

Sociology – College Prep



Sociology is a course that examines man's modern behavior in groups and the effects of culture and society on individuals. Contemporary topics such as marriage, family, divorce, juvenile delinquency, crime, racial discrimination, religion, death and dying, and urban problems will be examined.

Course Objectives: As a result of completing this course, the student will

- Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of Sociology and the scientific method as it relates to social research
- Develop an appreciation of the development of Sociology as a field of behavioral interest and research
- Describe the theory, purpose, and practice of Sociology and its relevance to contemporary social issues
- Appreciate the complexity and diversity of American culture and society
- Apply concepts studied in sociology to contemporary society and social issues
- Understand that sociological observation and study is not based on common sense but on empirical, objective research
- Collaborate with peers in an environment of mutual respect
- Apply decision making skills as they relate to contemporary social issues

Unit 1 Culture and the Social Structure

- Identify the ways in which sociology is similar to and different from the other social sciences
- Discuss the ideas of five early sociologists
- Describe the differences between culture and society in social life
- List and describe the methods used by sociologists to conduct research
- Compare and contrast sociology's three main theoretical perspectives
- Recognize and describe the components of culture
- Describe American subculture and counterculture groups and explain how the terms of culture apply to each
- Recognize common culture traits shared by all cultures
- Analyze various cultures to determine cultural complexity
- Define society and culture, and explain how these terms are different
- Identify and describe the traditional American values discussed in the textbook
- Assess the positive and negative consequences of the new American value of self-fulfillment
- Define social control, and discuss internalization and sanctions, the two basic methods of social control.
- Recognize and describe the sources of social change
- Explain why individuals and groups tend to resist social change.
- Define social structure, and describe the characteristics of its two major components. (statuses and roles)
- Define social institution.
- Define group, and describe the features of group structure and the characteristics of most types of groups.
- Identify the five types of social interaction that take place in societies, and recognize the consequences of each type of interaction.
- Apply the characteristics of group structure and group interaction to a media source, such as Remember The Titans

Unit 2 Socializing the Individual

- Identify the factors that affect personality development and the emergence of the self,

- including the roles played by various agents of socialization
- Compare and contrast the theories of socialization
- Complete a personality study focusing on the social forces that shape personality
- Identify and prioritize the agents of socialization and how they affect individual personality social development
- Explain how adolescence emerges as a distinct stage of the life cycle
- Describe the characteristics of adolescence, focusing on topics such as dating, sexual behavior, drug use, and suicide
 - Compare theories of adult personality development
- Recognize and describe the stages of adult male and female development
- Assess the nature of work in terms of adult roles
- Discuss physical and emotional adult development in the later years
- Explain the nature of deviance, crime, and the criminal justice system in the United States
- Compare and contrast the various theories concerning deviance and crime
- Define various types of crime that occur in American culture

Unit 3 Social Inequality

- Compare and contrast the major theories of social stratification
- Outline the characteristics of the American class system
- Discuss poverty in the United States
- Describe the treatment of minority groups and the types of minority group treatment
- Discuss the experiences of various minority groups in the United States
- Understand the nature of prejudice and discrimination
- Determine the characteristics of social inequality based on gender, age, and health
- Identify two types of stratification systems and the social rewards upon which stratification is based