

Virginia Western Community College

SOC 200

Introduction to Sociology

Prerequisites

None

Course Description

Introduces the fundamental concepts and principles of sociology with attention to sociological theory, research methods, and the impact of social inequality. Examines a variety of topics such as culture, race, social class, gender, major social institutions and their role in contemporary society, and the processes of social change. Lecture 3 hours. Total 3 hours per week. 3 credits

SOC 200 is a course for students whose college and career paths necessitate knowledge of the organization and operation of the social world. Emphasis is placed on the development of the sociological imagination and the ability to recognize the historical, cultural and institutional forces that shape society and social interactions. In addition, knowledge and application of sociological research methodologies will be used to understand the social world and engage in civic life. Accordingly, students will develop sociological reasoning and research skills to support reasonable conclusions via the following content learning outcomes: sociological imagination, sociological theory, research methods, culture and various social institutions and organization including, but not limited to race/ethnicity, social class, and sex/gender.

Semester Credits: 3 Lecture Hours: 3

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Canvas

Textbook:

Ritzer, *Essentials of Sociology* Electronic Edition 4e (Slimpack) + Ritzer, *Essentials of Sociology* 4e (Loose-leaf). Sage Publications, 2021. ISBN: 9781071852767.

Other Required Materials:

None

Course Outcomes

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

Cultural and Social Understanding

- Identify and assess the relationship between institutions and individuals.
- Identify the elements of culture, including norms, values, symbols, and beliefs, and explain the impact that culture has on human interactions.

Critical Thinking

- Evaluate evidence carefully and utilize reasoning skills in order to demonstrate comprehension of complex social issues.
- Use sociological concepts/scholarly sources to examine complex social issues and promote problem solving.
- Apply course concepts to construct a logically sound and well-reasoned argument.

Communication

- Demonstrate the ability to develop, convey, and exchange ideas in writing, as appropriate to a given context and audience.

Theory and Application

- Explain the major theoretical perspectives: structural-functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply theories to understand individual and group behavior within the context of social institutions.

Research Methods

- Demonstrate an understanding of various sociological research methods.
- Explain the use of the scientific approach in conducting sociological research.

Sociological Imagination

- Explain the sociological imagination and apply it to better understand the social world.

Institutions and Social Structure

- Discuss the relationships between individuals and social structures, including the process of socialization.
- Examine social stratification as it relates to statuses such as race/ethnicity, social class, sex/gender, and others.

Major Topics to be Included

1	Cultural and Social Understanding
2	Critical Thinking
3	Communication
4	Theory and Application
5	Research Methods
6	Sociological Imagination
7	Institutions and Social Structure

Notes to Instructors

None

