Sociology

Credits: 0.5

Course Overview and Goals

This one-semester elective course is intended as a practical, hands-on guide to introduce you to the field of sociology. You will explore the evolution of sociology as a distinct social science, learn about sociological concepts and processes, and discuss how the individual relates to society. You will also learn about the influence of culture, social structure, socialization, and social change in today's society.

This course consists of 16 lessons organized into five units, each featuring one or more engaging Lesson Activities. You will grade your work in the Lesson Activities by comparing it to sample responses. Additionally, there is one Course Activity and Discussion in each unit. You will submit the Course Activity to your teacher for grading.

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Describe the development of sociology as a distinct discipline and compare the different schools of thought in sociology.
- Explain sociological concepts and processes, and analyze the effects of industrialization.
- Identify and describe different types of societies.
- Identify leading sociologists and describe their contributions to the field of sociology.
- Identify the elements of culture, compare cultural norms, and analyze the relationship between culture and society.
- Explain the process of socialization and describe the various life stages.
- Explain the influence of the social institution of family on society.

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Course Components and Grading Rubric

The table gives a breakdown of the weight for each component in the course. Weight represents the percentage of the total score coming from each activity.

Course Components	Count	Weight
Pretests. *Pretests are optional assessments, typically designed for credit recovery use. If a student shows mastery of a lesson's objective, the student may be automatically exempted from that lesson in the upcoming unit. Typically, teachers do not choose to employ exemptive pretests for first-time credit courses. Pretests are not included as a component of the student's final grade.*	5	0%
Module. *Each module in this course contains an interactive tutorial and an associated mastery test. Tutorials may include one or more Lesson Activities that constitute tasks associated with the tutorial. This course also includes practice questions to prepare students for the mastery test. The module score comes from a student's score on the mastery test.*	16	30%
Discussion. *Online discussions allow for higher-order thinking about terminal objectives. An online threaded discussion mirrors the educational experience of a classroom discussion. Teachers can initiate a discussion by asking a complex, open-ended question. Students can engage in the discussion by responding both to the question and to the thoughts of others. Each unit in a course has one predefined discussion topic; teachers may add more discussion topics.*	5	15%
Posttest. *The posttest appears at the end of the unit and mirrors the pretest in structure, content, and complexity.*	5	20%
Course Activity. *Course Activities are similar to Unit Activities in scope but may be found at any point in the course, either to prepare the student for new learning or to act as a performance-based activity required for a learning objective. Like Unit Activities, Course Activities include simple rubrics, and sample answers are available for teachers. Course Activities are teacher graded.*	5	20%
End of Semester Test. *The end of semester test (EOS) appears at the end of the course. Students are delivered a few items from every tutorial in the course in order to assess the major course objectives.*	1	15%
Total	**37**	**100%**

**Teachers may manually adjust these weights if desired, per district grading requirements.*

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UNIT 1: FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGY: UNDERSTANDING SOCIETY AND ITS STRUCTURES (DAYS 1 – 17)

In this unit, you will evaluate sociology as a discipline, explore key sociological concepts and processes and analyze different types of societies. You will begin by examining sociology as a science and comparing it with other social sciences, tracing its origin and evolution and exploring different schools of thought. Next, you will assess core sociological concepts such as society, community, association, and institution. You will explore key processes like industrialization, urbanization, assimilation, integration, cooperation, competition, and conflict. You will also analyze the impact of industrialization, urbanization, and immigrant assimilation on US society and institutions. Finally, you will examine the characteristics of different types of societies, including hunter-gatherer, agrarian, pastoral, industrial, and post-industrial societies. Then you will analyze variations among contemporary global societies.

Lesson	Lesson Objective
Syllabus and Orientation	Review the Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.
Introduction to Sociology	Evaluate sociology as a discipline, its development, and various schools of thought in sociology.
Sociological Concepts and Processes	Evaluate sociological concepts and processes.
Types of Societies	Analyze different types of societies.
Developing a Sociological Outlook	Analyze the impact of sociological thinking on your outlook on society.

UNIT 2: EXPLORING SOCIETY: INFLUENCES OF CULTURE, THOUGHT, AND COMMUNITY (DAYS 18 – 35)

In this unit, you will examine the contributions of key pioneers of sociology, assess the relationship between culture and society, and analyze various types of social groups and their functions. You will begin by examining the work of pioneering contributors to sociology, such as Auguste Comte, Emile Durkheim, Herbert Spencer, Max Weber, and Karl Marx. You will evaluate contributions from sociologists in the United States such as W. E. B. Du Bois, Harriet Martineau, and Jane Addams. Next, you will explore the elements of culture, including language, symbols, norms, and values and analyze subcultures, countercultures, and social issues related to ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and gender. Additionally, you will assess stereotypes within US subcultures and examine the impact of counterculture movements. Finally, you will analyze the

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functions of different types of social groups and evaluate concepts like roles and status. You will assess conflict within groups and methods of resolution.

Lesson	Lesson Objective
Sociological Thinkers	Evaluate the contributions of pioneers in the field of sociology.
Culture and Society	Assess the relationship between culture and society.
Social Groups	Evaluate various types of social groups and their functions.
Two Sides of Cultural Exchange	Illustrate the influence of immigrants on American culture as well as the influence of American culture on other societies.

UNIT 3: NAVIGATING SOCIAL REALITIES: DEVIANCE, INEQUALITY, AND THE INDIVIDUAL (DAYS 36 – 54)

In this unit, you will evaluate the process of socialization across life stages, examine the nature and social function of deviance, and analyze concept of social stratification. You will assess the causes and impacts of social inequality. You will begin by examining socialization as a lifelong, culturally influenced process, illustrating key agents of socialization and analyzing adolescence and adult development. Next, you will examine deviance, analyze major theories of deviance, and the relationship between crime, arrest rates by social categories, and the role of the criminal justice system in the United States. You will also explore theories of social stratification, assess caste and class systems, and social mobility and the role of motivation. You will analyze the effects of poverty and global inequality. Finally, you will examine terms such as race, ethnicity, discrimination, and institutional racism, analyze the link between gender and inequality, and explore the challenges of an aging population.

Lesson	Lesson Objective
Individual and Society	Evaluate the process of socialization and various life stages.
Deviance	Evaluate the nature and social function of deviance.
Social Stratification	Examine social stratification.
Social Inequality	Evaluate social inequality.
Media and Deviance	Examine how mass media encourages deviant behavior in children.

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UNIT 4: INTERSECTIONS OF SOCIETY: FAMILY, POLITICS, AND ECONOMY (DAYS 55 – 72)

In this unit, you will examine the family as a social institution, analyze the relationship between politics and society, and explore the connection between the economy and society. You will begin by exploring the functions, rituals, systems, and patterns of family life, analyzing disruptions to family structures, and examining current trends in American families. Next, you will analyze the relationship between politics and society, explore theories of power and authority, and assess concepts such as legitimacy of authority, power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, political parties, nation, state, and citizenship. Additionally, you will analyze the types of governments and the process of political participation. Finally, you will examine how economic systems shape society and the social organization of work across historical societies. Then you will explore Marx's theory of capitalism and Max Weber's analysis of economics and religion and assess the impact of different economic models such as free enterprise and socialism.

Lesson	Lesson Objective
Family	Examine family as a social institution.
Politics and Society	Evaluate the relationship between politics and society.
Economy and Society	Examine the relationship between the economy and society.
Economy, Polity, and Society	Analyze how social factors affect economic and political systems.

UNIT 5: SOCIETY IN MOTION: EDUCATION, POPULATION, AND TRANSFORMATION (DAYS 73 – 90)

In this unit, you will examine education, religion, science, and mass media as social institutions, explore concepts related to demography and population dynamics, and assess factors influencing social change. You will begin by examining theories of education, analyzing current issues in US education, and exploring sociological theories of religion and different types of religious practices. Next, you will analyze science and mass media as social institutions and their influence on society. Additionally, you will examine the concepts of population size, growth, composition, and distribution, analyze the effects of birth, death, migration, and urbanization on society, and examine the theories of population growth. Finally, you will examine theories of social change, agents such as education, environment, and technology and

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analyze different forms of collective behavior and social movements and their impact on society.

Lesson	Lesson Objective
Education, Religion, and Science	Examine education, religion, and science as social institutions.
Population Dynamics	Evaluate the concepts of demography and population dynamics.
Social Change	Evaluate the factors affecting social change.
Changing Times: An Imagery of Social Change	Use images to evaluate how American society has changed over time.

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