



Course Description

SYG2000 | Introduction to Sociology | 3.00 credits

In this course, students will gain an understanding of the basic sociological concepts and vocabulary, including the methodological tools, sociological perspectives, and scientific procedures used by social scientists to collect data and conduct research. Topics generally include society and culture, institutions, socialization, influences, crime, change, groups, sex, race and ethnicity, family, class, and population.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will demonstrate their knowledge of sociology as a social science by:

1. Describing the historical development of sociology
2. Comparing the contributions of major figures in the field
3. Describing the main theoretical approaches prevalent in this discipline
4. Contrasting different research methods used in sociology

Competency 2: The student will examine the importance of culture and socialization in the structuring and functioning of society by:

1. Analyzing the various characteristics of culture
2. Contrasting the concepts of ethnocentrism and cultural relativism as opposite ways of evaluating cultural variation
3. Explaining the process of socialization, including the role played in this process by the family, peers, schools, the church, and the media
4. Discussing the notion of deviance as an aspect of organized social life

Competency 3: The student will investigate the issue of social stratification and inequality by:

1. Discussing the various bases for social inequality
2. Describing the conflict and structural-functional interpretations of the issue
3. Explaining the importance of social stratification to the individual and to society
4. Identifying key terms applicable to the concepts of race, ethnicity and gender, and distinguishing the major racial and ethnic groups and how they have fared in the United States

Competency 4: The student will explore the subjects of social change and social institutions by:

1. Distinguishing the different theoretical approaches and the major factors promoting social change
2. Identifying the concept of a social institution and analyzing specific forms an institution may take, such as family, religion, and education
3. Examining the impact of social change on social institutions
4. Distinguishing between various forms of collective behavior

Competency 5: The student will show an understanding of other sociological dimensions of social change by:

1. Identifying theories, concepts, and trends affecting world population growth
2. Exploring the major demographic trends affecting the United States
3. Identifying the evolution of urbanization patterns on a national as well as on a global basis
4. Examining the unprecedented challenges of the "urban population explosion" in the United States and worldwide

Learning Outcomes:

- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society