

North Central Kansas Technical College

Syllabus - Sociology

Course Information

Course Number: SOC 135
Course title: Sociology– Section A
Semester Credits: 3
Instructor: Christine Witt
Contact Information: 785-534-0477; (For fastest results e-mail me within our class)

Course Description

This 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 also discussed. Sociological principles will be applied to current social problems.

Text

Henslin, James. Sociology A Down-To-Earth Approach. Ninth Edition. Allyn and Bacon, 2008.

Course Objectives

1. **History:** Articulate critical historical events and theorists who characterized the development of sociology as a science.
2. **Methodology:** Identify various research designs that enable researchers to collect sociological data.
3. **Perspectives:** Develop an understanding of the basic theoretical perspectives used to describe and analyze human societies.
4. **Basic Concepts:** Delineate the components of culture -identifying major social institutions and relevant theories of socialization and the phenomenon of deviance.
5. **Structure:** Describe issues relevant to social structure, i.e. statuses, roles and inequality.

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.

Late Work

Late work is NOT accepted. Weekly assignments are due on Sunday nights by 11:55 p.m. Weekly quizzes, assignments and discussion will not be accepted after the deadline. Discussions will remain active during the course but, credit will not be awarded for late submissions

Grading Scale

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.