

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

SOC 2 - Principles of Sociology

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level III; English Level II

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

This course introduces students to the sociological perspective. Students will gain an understanding of the external social forces that guide human action and how the wider society influences individual and collective experiences. The course will cover the basic concepts, theoretical approaches, and research methods of sociology. Topics may include the analysis and explanation of social structure, group dynamics, socialization and the self, social stratification, culture and diversity, social change, human impact on the environment, and global dynamics. (C-ID SOCI 110).

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Describe the sociological imagination and interpret and assess its function in the study of societies.
- B. Outline and critically annotate the historical development of sociology as a separate discipline.
- C. Distinguish and critically evaluate sociological research methods.
- D. Define, explain, and contrast the major sociological theoretical perspectives and identify their historical and analytic limitations.
- E. Interpret, analyze, and apply sociological concepts to everyday life.
- F. Describe the process of socialization throughout the life course.
- G. Describe and explain the basic dimensions and consequences of social inequality relative to issues of race, ethnicity, class, gender, age, and sexual orientation.
- H. Recognize and assess the influence that social institutions and culture have on shaping individual and collective values, norms, behaviors, roles, identities, expectations, and knowledge structures.
- I. Identify and discuss solutions to the impacts that human societies have on natural ecosystems.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. The Sociological Imagination	3.00
2. Major Theoretical Perspectives in Sociology	3.00
3. Historical Development of Sociology	3.00
4. Sociological Research Methods	3.00
5. Sociology of Culture	3.00
6. Socialization and the Self	3.00
7. Crime, Deviance, and Social Control	3.00
8. Social Institutions: The Family, Education, Government, Religion, the Media, and the Economy	9.00
9. Social Stratification and Class Inequality	3.00
10. The Sociology of Gender and Sexual Orientation	3.00

11. Race and Ethnicity	6.00
12. Global Issues: Population, Urbanization, and Development	3.00
13. Social Impacts on the Natural Environment	3.00
14. Social Movements and Social Change	3.00
Total Hours	51.00

IV. **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

- A. Lecture
- B. Collaborative Group Work
- C. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- D. Discussion
- E. Reading Assignments
- F. Multimedia Presentations

V. **METHODS OF EVALUATION**

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Quizzes
- C. Papers
- D. Projects
- E. Class participation
- F. Written assignments: Each student will be required to write at least 1500 words.

VI. **EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Reading Assignments
 - 1. Read William Rees' article "Is Humanity Fatally Successful" and critically evaluate the differences between the biological and the cultural causes of planetary resource depletion by human societies and come prepared for discussion in class.
 - 2. Read C. Wright Mills "The Sociological Imagination" and explain the distinction he makes between "Private Troubles" and "Public Issues" and be prepared to explain the distinction in class.
- B. Writing Assignments
 - 1. Analyze and write about the differences between 'discrimination' and 'prejudice' and how each manifests in society.
 - 2. Distinguish and write about the differences between 'symbolic' and 'material' culture in the context of the evolution of knowledge and technology in human civilization.
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments
 - 1. Conduct an Ecological Footprint Analysis of your household. Analyze your findings in a way that will allow members of your household to scale back their footprint. What types of behavioral and lifestyle changes can you and members of your household make to reduce your overall footprint, and what impact will those changes have on your consumption habits.
 - 2. Interview 8 of your closest friends about their expectations for the U.S. economy in the coming 10 years. Record their critiques of the economy and their thoughts about their own future economic prospects in terms of finding gainful employment and achieving an acceptable overall standard of living.

VII. **RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION**

Textbooks:

- A. Henslin, James. Essentials of Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach. 11 Edition. Pearson

Publishers, 2014.

B. Macionis, John. Society: The Basics. 13 Edition. Prentice Hall, 2014.

C. Giddens, Anthony et. al. Introduction to Sociology. 9 Edition. W.W. Norton, 2013.

Created/Revised by: Melinda Riley

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