



South Central College

SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology

Common Course Outline

Course Information

Description	The world is a far more diverse place than you might think! This course is a broad survey of sociology and its practical uses for all of us. In this course, students are introduced to a variety of topics, emphasizing breadth rather than depth. After learning about the basic theories and methods of sociology, students will cover topics such as race, gender, education, religion, social class, work, family, the environment, government and politics, organizations and bureaucracy, and other topics. Students will learn about the nature of all of these areas and their effects on individuals and their broader implications for society. In the end, students will leave with a far greater understanding of how society is organized and what that means for where we have been, where we are, and where we are going as a people. (Prerequisite: Completion of READ 0090 with a grade of C or higher or a score of 78 or above in Reading comprehension on the Accuplacer) (MNTC Goal Areas 5 & 8; History and Social Sciences, Global Perspective)
Total Credits	3
Total Hours	48

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type	Credits/Hours
Lecture	3/48

Pre/Corequisites

Prerequisite	Prerequisite: Completion of READ 0090 with a grade of C or higher or a score of 78 or above in Reading comprehension on the Accuplacer
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Institutional Core Competencies

Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility - Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to engage in the social responsibilities expected of a community member.

Cultural Competence - Students will be able to demonstrate an attitude of personal curiosity, a rising knowledge of cultures, and an evolving range of skills for living and working among others with other worldviews and ways of life.

Course Competencies

1. Explain the development of the discipline of Sociology

Linked External Standards

5a - Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.

5c - Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.

Learning Objectives

Discuss the social and political events that led to rise of sociology

Describe who the primary contributors are and their theoretical perspectives

2. Demonstrate an understanding of the various research methods employed in the analysis of the society by the discipline

Linked External Standards

5a - Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.

Learning Objectives

Describe the various steps employed by researchers to conduct a Sociological study

Explain the differences between correlation and causation as well as the differences between quantitative and qualitative studies

3. Explain the framework of culture and the important role this variable plays in defining the individual in relation the larger society

Linked External Standards

5b - Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.

5d - Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

8a - Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.

Learning Objectives

Describe the definition of culture and explain the differences between material and non-material culture

Explain the various elements (norms, values, ethnocentrism, relativism, etc.) of culture

Evaluate cultural relativism and the importance of cross cultural understanding

4. Explain the differences between micro and macro orientation by examining social structure and interaction

Linked External Standards

5c - Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.

5d - Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

8b - Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.

8c - Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.

Learning Objectives

Compare and contrast micro and macro concepts and theoretical perspectives

Discuss the various elements of social structure and interaction

Discuss how the three theoretical perspectives view social structure

5. Describe the important role the process of Socialization play in our society

Linked External Standards

5d - Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

8a - Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.

Learning Objectives

Define socialization

Discuss the differences between nature and nurture in relation to socialization and culture

Explain the various agents of socialization

Discuss how the three theoretical perspectives view the process of socialization

6. Explain the variables of groups and societies in human environments

Linked External Standards

5a - Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.

8b - Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.

Learning Objectives

Describe the various elements of groups in human societies

Identify the elements of a formal organization and describe their function in societies

Discuss how the three theoretical perspectives view social groups

7. Describe stratification both at a local and global level

Linked External Standards

5b - Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.

8c - Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.

8d - Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

Learning Objectives

Compare and contrast local and global stratification

Identify the various elements of stratification - power, wealth, prestige

Discuss how the three theoretical perspectives view both global and local stratification

8. Analyze the importance of the various social institutions that encompass human societies

Linked External Standards

5b - Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.

8d - Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

Learning Objectives

Compare and contrast the various social institutions (religion, education, legal, etc.)

Identify the roles these institutions play in defining human societies

Discuss how the three theoretical perspectives view the various institutions

9. Explain how societies change and its implications

Linked External Standards

8a - Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.

Learning Objectives

Describe what brings about social change

Compare and contrast collective behaviors and other social movements

Discuss how the three theoretical perspectives view societal change brought about by collective behaviors and social movements

10. Evaluate the implications of educational inequality

Learning Objectives

Explain the basic structure of education as an institution

Evaluate the implications of varied outcomes in education

Analyze the implications of educational inequality on labor market outcomes

11. Evaluate the implications of racial/ethnic inequality

Learning Objectives

Describe the extent of racial/ethnic inequality

Evaluate the ethical and societal implications of racial/ethnic inequality on a variety of outcomes

12. Evaluate the implications of gender inequality

Learning Objectives

Describe the nature and extent of gender inequality on a variety of outcomes
Analyze and evaluate the ethical and societal implications of gender inequality