

COURSE OUTLINE

Sociology

Course Description

BS 105. Sociology. 3 hours credit. This course will enable the student to understand the development, structure, and functioning of human groups and how these groups shape development and way of life. Students will be able to apply the knowledge they gain about topics that include culture, socialization, collective behavior, institutions, stratification, inequalities of gender and age, deviance and social change.

Course Relevance

The concepts learned in this course give the student skills that will enhance her/his ability to think analytically and critically. The student will gain an appreciation of human society and the foundations that build that society.

Required Materials

Henslin, J. M. (2008). Sociology, a down to earth approach (custom edition for Butler)
Boston, MA: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon

Learning Outcomes

The intention is for the student to be able to:

1. Identify the contributions of theorists in the field of Sociology.
2. Develop critical thinking skills regarding human behavior.
3. Apply sociological theory to understand how groups/society function.

Learning PACT Skills that will be DEVELOPED and/or documented in the course

Through involvement in this course, the student will develop ability in the following PACT skill areas:

Personal Development Skills

1. Interpersonal interaction
 - Through activities conducted in class, the student will develop knowledge about personal bias and an appreciation of a variety of perspectives

Analytical Thinking Skills

1. Critical thinking
 - Through written assignments and other activities conducted in class, the student will develop critical and analytical skills

Communication Skills

1. Creation and delivery of messages
 - Through journaling, the student will identify and summarize the meaning, content and validity of sociological perspectives.

Major Summative Assessment Tasks

These learning outcomes and the Learning PACT skills will be demonstrated by

1. Completion of a journal assignment (P skill) over first course material.
2. Creation of a reflection paper (C skill) summarizing a professional journal article on psychological theory and how that applies to their own life (A skill).

Course Content:

- I. Skills or Competencies – Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes:
 - A. Writing
 - B. Reading
 - C. Utilizing computer skills
 - D. Thinking analytically
 - E. Comparing and contrasting concepts
 - F. Memorizing terms
 - G. Applying concepts

Learning Units

- I. Foundations of sociology
 - A. History and philosophy of sociology
 - B. Major sociological perspectives
 - C. Sociological imagination
- II. Foundations of society
 - A. Culture and diversity
 - B. Society
 - C. Perspectives: conflict (Marx) interactionist (Weber), and functionalist (Durkheim)
 - D. Process of socialization
 - E. Social interaction
 - F. Groups and organizations
 - G. Deviance
 - H. Sexuality
- III. Social inequality
 - A. Theoretical explanations of social inequality
 - B. Local, national, and global dimensions of social stratification
 - C. Inequalities associated with social class, gender, sex, age race and ethnicity
- IV. Social institutions
 - A. Family
 - B. Religion
 - C. Economy
 - D. Medicine
 - E. Politics
 - F. Education
- V. Social change

- A. Dynamics of population
- B. Dimensions of collective behavior, social movements
- C. Social change in local, national, and global contexts

Learning Activities

Classroom: Lecture, instructor-led class discussions, group study, field trips, library research, various audio/visual aids, case studies, guest speakers, and student presentations. The student will be required to examine professional journals in this course.

Online: Independent study of online materials augmented by text and other materials as required by instructor, study guide, collaboration and participation with class members and faculty via the internet. Faculty role is facilitator of learning experiences. The student will be required to examine professional journals in this course.

Grade Determination

The student will be graded on completion of assessment tasks, research papers, tests, daily work, class participation, out-of-class assignments and other methods of evaluation at the discretion of the instructor.