

Jacksonville State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Updated June 27, 2006

SY 221 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Basic concepts, principles, and methods of sociological analysis are examined. Subject areas include culture, socialization, groups, communities, institutions, social inequality, and social change.

TEXTS

Applied Sociology: Terms, Topics, Tools, and Tasks, by Stephen F. Steele and Jammie Price.

Sociological Footprints: Introductory Readings in Sociology. Leonard Cargan and Jeanne H. Ballantine.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the course is to demonstrate how sociological concepts are used to assist in the understanding of social forces in the day to day lives of humans. Emphasis will be placed on acquiring and understanding the sociological perspective as it applies to these social forces, and implementing this perspective in daily life. Objectives include the following:

1. For students to learn the purpose and mission of sociology.
2. For students to learn how to use the sociological imagination as a means of understanding the world around them.
3. For students to learn some of the basics of sociological theory.
4. For students to learn aspects of American society which are contrary to what they have been brought up thinking.
5. For students to open up their minds and learn that there is much more to life than they could have ever imagined . . . and that they too can help shape the world.
6. For students to be acquainted with the concepts of human behavior and social relationships in groups within a cultural context.
7. For students to be acquainted with the importance and effects of social, economic, educational, familial, and political factors on human behavior and social relationships.

TOPICS

- A. Origins of Sociology
- B. Research Methods
- C. Culture
- D. Socialization
- E. Social Structure
- F. Groups
- G. Deviance and Crime
- H. Social Class and Inequality
- I. Race and Ethnicity
- J. Gender
- K. Aging
- L. Marriage and the Family
- M. Health
- N. Collective Behavior

Required Reading Schedule

Week One: Read Chapter 1 in Steele; and the Introduction in Cargan.

Week Two: Read Chapter 2 in Steele; Article two in Cargan.

Week Three: Read Chapter 3 in Steele; Articles 6-9 in Cargan.

Week Four: Read Chapter 4 in Steele; Articles 10-11 in Cargan.

Week Five: Read Chapter 5 in Steele; Articles 51-54 in Cargan.

Week Six: Read Chapter 6 in Steele; Articles 37 and 41 in Cargan.

Week Seven: Read Chapter 7 in Steele; Articles 45-46 in Cargan.

Week Eight: Read Chapter 12 in Steele

Week Nine: Read Chapter 8 in Steele; Articles 13-14 in Cargan.

Week Ten: Read Chapter 9 in Steele; Articles 16-17 in Cargan.

Week Eleven: Read Chapter 11 in Steele; Article 23 in Cargan.

Week Twelve: Read Chapter 14 in Steele; Articles 27-29 in Cargan.

Week Thirteen: Read Chapter 15 in Steele; Articles 30-31 in Cargan.

Week Fourteen: Read Chapter 16 in Steele