

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

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