

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Sociology 120 – Introductory Sociology

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

Introductory study of the major concepts, theoretical approaches, and methods of sociology. Topics include social structure, culture, social control, deviance, social stratification, globalization, ethnic and race relations, gender, sexuality, social institutions, social interaction, socialization and social change. Course objectives include the ability to apply sociological ideas to everyday life.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) The Sociological Imagination
- 2) The historical development of sociology
- 3) Major sociological theoretical perspectives
- 4) The principles of scientific research methods
- 5) Societies, social structure and culture
- 6) Socialization and the social construction of the self
- 7) Social Interaction, group behavior, organizations, and mass communication
- 8) Social control, deviance, policing, and the criminal justice system
- 9) Social stratification, social class, and economic inequality
- 10) Race, ethnicity, and race and ethnic relations
- 11) Gender, sex, and sexuality
- 12) Social Institutions: economy/work, government, family, religion, education, health care system.
- 13) Population, urbanization, the environment and globalization
- 14) Social movements and social change

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Understand and apply the sociological imagination to a variety of contemporary social phenomena.
- 2) Identify and explain the principles of scientific research methodology
- 3) Identify, compare and apply the primary sociological theoretical perspectives.
- 4) Appraise the range of cultural variability in human societies
- 5) Explain the dynamics of social control and deviance.
- 6) Analyze systems of social stratification in modern and pre-modern societies
- 7) Review and synthesize the sociological literature on race and ethnic relations
- 8) Analyze gender from several sociological perspectives
- 9) Explain the social construction of the self and the process of socialization.
- 10) Develop critical thinking and writing skills that demonstrate the ability to understand and analyze social phenomena.
- 11) Describe and explain the basic dimensions of social inequality and social change in historical and contemporary society.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system. At least one measurement for evaluation must be a written assignment.

- 1) Formative or summative quizzes and exams
- 2) Group or individual projects, presentations, or research papers that require students to use multiple sociological theories to analyze current issues
- 3) Interactive group activities, in which students analyze, discuss and draw conclusions about social psychology.
- 4) Field-based exercises to report experience, research, and methodology of sociological studies.
- 5) Written assignments (short answers or essays) in which students analyze controversial issues and their implications on society.
- 6) Students are expected to write a minimum of 1,250 words as part of the writing portion in the course.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture
- 2) Small and large group discussions
- 3) Group activities
- 4) Multimedia presentations

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) **Reading:** course material; other course related multimedia.
- 2) **Writing:** short writing assignments; field-based exercises.
- 3) **Other:** N/A.

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Wade, Lisa. *Terrible, Magnificent Sociology*. 2nd edition. W.W. Norton & Company, 2025.
 - b. *A Sociology Experiment*. <https://www.sociologyexperiment.com/>
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Apply the major theoretical perspectives in sociology to information and real experiences.
- 2) Identify, explain and apply the principles of social scientific research methodology.
- 3) Appraise the range of cultural variability in human societies.
- 4) Explain inequalities of class, race, ethnicity, gender, and age in modern and pre-modern societies in sociologically terms.