Course Information

Course Number: SOC 135
Course title: Sociology
Semester Credits: 3
Instructor: Rene Meyers
Contact Information: Moodle E-mail, 785-623-6180 (NCKTC); renemeyers@hotmail.com; rmeyers@ncktc.edu

Course Description

This transferable course introduces the student to the study of the structure and function of human groups, particularly those occurring in contemporary industrialized cultures. The relationships between the individual and society, culture and society and the social dynamics of institutions are discussed. Sociological principles will be applied to current social problems.

Text


Course Objectives

The learning outcomes detailed in this syllabus meet, or exceed, the learning outcomes specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Project for this course, as sanctioned by the Kansas Board of Regents.

1. Recognize the main ideas of three of the following theoretical paradigms: Functionalism, Conflict Theory, Symbolic Interactionism, PostModernism.
2. Give an example of how systems of social stratification (e.g., class, race, gender, sexuality, age) organize the distribution of social advantages and disadvantages.
3. Describe the relationship between social structure and individual behavior.
4. Distinguish between qualitative and quantitative approaches to conducting sociological research.
5. Define the major components of culture, including the role of socialization, social norms and deviance.
6. Give an example of the social causes and consequences of a major social change (e.g. globalization, environment, technology, population shifts).

Course Competencies

After completing the course the student will be able to:
1. Describe the historical context of the development of sociology.
2. Define sociology and compare it to other social science disciplines.
3. Compare social structure and social action.
4. Explain what sociologists mean by social structure.
5. Apply the sociological imagination to a specific situation.
6. Discuss the classical theories of Marx, Durkheim, Weber and Simmel.
7. Compare and contrast conflict theory and functional theory.
8. Identify and describe the interactionist theories of exchange, role and status, the dramaturgical approach, and understand symbolic interactionist views.
9. Explain the concepts of social categories, status, role, role expectation, role strain, and role conflict.
10. Describe the scientific method including the research methods used – field research, survey research, and experiments – and identify ethical issues.
11. Identify independent and dependent variables and describe correlation, causation, and spurious correlation.
12. Explain the concepts of norms/material culture (technologies) and norms/non-material culture (ideologies) and cultural lag.
13. Describe norms – folkways and mores, values and how they are related to a culture and/or subculture.
14. Identify the relationship between culture, subculture, and ethnicity; and define ethnocentrism.
15. Describe the interplay between language and culture.
16. Describe the process of socialization using social learning, and cognitive learning perspectives and apply the ideas of George Mead and Jean Piaget.
17. Apply the ideas of social networks and social capital to specific situations.
18. Define deviance and social control and describe the major sociological theories of crime-anomie/strain, labeling, differential association, cultural transmission, and social control theory.
19. Discuss issues of social inequality – gender, race and ethnicity, social class, age, and sexual orientation.
20. Identify local, national and global dimensions of social stratification.
21. Compile a list of the major social institutions - family, economy, politics, religion, education, and healthcare – describe how they are related.
22. Describe the impact religion, politics and economics have on behavior.
23. Discuss U.S. healthcare system, epidemiology, life expectancy, infant mortality rate, fee-for-service systems and the development of managed care.
24. Compare hunting and gathering, horticultural/pastoral, agricultural/agrarian, industrial, and postindustrial societies and discuss impact on culture.
25. Describe how technological developments changes culture and society.
26. Explain collective behavior and describe what sociologists mean by the term social movement.
Requirements

Weekly discussion post participation, weekly quizzes, weekly application questions, final paper.

Grading Scale

Each chapter will consist of: 10 points for discussion post
10 points for application questions
15 points for quiz

End of the Semester Final Paper: 60 points

Final grades will be determined by percentage of total points possible:

A = 90 - 100%
B = 80 - 89%
C = 70 - 79%
D = 60 - 69%
F = 59% or less

Services for Students with Disabilities

Students with either a permanent or temporary disability, who require accommodations for more than one week should request services by contacting the Student Services office. Students requesting accommodations must present written documentation from a certified professional, which should include a statement identifying the disability as well as recommendations for accommodations. Contact at least one month in advance, the Dean of Student Services at (785) 738-2276 to make requests for accommodations.

Policy Regarding Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated while attending North Central Kansas Technical College. Examples of academic dishonesty include: plagiarism, cheating, falsification or forgery of any assignments or examinations. Any student who participates in any form of academic dishonesty must accept the consequences for their actions. These consequences may include, but are not limited to the following (a) verbal or written warning, (b) lowering of grade for assignment/activity, (c) failure of class assignment, exam, and/or course. For further information regarding NCKTC policies regarding scholastic dishonesty see pages 9-10 of the Student Handbook.

EPA STANDARDS

The college will comply with all Federal and State Standards in regard to OSHA and EPA Regulations. In most of the shops and labs, students either handle or produce hazardous waste materials. All faculties have received training on these standards.