



Introduction to Sociology

Course Summary:

In this course, you will examine the sociological processes that underlie everyday life, focusing on globalization, cultural diversity, critical thinking, new technology, and the growing influence of mass media. By the end of the course, you will be able to

- Examine socialization and factors that affect socialization and social interactions
- Analyze the history of politics, globalization, and the effects of transformation
- Examine diversity in U.S. families and study trends in marriages, remarriages, and divorce
- Examine issues in education and factors that affect the educational system in the United States
- Examine urbanization, evolution of various cities, and growth in population in the United States and the world
- Examine the effects of growth and technology on social interactions and the environment

Course Outline

1. The Field of Sociology (L)

- Define what is meant by the sociological perspective
- Discuss origins of sociology and the key thought leaders who shaped the field
- Discuss the three theoretical approaches to sociology

2. Sociological Research Methods (L)

- Identify and describe how sociological research and theory work together
- Assess ethical issues involved in sociological research

3. Culture (L)

- Differentiate among cultures, subcultures, and countercultures
- Discuss the role of culture in social interactions

4. Socialization (L)

- Define human nature and factors that affect human nature
- Discuss the different agents of socialization
- Describe sociological interactions in everyday life and factors that affect them
- Analyze the role and effects of media on social interactions
- Compare and contrast gender differences in socialization

5. Deviance and Social Control (L)

- Distinguish among the different perspectives on deviance
- Analyze the reasons for deviant behavior from a psychological, biological, and sociological perspective

6. Global Stratification and Racial Discrimination (L)

- Identify social structures in a group organization and their roles
- Define global stratification
- Interpret trends in stratification in the world
- Compare and contrast universal and comparative social stratification

7. Race, Ethnicity, and Discrimination (L)

- Identify historical instances of racial discrimination and its effects

- Discuss racial discrimination and its role in daily social interactions
- 8. Inequalities of Gender and Age (L)**
- Discuss issues of sex and gender
 - Critique existing inequalities in gender and its correlation to social stratification
 - Discuss females as a minority and the differences among social organizations based on such a differentiation
- 9. Social Class and Decision Making (L)**
- Describe social class and its consequences
 - Examine the different sociological models
 - Analyze changes in social class between generations
 - Examine peer pressure and its effects on making decisions
- 10. Politics and Economics (L)**
- Discuss power, authority, and violence
 - Differentiate among the different types of governments in different countries around the world
 - Examine the U.S. political system
- 11. Global Politics, Economic Systems, and Terrorism (L)**
- Discuss the causes and effects of the transformation of economic systems
 - Discuss war and terrorism
 - Describe globalization and its effects on society
 - Discuss capitalism in a global economy
- 12. Marriage and Family (L)**
- Distinguish marriage and family in the global and theoretical perspectives
 - Examine the family life cycle and the impact of family structure, class, and birth order on the raising of a child
 - Describe diversity in families and cross-cultural variations in marriages
 - Describe the dark side of family life
 - Describe the future of family and marriage
- 13. Education and Religion (L)**
- Distinguish among the different perspectives on education
 - Analyze problems in U.S. education and provide recommendations and strategies for improvement
 - Discuss norms and values encouraged and discouraged by the U.S. educational system
- 14. Defining Religion and Core Values in the U.S. (L)**
- Explain religion and core values in the United States and their reflection on society and the educational system
 - Discuss the different types of religious groups in the world
- 15. Population and Urbanization (L)**
- Define urbanization
 - List problems caused by overpopulation
 - Compare the evolution of various cities and their populations
 - Discuss urban sprawl and common urban problems
 - Analyze events in history that have favored changes in society
- 16. Social Change (L)**
- Describe the theories and processes of social change
 - Discuss propaganda and social movements
 - Analyze the effects of technology on social interactions
 - Analyze the effects of growth and progress on the environment
- 17. Introduction to Sociology Course Review (L)**
- Review lesson objectives and key terms
 - Review interactive presentations

- Utilize Study Guides
- Explore potential careers in the sociology field
- Analyze an issue or concern facing contemporary adolescents and use a decision-making process to research the issue, predict outcomes, and propose actions

18. Introduction to Sociology Final Exam (L)