Sociology (SOC) 1510 Introduction to Sociology (3 Units) CSU:UC
[formerly Sociology 1]

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: An introductory study of the basic concepts, theoretical approaches, and methods of sociology. Topics typically include the analysis and explanation of social structure, group dynamics, socialization and the self, social stratification, culture and diversity, social change, and global dynamics. Course objectives include the ability to apply sociological ideas to everyday life. C-ID: SOCI 110

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit


Additional Materials: None

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. understand and apply the sociological imagination to a variety of contemporary social phenomena,
2. understand the historical development of sociology as a separate discipline,
3. distinguish between the use of various research methods,
4. identify, compare and apply the primary sociological perspectives,
5. explain and apply key sociological concepts,
6. describe and explain the basic dimensions of social inequality and social change in historical and contemporary society, and
7. assess what social forces and organizational structures are most prominent in shaping, guiding and influencing individual and group behavior in contemporary society.

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I Introduction to Sociology
A. Defining sociology
B. The sociological perspective
C. The sociological imagination
D. The historical development of sociology
Unit II  Major Sociological Perspectives
A. Structural functionalism
B. Conflict theory
C. Symbolic interactionism

Unit III  Studying the Social World: an Introduction to Research Methods
A. The scientific method
B. The research model

Unit IV  Society, Culture, and Socialization
A. Culture
B. Socialization
C. Interaction
D. Groups
E. Organizations

Unit V  Deviance and Social Control
A. Deviance
B. Social control

Unit VI  Stratification: class, Race, Ethnicity, Age, Sex, and Gender
A. Social stratification
B. Social class in the U.S.
C. Race and ethnicity
D. Sex and gender

Unit VII  Social institutions
A. Family
B. Politics
C. Education
D. Science and technology
E. Medicine
F. Economy/work
G. Religion

Unit VIII  Social Dynamics
A. Population and urbanization
B. Environment and globalization

Unit IX  Social Change
A. Social movements and social change

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Studying
2. Answering questions
3. Completing required reading
4. Completing written work

Methods of Instruction:

1. Lectures
2. Class discussions
3. Audiovisual presentations
4. Use of online resources
5. Instructor guided research project(s)

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Substantial writing assignments, including:
   A. Essay exams
   B. Student generated APA/ASA format research paper
   C. Written assignments

2. Other examinations, including:
   A. Objective exams
   B. Application exercises
   C. Research project
   D. Field journal
   E. Oral presentations
   F. Reflection and discussion
   G. Small group activities
   H. Out-of-class activities

Supplemental Data:

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