

Virginia Western Community College

SOC 200

Principles of Sociology

Prerequisites

None

Course Description

Introduces fundamentals of social life. Presents significant research and theory in areas such as culture, social structure, socialization, deviance, social stratification, and social institutions.

This course introduces the science and theory that sociologists use to understand the social world. It examines the social construction of reality, the place of institutions in modern society and the forces that shape human social interaction.

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Blackboard

Textbook:

Virginia Western Community College Ritzer *Essentials* +IEB + Virginia Western Community College Supplement. CA.: Sage Publications, 2015. ISBN: 9781506316482

Other Required Materials:

None

Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Understand the topics listed under the topics list and be able to relate each to the social structure in America.
- Examine sociology's founding and history as a social science
- Understand how sociology functions scientifically
- Understand the research methods used in sociology
- Understand the ethics and ethical dilemmas in studying sociology
- Describe the interrelatedness of the social sciences to his/her world of human experience.
- Demonstrate an understanding of social research, including the ability to apply research findings to social issues.
- Recognize how social institutions change and how they relate to each other in the global world.
- Apply the functional theory, conflict theory and symbolic interaction theory to all social areas including: government, healthcare, education, commerce, and religion.
- Understand some of the prominent areas of sociological study (cultural studies, social institutions and structures, stratification, gender and race construction, minority groups, inequality, medical sociology, criminology, social movements, and demography).
- Recognize problems of social control and deviance.
- Appreciate cultural diversity in a global society.

Topical Description

1	History of Sociology
2	Macrosociology
3	Microsociology
4	Scientific Method
5	The Sociological Perspective and Research Process
6	Culture
7	Socialization
8	Status and Roles
9	Social Structure, Interaction and Groups
10	Deviance and Crime
11	Social Stratification
12	Race and Ethnicity
13	Sex and Gender
14	Families and intimate relationships
15	Education
16	Political and Economic Institutions

17	Religion
18	Health Care and Aging
19	Sports
20	Population and Urbanization
21	Social Change and Collective Behavior

Notes to Instructors

None