
Conformity and Social Control

Sociological Theories of Deviance and Crime
The Criminal Justice System
Globalization and Crime

Week 7: Stratification, SN: 7
What is Social Stratification?
Social Class
Poverty in the United States and Abroad
Social Mobility
Global Inequality
Race, Ethnicity, SN: 8
The Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
Prejudice, Discrimination, and Racism
Ethnic Groups in the United States
Ethnicity, Identify, and Conflict

Week 8: Sex and Gender, SN: 9
Sex and Gender: Nature and Nurture
Becoming Gendered: Learning Gender Identity
Gender Inequality on a Global and Local Scale
The Politics of Gender

Week 9: Sociological Body: Age, Health and Sexuality, SN: 10
Age: Identity and Inequality
Youth and Inequality
The Body in Sickness and Health
Studying Sexuality; Behaviors and Identities
Sexual Inequality

Week 10: Finish week 9 topics, prep for exam

Week 11: The Family, SN: 11
The Family Tree
Family and Ethnicity
Forming Family
Parenting
Family Transitions
Violence in Families

Week 12: Economy and Work, SN: 12
The Economy and Society
The American Economy
Work, Identity and Inequality
Diversity in the Workplace

Week 13: Politics and Media, SN: 13
Politics: Power and Authority
Political Systems
The Political System of the United States
Political Change

Week 14: Education, Religion Science, SN: 14
Education in Social Context
The Sociology of Education
Religion and Science
Religion, Globally and Locally
Science in Sociological Perspective
Environments, SN: 15
The Human Environment
Theories of Global Population Growth
The Urban Environment
Sociology and the City
The Natural Environment

Week 15: Last Week of Class/Wrap-up