

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

A. Department Information:

Division: Social Science
Department: Sociology
Course ID: SOC 100
Course Title: Introduction to Sociology
Units: 3
Lecture: 3 Hours
Laboratory: None
Prerequisite: None

B. Catalog and Schedule Description: Careful examination of the social influences on human behavior focusing on social patterns and processes, structure and function, conflict and change in society and culture in general with emphasis on American institutions in a multicultural-cultural society and their relationship to global patterns.

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: One

III. EXPECTED OUTCOME FOR STUDENTS:

Upon successful completion of the course the student should be able to:

- A. Identify key micro and macro components of the sociological perspective. Define and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the five key research methods.
- B. Draw inferences about their linkages with one or another of the three key sociological theories.
- C. Explain how key dimensions of social locations and status, such as social class, age, gender, race/ethnic, marital, parental, occupational, leisure, residential, and educational, influence our life chances.
- D. Compare and contrast relevant examples from social research about the extent to which these dimensions predict elementary social behavior.
- E. Analyze and apply principles regarding the sources of strain and patterns of both episodic and persistent conflict displayed at different levels of the social system from micro-interpersonal groups through larger macro units of institutions, groups, organizations, communities, nations, and the world based on key sociological scientific principles and scientific research.
- F. Recognize how culture and socialization processes, as well as social structure, shape social behaviors.
- G. Critically evaluate accurate and well-reasoned uses of social science research and data from presentations in various media about the social world.

IV. COURSE CONTENT:

A. The definition of Sociology and the Sociological Perspective

1. The development of sociology
2. Contributions of early sociologists
3. Social location and social status
4. Theoretical perspectives
5. Social research models
6. Six research methods
7. Social research ethics

B. Culture

1. The nature of culture
2. Components of culture
3. Subcultures and counterculture
4. Values in U.S. society

5. Technology, culture, and the global village
- C. Socialization
 1. Socialization and human nature
 2. Understanding socialization
 3. Agents of socialization
 4. Socialization through the life course
 5. Resocialization: Total Institutions
- D. Levels of sociological analysis
 1. Social structure/macro-sociological perspective
 2. Social interaction/micro-sociological perspective
 3. Integrating micro and macro sociological perspectives
- E. Deviance
 1. Gaining a sociological perspective on deviance
 2. The symbolic interaction, functionalist, conflict, and medicalization perspective of deviance
 3. Deviance and social diversity
 4. Crime
- F. Social stratification
 1. Systems of stratification
 2. Determinants of social class
 3. Issues of social stratification
 4. Comparative social stratification
 5. Global stratification: imperialism, colonialism, world systems, dependency theory, neo-colonialism, and multinational companies
- G. Social class
 1. Measuring components of social class
 2. Sociological models of social class.
 3. Consequences of social class location, social mobility, and poverty
- H. Ethnicity and minority groups
 1. Theories of prejudice
 2. Patterns of intergroup relations
 3. Race and ethnic relations in the U.S.
 4. Looking towards the future of race relations
- I. Sex and gender
 1. Issues of gender inequality
 2. The glass ceiling and glass escalator in the U.S.
 3. Gender violence and politics
 4. Gender in a global context
- J. Aging and the elderly
 1. The graying of the U.S.
 2. Growing old: biology and culture
 3. Transitions and challenges of aging
 4. Theoretical analysis of aging
 5. Death and dying
 6. Looking ahead: aging in the 21st century
- K. Politics and government
 1. Power and authority
 2. Politics in global perspective
 3. Politics in the U.S.
 4. Theoretical analysis of power in society
 5. War and peace
 6. Politics in the 21st century
- L. Family
 1. Global variations of marriage patterns, patterns of descent, patterns of authority
 2. Theoretical analysis of the family

3. Stages of family life
4. U.S. families: class, race, and gender
5. Transitions and problems in family life
6. Alternative family forms
7. New reproductive technology and the family

M Education

1. Global perspective
2. The functions of schooling
3. Schooling and inequality
4. Problems in the schools
5. Recent issues in U.S. education

N. Religion

1. Religion and sociology
2. Theoretical analysis of religion
3. Religion and social change
4. Types of religious organization
5. Religion in history
6. Religion in the U.S.
7. Religion in a changing society

O. Population, urbanization, and environment

1. Demography: the study of population
2. History and theory of population growth
3. Urbanization: the growth of cities
4. Urbanism as a way of life
5. Urbanization in poor societies
6. Environment and society

P. Social change: traditional, modern, and postmodern

1. Causes of social change
2. Modernity
3. Theoretical analysis of modernity
4. Postmodernity

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Lectures in basic theories, concepts and data.
- B. Read text, CD's, DVD's and other media sources.
- C. Class and group discussion of significant issues and topics.
- D. Analytical/critical thinking/writing exercises. Writing assignment/Application of concepts.
- E. Use internet to find information.

VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Read text and other sources; read the information on the sociological perspective in your text.
- B. Class and group discussion
 1. Class discussion: Identify your own social location. What is it and how has it influenced your life? Pinpoint specific influences.
 2. Group discussion: Identify some taken-for-granted, deeply held cultural assumptions about social life in the U.S. today
- C. Analytical/critical thinking/writing exercises
 1. Read in the text the section pertaining to research methods including ethics in research.
 - a) For one week, collect samples of research reported in the newspaper or magazines, the internet or on talk shows.
 - b) Evaluate the research methods, including sampling and ethics, according to standards developed in your text

2. Think of a situation in which you felt like being deviant, but were not.
 - a) Use control theory to explain why you did not deviate.
 - b) Contrast this explanation with a functional analysis.
 - c) Do the same for the situation in which you deviated and write your answer in a one-page response.
3. Collect comic strips, political cartoons, jokes, and advertisements from print media and the Internet that have minority group members portrayed in them.
 - a) Analyze the presentations using first symbolic interaction then conflict theory.
 - b) Discuss the similarities and differences between these two paradigmatic analyses.

VII. EVALUATION(S):

A. Methods of Evaluation:

1. Objective and subjective examinations (for lecture and reading assignments). Typical questions include:
 - a) Which paradigm focuses on the tasks that the family performs for society?
 - i. social conflict
 - ii. symbolic interactionism
 - iii. social-exchange
 - iv. structural-functionalism
2. Subjective evaluation of student writing and application of concepts. Students are evaluated on their ability to apply course concepts to what they read or experience.
3. Analysis of critical thinking and analytical essays. Evaluation is based on clarity of thought and expression, the ability to present and analyze well reasoned arguments supported by evidence.

B. Frequency of Evaluation:

1. One mid-term examination
2. One final examination
3. A minimum of written assignments, approximating a total of 10 pages

VIII. TYPICAL TEXT(S):

Henslin, James. *Essentials of Sociology*, 5th Edition, Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2003.
McIntyre, Lisa. *The Practical Skeptic, Core Concepts in Sociology*, Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing, 1999.
Kornblum, William. *Sociology: The Central Questions*, New York: Harcourt Brace Publishers, 1998.
Macionis, John J. *Society: The Basics, 6th Ed.* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002.

IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: None

San Bernardino Valley College
Curriculum Approved: September 29, 2003
Last Updated: September 2003