J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: SOC 200
Credits: 3

Course Title: Principles of Sociology

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. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: SOC 200 provides the student with an introduction to important sociological concepts and principles. A transferable course to four-year colleges and universities, SOC 200 meets a general education elective requirement for the Social/Behavioral Sciences and also meets a requirement for the Approved Humanities and Social Sciences electives for the Liberal Arts AA and Social Sciences AS degrees. This is a required course for students majoring in the Social Science AS Pre-Social Work Specialization and Human Services. The course should be completed by any student intending to major in Sociology at a four-year institution.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:
Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon completing the course, the student will be able to
a. Identify key originators of and contributors to the discipline;
b. Apply critical thinking skills to understand and analyze the socio-cultural environment;
c. Identify and demonstrate knowledge of the social processes of which he/she is an integral part;
d. Identify and describe the cultural forces that affect his/her life and position in society;
e. Describe how current socio-cultural conditions have been shaped by past traditions and customs;
f. Identify and explain micro- and macro-level aspects of human organizations and relationships;
g. Identify and demonstrate knowledge of the diversity that exists within his/her own society (with regard to physical, social, cultural aspects of humans/human behavior/society), and other societies and cultures;
h. Demonstrate a scientific rather than “common sense” approach to understanding society;
i. Differentiate between assumptions/stereotypes and objective, scientific information;
j. Meaningfully use sociological concepts in oral and written communications, and apply those concepts to his/her own self and life circumstances;
k. Derive tentative conclusions based upon interrelated facts, rather than opinions;
l. Summarize, critically evaluate, and understand information, including scientific data presented in tables and graphs;
m. Identify and differentiate between causal and correlational relationships; and
n. Demonstrate effective, college-level speaking and writing skills.

Major Topics to Be Included:
a. Sociological perspective, theory, and research methods
b. Socialization and social interaction
c. Groups and organizations
d. Deviance
e. Stratification (social class, gender, racial/ethnic, age)
f. Social Institutions (family, education, religion, health/medicine, politics, economics)
g. Collective behavior (may include urbanization and population/environment issues)
h. Social change

Date Created/Updated (Month, Day, and Year): December 18, 2019