

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SOCI 2753 Introduction to Sociology

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory or other types of Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): N/A

Prerequisite(s) or corequisite(s): N/A

Corequisite(s): N/A

Effective Catalog: 2021-2022

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description (Please limit to 60 words.)

Introduces students to the scientific study of human society from a sociological perspective. Examines key agents of socialization, the social construction of reality and the role of social institutions in shaping people's behavior. Explores the sources of social division and inequality within and between societies and the role of collective action in processes of social change. (ACTS: SOCI 1013)

C. Additional Information

This course is required for the Sociology minor.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss perspectives, research methods, and concepts in sociology and how those are used for the systematic study of society.
2. Analyze processes of socialization and apply how socialization operates in different societies and cultures.
3. Analyze the social construction of race, class, and gender and examine how those intersect.
4. Evaluate the major methods of social control and regulation, including the family, religion, education, political and economic systems, and the media, and be able to explain the concept of deviance.
5. Explain the sources of social change.

6. Create presentations in which the sociological imagination is applied to current societal examples.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills:

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze the causes of social problems through research and evaluation of varying sources. Students will assess proposed solutions. Students will represent and interpret statistical information and data in order to draw inferences.

Communication Skills (written and oral): Students will communicate proficiently. Students will compose coherent documents appropriate to the intended audience. Students will effectively communicate orally in a public setting.

Ethical Decision Making: Students will model ethical decision-making processes. In addition to maintaining academic integrity in all of their work, students will be introduced to ethical issues in social research.

Global and Cultural Perspectives: Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze how culture is both a projection and reflection of social structures. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how sociology impacts or is impacted by different cultures.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The sociological imagination: history and theories of sociology
- B. Research methods in sociology
- C. Socialization and the social construction of reality
- D. Social structure, culture, statuses, roles, groups, organizations
- E. Deviance and social control
- F. Social stratification by socioeconomic class, sex/gender, and race/ethnicity
- G. Social institutions including family, education, religion, economy, polity, health
- H. Social change and social movements