

Miami-Dade Community College
SYG 2000 - INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Course Description: This course engages in a scientific study of society providing an overview of sociology as a social science. It includes its development as a discipline and methodology. It examines culture as a basis for human behavior, how it is acquired and its norms obeyed. It explores the issues of social inequality within society, including the issues of ethnicity and gender. The issues of social change and social institutions are examined, along with those of demography and urbanization, together with the great challenges these currently pose to the modern world.

This course fulfills the 2,000 word requirement of the Gordon Rule

3 Credits

Prerequisites and Corequisites: None

Course Competencies:

Competency 1. THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF SOCIOLOGY AS A SOCIAL SCIENCE BY:

- a. describing the historical development of sociology.
- b. comparing the contributions of major figures in the field.
- c. describing the main theoretical approaches prevalent in this discipline.
- d. 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:

- a. analyzing the various characteristics of culture.
- b. contrasting the concepts of ethnocentrism and cultural relativism as opposite ways of evaluating cultural variation.
- c. explaining the process of socialization, including the role played in this process by the family, peers, schools, the church, and the media.
- d. 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:

- a. discussing the various bases for social inequality.
- b. describing the conflict and structural-functional interpretations of the issue.
- c. explaining the importance of social stratification to the individual and to society.
- d. 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:

- a. distinguishing the different theoretical approaches and the major factors promoting social change.
- b. identifying the concept of a social institution and analyzing specific forms an institution may take, such as family, religion, education.
- c. examining the impact of social change on social institutions.
- d. distinguishing between various forms of collective behavior.

Competency 5. THE STUDENT WILL SHOW AN UNDERSTANDING OF OTHER SOCIOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS OF SOCIAL CHANGE BY:

- a. identifying theories, concepts and trends affecting world population growth.
- b. exploring the major demographic trends affecting the United States.
- c. identifying the evolution of urbanization patterns on a national as well as on a global basis.
- d. examining the unprecedented challenges of the "urban population explosion" in the United States and world-wide.

