

SOCIOLOGY – COLLEGE PARK HIGH SCHOOL

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Year 2021 / 2022. Welcome! I look forward to exploring the discipline of sociology with each of you, and assisting you with other academic problems or concerns. I will be available before and after school to answer any of your questions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Welcome to Sociology! Sociology is the social scientific study of the many macro social forces of society, the many micro individual behaviors of people, and the many interactions between and amongst them. No course, including this one, can be totally comprehensive, however we will learn, discuss, and apply basic concepts, perspectives, theories, methodologies, and insights of sociological analysis. We will also examine and analyze social experiments, case studies, historical examples, current events, and future possibilities. Sociologist Todd Gitlin argues that we begin to learn exactly at that point where we enter “that difficult, rugged, sometimes impassable territory where arguments are made, points weighed, counters considered, contradictions faced, and where honest disputants have to consider the possibility of learning something that might change their minds”. C-9 will be that territory.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to...

1. identify and analyze the social dimensions of society as a context for human life, the processes of social change and social continuity, the role of human agency in those social processes, and the forces that engender social cohesion and fragmentation.
2. place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.
3. identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them.
4. evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.
5. recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals. Activities designed to assist students in meeting all of these objectives include: lectures, small & large group discussions, readings, class exercises, exams, short papers, handouts, and films.

PERSONAL OBJECTIVES:

- To become acquainted with the field of sociology;
- To become proficient with major concepts, theories, and insights of sociology;
- To understand ordinary things in new and exciting ways;
- To understand new and exciting things in ordinary ways;
- To question the “common assumptions” and “conventional wisdom” of yourself and others;
- To recognize and analyze the interactions and intersections between and amongst individuals and social forces;
- To assess the dynamics of class, race, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexuality, religion, age, and other identities;
- To better understand our social world and *your* role in it;
- To improve your skills in observation, critical thinking, analysis, and communication;
- To develop, enhance, and apply your sociological imagination!

COURSE TEXT: *Sociology: The Study of Human Relationships*. Instructor will provide other assigned readings which we will read in class and on the web.

COURSE METHODOLOGY: Class will consist primarily of class lectures and discussions, which will amplify, clarify, and critically analyze the textbook. Student progress will be assessed and evaluated through five components. All assignments will be done in class, no homework will be assigned.

EXAMINATION/EVALUATION:

Students should be prepared to do all work in class. Make-up assignments will be allowed on a case-by-case basis involving excused absences only. You can make-up work that you decide you don't want to do in class on any particular day. Tests and exams will be given but these will be class-based, open book projects. Class participation in discussions is encouraged. Student participation in class is an indicator of interest and shows that the student is keeping up with the assigned readings. Grades will break out over a normal letter grade percentage scale (100-90% = “A”, 89-80% = “B”, etc...) and I will supply you with a grade formula so you will always know your grade. Assignment weights will be the following:

20% - Documentary video participation
20% - In-class text assignments
20% - In-class PowerPoint notes
20% - Sociology "Article of the Week" synopsis and analysis
20% - Class participation

COURSE OUTLINE

SOC = Sociology: The Study of Human Relationships (class text)

Unit One: Culture and Social Structure

Chapter One: *The Sociological Point of View*
Readings: SOC; pp 1 – 20.

Chapter Two: *Cultural Diversity*
Readings: SOC; pp. 21 – 40.

Chapter Three: *Cultural Conformity*
Readings: SOC; pp. 41 – 62.

Chapter Four: *Social Structure*
Readings: SOC; pp. 63 – 93

Unit Two: The Individual and Society

Chapter Five: *Socializing the Individual*
Readings: SOC; pp. 94 – 116.

Chapter Six: *The Adolescent in Society*
Readings: SOC; pp. 117 – 146.

Chapter Seven: *The Adult in Society*
Readings: SOC; pp. 147 – 172.

Chapter Eight: *Deviance and Social Control*
Readings: SOC; pp. 173 – 201.

Unit Three: Social Inequality

Chapter Nine: *Social Stratification*
Readings: SOC; pp. 202 – 228.

Chapter Ten: *Racial and Ethnic Relations*
Readings: SOC; pp. 229 – 258.

Chapter Eleven: *Gender, Age, and Health*
Readings: SOC; pp. 259 – 291

Unit Four: Social Institutions

Chapter Twelve: *The Family*
Readings: SOC; pp. 292 – 318.

Chapter Thirteen: *The Economy and Politics*
Readings: SOC; pp. 319 - 346

Chapter Fourteen: *Education and Religion*
Readings: SOC; pp. 347 - 372

Chapter Fifteen: *Science and the Mass Media*
Readings: SOC; pp. 373 – 401

Unit Five: The Changing Social World

Chapter Sixteen: *Population and Urbanization*
Readings: SOC; pp. 402 – 432

Chapter Seventeen: *Collective Behavior*
Readings: SOC; pp. 433 - 458

Chapter Eighteen: *Social Change and Modernization*
Readings: SOC; pp. 459 – 483