

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: SOC 200

Credits: 3

Course Title: Principles of Sociology

Course Description: Introduces fundamentals of social life. Presents significant research and theory in areas, such as culture, social structure, socialization, deviance, social stratification, and social institutions. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and ENF 3. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose:

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in **Co-requisites** ENG 111 and ENF 3

Course Objectives:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a. Identify key originators of and contributors to the discipline.
- b. Apply critical thinking skills to understand and analyze the socio-cultural environment.
- c. Identify and understand the social processes of which he/she is an integral part.
- d. Identify and understand the cultural forces that affect his/her life and position in society.
- e. Recognize how current socio-cultural conditions have been shaped by past traditions and customs.
- f. Identify and explain micro- and macro-level aspects of human organizations and relationships.
- g. Recognize and appreciate the diversity that exists within his/her own society (with regard to physical, social, cultural aspects of humans and human behavior/society), as well as other societies and cultures.
- h. Utilize a scientific rather than "common sense" approach to understanding society.
- i. Differentiate between assumptions/stereotypes and objective, scientific information.
- j. Meaningfully use sociological concepts in oral and written communications, and apply those concepts to his/her own self and life circumstances.
- k. Derive tentative conclusions based upon interrelated facts, rather than opinions.
- l. Summarize, critically evaluate, and understand information, including scientific data presented in tables and graphs.
- m. Recognize and differentiate between causal and correlational relationships.
- n. Demonstrate effective, college-level speaking and writing skills.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- a. Sociological perspective, theory, and research methods
- b. Socialization and social interaction
- c. Groups and organizations
- d. Deviance
- e. Stratification (social class, gender, racial/ethnic, age)
- f. Social Institutions (family, education, religion, health/medicine, politics, economics)
- g. Collective behavior (may include urbanization and population/environment issues)
- h. Social Change

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: Summer, 2014