

Introduction to Sociology

Course Description

Introduction to Sociology provides students with a strong foundation in the major concepts and issues of sociology, its applications in all sectors of contemporary society, and its basic methodology and role within education, politics, media, government, social institutions, and social inequality studies. The structure of social class is examined, with careful consideration of the impact of societal organizations and norms of behavior. This courseware analyzes the process of social change: its motivations, forms of expression, and pertinent areas of concern. All strata of society are studied to provide a balanced and comprehensive approach. The social equality concerns relevant to study of deviance, crime, the elderly, sexuality, and global inequality are examined in relation to major social institutions such as marriage, religion, and political life. Introduction to Sociology courseware, in this way, places the most current sociological scholarship in the context of the real forces that exert influence in our world today.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- View people's behavior from a sociological perspective, discover your own sociological imagination, and apply it to a variety of social problems and situations.
- Discuss the development of sociology as a science and differentiate it from the other social sciences.
- List at least five sociologists and their major contributions to the field.
- Describe the three major sociological perspectives—Functionalist, Conflict, and Interactionist—and analyze human behavior applying these perspectives appropriately.
- Explain the elements of a culture and how culture is different from society.
- Explain the seven steps of the scientific research process and recognize appropriate research procedures in an experiment or an article describing research.
- Explain the relationships between social structure, social stratification, and the consequences of social status.
- List at least four universal social institutions and describe the characteristics of each.
- Describe how inequality and other social factors contribute to social change.
- Summarize the relationship between socialization and the family.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites to take Introduction to Sociology.

Important Terms

In this course, different terms are used to designate tasks:

- **Proctoring:** all final exams require proctoring which can be completed conveniently from your home. A webcam is required.
- **Tutoring:** memberships include online tutoring for students to access with any content/subject related questions in the place of faculty. If your tutor is not able to answer your questions please contact a student advisor.
- **Practice Test:** a non-graded assessment to assist you in practicing the skills discussed

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in a topic.

- **Topic Test:** a graded online test.
- **Final Exam:** a cumulative final examination which is proctored.

Course Evaluation Criteria

StraighterLine provides a percentage score and letter grade for each course. See [Academic Questions](#) section in FAQ for further details on percentage scores and grading scale. A passing percentage is **70%** or higher.

If you have chosen a Partner College to award credit for this course, your final grade will be based upon that college's grading scale. Only passing scores will be considered by Partner Colleges for an award of credit.

Topic	Assessment	Points Available
2	Topic Test: Foundations of Sociology	All non-final exams add up to 70%
3	Topic Test: Individuals in Society	
4	Topic Test: Social Interaction and Groups	
5	Topic Test: Race, Class, and Gender Inequality	
6	Topic Test: Other Sources of Inequality	
7	Topic Test: Social Institutions	
8	Topic Test: A Changing Society	
	Cumulative Final Exam	30%
Total		100%

***The course categories are broken into two categories: 7 Topic Tests which carry equal weight and contribute to 70% of the course score and the Cumulative Final Examination which is worth 30% of the overall course score.**

Course Topics and Objectives

Topic	Topic	Subtopics	Objectives
1	Learning Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply metacognitive strategies to improve your own learning.
2	Foundations of Sociology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Introduction to Sociology • Sociological Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain concepts central to sociology. • Apply three different sociological perspectives to social institutions. • Apply sociology in the real world. • Recognize the importance of reliability and validity in sociological research.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe four kinds of research methods: surveys, field research, experiments, and secondary data analysis. Determine whether a research design complies with the American Sociological Association's Code of Ethics.
3	Individuals in Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture Socialization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare and contrast culture and society. Compare and contrast ethnocentrism and cultural relativism. Explain the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis. Explain the role of innovation, invention, and discovery in culture. Explain the importance of socialization both for individuals and society. Explain the nature versus nurture debate. Explain the roles of families, peer groups, and social institutions in socialization. Explain how socialization occurs and recurs throughout life.
4	Groups in Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Interaction and Groups Society and Organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinguish between status and role. Compare and contrast primary and secondary groups. Compare and contrast the characteristics associated with the three major styles of leadership (Authoritarian, Democratic, and Laissez-Faire). Compare and contrast pre-industrial, industrial, and post-industrial societies. Recognize the characteristics of bureaucracies. Apply the McDonalidization of society to specific social institutions. Compare and contrast functionalist, conflict theory, and symbolic-interactionist perspectives on society.
5	Race, Class, and Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Stratification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differentiate between open and closed stratification systems.

	Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race and Ethnicity • Gender, Sex, and Sexuality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the components of the class structure. • Compare and contrast race and ethnicity. • Explain the differences between stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination, and racism. • Describe how major sociological perspectives view race and ethnicity. • Apply theories of intergroup relations and race and ethnicity to different subordinate groups. • Differentiate between sex and gender. • Distinguish between the meanings of various sexual identities. • Analyze the role of homophobia and heterosexism in society.
6	Other Sources of Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deviance, Crime, and Social Control • Aging and the Elderly • Global Inequality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the nature of deviance. • Explain the medicalization of deviance. • Compare and contrast the three major sociological perspective on crime and deviance. • Distinguish among different types of crimes. • Explain the biological, social, and psychological changes associated with aging. • Describe attitudes toward death and dying and how they affect the elderly. • Explain how the nature of modern society encourages ageism. • Explain common issues faced by the elderly. • Identify the components of global stratification. • Define economic globalization and describe its manifestation in modern society. • Describe the pros and cons of economic globalization. • Describe the economic situation of some of the world's most impoverished areas.
7	Social Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage and Family • Religion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain variations in family life. • Assess the social and interpersonal impact of various forms of

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Government and Politics 	<p>domestic violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the differences among various types of religious organizations. • Distinguish between animism, polytheism, monotheism, atheism, and agnosticism. • Compare and contrast major world religions. • Compare and contrast educational resources around the world. • Explain the basis for, and impact of, educational inequality. • Distinguish between manifest and latent functions of education. • Differentiate between power and authority. • Compare and contrast common forms of government, such as monarchy, oligarchy, dictatorship, and democracy.
8	A Changing Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media and Technology • Population and Demography • Social Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define technology and describe its evolution. • Evaluate the nature of technological inequality and issues related to unequal access to technology. • Analyze the evolution and current role of different media, like newspapers, television, and new media. • Explain basic concepts and measurements of demography. • Distinguish between a variety of demographic theories, such as Malthusian, and Demographic Transition theories. • Evaluate demographic influences on society. • Distinguish different types and stages of social movements.
	Review and Final Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review, Study Guide, and Final Examination 	