

# Sociology

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## Course

Students will learn about Sociology as an academic discipline. Sociology will focus on the history of sociology, its perspectives, and how these perspectives are applied to analyze the social world.. Sociology emphasizes critical and creative thinking skills and an ability to formulate and to test valid theories.

## Themes

The course is divided up by the following themes:

- Theme 1 Foundations of Sociology
- Theme 2 Culture and Socialization
- Theme 3 Stratification and Inequality
- Theme 4 Social Change and Social Problems

## Textbooks

Thomas, W. LaVerne. *Sociology: The Study of Human Relationships*

## Expectations

This course will emphasize critical and analytical thinking skills, practice and process. Reading, writing and research are integral aspects of sociology as a discipline. Consequently, students can expect to be stronger in these skills by the end of the semester.

Students will be expected to complete all assignments on time and as directed. A zero will be placed in the gradebook for all assignments not turned in on the day due until the work is made up. In the event of an absence the school make-up policy will be strictly enforced. Students will have one class day for every excused day absent, plus one day to make up the work. This only applies to excused absences. Work will not be accepted for unexcused absences. Note: there will be no exceptions for “computer glitches,” “corrupted files,” “lost e-mails,” etc. It is your responsibility to make sure your computers are in working order, and keep back-up files in case of a technological problem.

In the event of a field trip, the student is expected to check the Google Classroom for any missed work. All assignments and materials can be found on Google Classroom. The student is required to turn in the work on time.

Students will keep a college composition book for this class. Many college professors require the use of composition books. In the composition book students are required to keep at least the following: notes,



bell ringers, any assignments so directed to be completed in the composition book. Assignments to be included in the composition book will have this symbol in the upper right-hand corner. Composition books will be graded every test day. If the student does not have his or her composition book at these times, a zero will be entered.

The notebook will be the only hard copy work assigned. All other assignments and projects will be turned in digitally or presented orally. The class will be mostly interactive and discussion based, but assignments will be given to assess and to reinforce knowledge and thinking skills. Time will be given in class to complete all assignments. It should not be necessary to complete assignments as homework.

This class is divided into four themes. Each theme includes an exam. The exam includes higher level, open ended questions and will be posted at the beginning of each theme. Students are allowed to complete the exam at any point during the given theme. They can use whatever resources they have at their disposal. Exams are to be completed independently by each individual student. If students collaborate on the exams, each collaborating student is responsible for submitting a distinctly individualized exam. Duplicate exams will be receive a zero. Time will be given at the end of each theme to complete the exam in class, however, students may complete the exam on their own time if they so desire. Students who have completed the exam before the assigned test day may use that day to quietly do make-up work, extra credit or work for another class.

Sociology will introduce the student to ideas and concepts that are new and, sometimes, confusing. Sociologists really have a different way of analyzing the world. To do well in the class, attendance is mandatory. I am your best source of clarification. Missing class means missing adequate instruction on the concepts. It is difficult to get caught up on much of what will be taught in class by doing make-up work. If you are in class, you are getting the benefit of my explanation, discussion with other students and the opportunity to ask clarifying questions.

The end of the semester will be almost exclusively student focused. Students will be responsible for presenting their own sociological analysis on a given topic related to social change and social problems. This will be a big part of the quarter 4 grade, so it is important that students attend class and do the preliminary work from the first three themes, as these skills will lay the ground work for the personal projects. Students may present an individual project, or they may pair up with one and only one other student. Paired presentations will share a grade. Students will pick a date on which to present their projects. Dates will be given on a first come, first serve basis, so come to me early to reserve your desired date. Students who do not come to me for a presentation did will be given whatever date I assign. Presentations should be between 10 and 15 minutes long. Time will be given in class to work on presentations.

## **Theme 1: Foundations of Sociology**

January 8: Opening Day Procedures Utopia Dystopia Project

January 10: The Sociological Imagination: Evaluate Utopia Dystopia Project

January 14: Social Facts and Fake News

January 16: Functionalism: Tarp Activity: The Organic Model

January 21: What do School Teach? Durkheim and the Value Consensus  
January 23: Class Conflict and Marx: Beat the Bourgeoisie  
January 27: Who Rules America? Elite Models of Power  
January 29: Verstehen and Interaction  
January 31: Social Constructionism and Locker Room Talk  
February 4: Presentation of Self and Social Media  
February 6: Test Day

## **Theme 2: Culture and Socialization**

February 11: Nature vs. Nurture: Are Human Beings Naturally Warlike?  
February 13: Agencies of Socialization Project  
February 18: Agencies of Socialization Presentation  
February 20: Social Groups and Conformity  
February 24: Anomie: The Zombie Apocalypse, Durkheim, Suicide and the Opioid Crisis  
February 26: Material Culture: What do you need?  
February 28: Components of Culture: Confederate Statues  
March 3: Norms, Values and Ethnomethodology  
March 5: Body Image  
March 9: Technology, Social Change and Postmodernism  
March 11: Deviance  
March 23: Identity: Who Are You: Autobiography  
March 25: Test Day

## **Theme 3: Stratification and Inequality**

March 27: Social Stratification: Davis Moore Thesis  
March 31: Social Stratification: Marx vs. Weber  
April 2: Inequality  
April 6: The Feminist Perspective: Miss Representation Movie  
April 8: Evaluate Miss Representation Movie  
April 14: Social Construction of Masculinity: The Masks We Wear  
April 16: Evaluate The Masks We Wear  
April 20: Brown Eyes/Blue Eyes and Racism  
April 22: Sociology of Hate  
April 24: Test Day

## **Theme 4: Social Change and Social Problems**

April 28-May 27: Student Presentations Social Change and Social Problems