

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. Canvas

Textbook:

Virginia Western Community College Ritzer *Essentials* +IEB + Virginia Western Community College Supplement. CA. 3rd ed: Sage Publications, 2015. ISBN: 978-1-544-34645-8

Other Required Materials:

None

Course Outcomes

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

- Define sociology and explain how empirical research is used to study the social world
- Differentiate between culture and society, describe the basic elements of culture, and compare types of societies
- Describe socialization throughout the life course and identify how groups structure society
- Define deviance and crime and describe the sociological theories that account for deviance, conformity and social control
- Describe various measures of social stratification in the US and globally.
- Compare relative experiences of ethnic groups in the United States while demonstrating an identification of race, ethnicity, majority and minority groups, stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination, and racism
- Discuss gender and gender identity, feminism, and sexuality
- Discuss family, marriage and the variations in family life, including marriage, divorce and family abuse
- Describe the role that religion and education play in shaping values and beliefs, and compare various religions and educational practices around the world
- Analyze types of power and authority and explore the political process in the United States
- Examine the historical development of the types of economic systems and describe modern economies and globalization
- Explain the social construction of health, and describe the impact of globalization on health
- Describe the nature and growth of population and the resultant impacts on the environment
- Identify the nature and influence of collective behavior and social movements, and assess the impact of the media and technology on social change

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