

**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.
2. **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