

# 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 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 date 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**

August 31: Opening Day Procedures

September 2: Utopia Dystopia Project

September 4: The Sociological Imagination: Evaluate Utopia Dystopia Project

September 9: Social Facts and Fake News

September 11: Functionalism: Tarp Activity: The Organic Model

September 15: What do Schools Teach? Durkheim and the Value Consensus

September 17: Class Conflict and Marx: Beat the Bourgeoisie

September 21: Who Rules America? Elite Models of Power  
September 23: Verstehen and Interaction  
September 25: Social Constructionism and Locker Room Talk  
September 30: Presentation of Self and Social Media  
October 2: Test Day

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

October 6: Nature vs. Nurture: Are Human Beings Naturally Warlike?  
October 8: Agencies of Socialization Project  
October 12: Agencies of Socialization Presentation  
October 14: Social Groups and Conformity  
October 16: Anomie: The Zombie Apocalypse, Durkheim, Suicide and the Opioid Crisis  
October 20: Material Culture: What do you need?  
October 22: Components of Culture: Confederate Statues  
October 26: Norms, Values and Ethnomethodology  
October 28: Body Image  
October 30: Technology, Social Change and Postmodernism  
November 3: Deviance  
November 5: Identity: Who Are You: Autobiography  
November 9: Test Day

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

November 12: Social Stratification: Davis Moore Thesis  
November 16: Social Stratification: Marx vs. Weber  
November 18: Inequality  
November 20: The Feminist Perspective: Miss Representation Movie  
December 1: Evaluate Miss Representation Movie  
December 3: Social Construction of Masculinity: The Masks We Wear  
December 7: Evaluate The Masks We Wear  
December 9: Brown Eyes/Blue Eyes and Racism  
December 11: Sociology of Hate  
December 15: Test Day

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

December 17: Make Up Day  
January 5-26: Student Presentations Social Change and Social Problems