

Syllabus

Sociology

Course Overview

This one-semester elective course is intended as a practical, hands-on guide to introduce you to the field of sociology. You will explore the evolution of sociology as a distinct social science, learn about sociological concepts and processes, and discuss how the individual relates to society. You will also learn about the influence of culture, social structure, socialization, and social change in today's society.

This course is structured into lessons and Course Activities as follows:

- The first lesson introduces students to the field of sociology and its development as a distinct discipline. You'll learn some important sociological concepts and processes in the second lesson. The third lesson describes different types of societies.
- In the fourth lesson, you'll learn about the contributions of pioneering sociologists to the field.
- The next three lessons discuss important sociological topics such as culture, social groups, socialization, and the various life stages. You will understand the role of culture, groups, and socialization in society.
- In the next three lessons, you will learn about diverse topics such as deviance, social stratification, and inequality. You'll explore the causes and consequences of stratification and inequality in society.
- The next four lessons describe the roles of various social institutions such as family, polity, economy, education, religion, science and technology, and media in society.
- In the last two lessons you will learn about various demographic concepts and theories of population growth. You will also dig into factors affecting social change and learn about various theories of social change and social movements.

You will submit the Course Activity documents to your teacher, and you will grade your work in the Lesson Activities by comparing them with sample responses. Each lesson also has a multiple-choice mastery test. A multiple-choice end-of-semester test completes the course.

The Course Activities (submitted to the teacher) and the Lesson Activities (self-checked) are major components of this course. They will guide your learning as you work through this course. The last of the eight course activities will help you identify possible career paths and key skills required for a career in sociology.

Course Goals

This course will help you meet the following goals:

- Trace the growth of sociology as a distinct discipline.
- Describe the contributions of pioneering sociologists.
- Learn about sociological concepts, processes, and theories.
- Explore important topics in sociology such as culture, deviance, stratification, and inequality.
- Analyze the roles and functions of various social institutions.
- Learn about different theories of demography and social change.

Prerequisite Skills

Sociology is a beginner's course and does not have specific prerequisites. Nevertheless, these fundamental skills will be helpful:

- basic computer skills
- the ability to understand how social factors shape our world
- an interest in social processes and phenomena
- the ability to structure and process information
- familiarity with the writing process

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Perform basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word, or Google Docs.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

Sociology is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- Notebook
- Presentation software
- Computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you stay on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Day	Activity / Objective	Type
1 day:	Course Orientation <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation
3 days: 2-4	Introduction to Sociology <i>Describe sociology as a discipline, its development, and various schools of thought in sociology.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 5-7	Sociological Concepts and Processes <i>Discuss sociological concepts and processes.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 8-10	Types of Societies <i>Describe different types of societies.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 11-15	Developing a Sociological Outlook	Course Activity
1 day: 16	Future of American Society	Course Discussion
4 days: 17-20	Sociological Thinkers <i>Discuss the contributions of pioneers in the field of sociology.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 21-24	Culture and Society <i>Discuss the relationship between culture and society.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 25-28	Social Groups <i>Discuss various types of social groups and their functions.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 29-33	Two Sides of Cultural Exchange	Course Activity
1 day: 34	Is a Global Culture Emerging?	Course Discussion
1 day: 35	Game	Activity
3 days: 36-38	Individual and Society <i>Discuss the process of socialization and various life stages.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 39-41	Deviance <i>Describe the nature and social function of deviance.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 42-44	Social Stratification <i>Discuss social stratification.</i>	Lesson

3 days: 45-47	Social Inequality <i>Discuss social inequality.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 48-52	Media and Deviance	Course Activity
1 day: 53	Healthcare in the United States	Course Discussion
1 day: 54	Game	Activity
4 days: 55-58	Family <i>Discuss family as a social institution.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 59-62	Politics and Society <i>Discuss the relationship between politics and society.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 63-65	Economy and Society <i>Discuss the relationship between the economy and society.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 66-70	Economy, Polity, and Society	Course Activity
1 day: 71	Changing Family Patterns	Course Discussion
1 day: 72	Game	Activity
3 days: 73-75	Education, Religion, and Science <i>Examine education, religion, and science as social institutions.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 76-78	Population Dynamics <i>Discuss the concepts of demography and population dynamics.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 79-81	Social Change <i>Analyze the factors affecting social change.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 82-86	Changing Times: An Imagery of Social Change	Course Activity
1 day: 87	Education and Social Equality	Course Discussion
1 day: 88	Game	Activity
1 day: 89	Course Review	
1 day: 90	End of Semester	Assessment