



## **ACE Sociology (3 Semester Credits) - Course Syllabus**

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### **Description:**

*Sociology* is an introductory study of the basic concepts, theoretical approaches, and methods of sociology. Topics include the analysis and explanation of social structure, group dynamics, socialization and the self, social stratification, culture and diversity, social change, and global dynamics.

**Textbook:** *Introduction to Sociology* – Open Stax – Griffiths, et al., ISBN-10: 1-947172-11-5, (This text is provided to students as part of their enrollment.)

**Prerequisites:** No prerequisites

### **Course objectives:**

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Apply sociological ideas to everyday life.
- Understand and apply the sociological imagination to a variety social phenomenon.
- Understand the historical development of Sociology as a separate discipline.
- Identify, compare and apply the primary sociological perspectives.
- Assess what social forces and organizational structures are most prominent in shaping, guiding and influencing individual and group behavior in contemporary society.
- Describe and explain the basic dimensions of social inequality and social change in historical and contemporary society.

### **Course Evaluation Criteria**

A passing percentage is **70%** or higher.

### **Grading Scale**

A = 95-100%

B = 88-94.9%

C = 80-87.9%

D = 70-79.9%

F = below 70%

### **ACE Course Retake Policy**

2 (two) attempts are allowed on every quiz, and 2 (two) attempts are allowed on every final exam.

### ***Proctorio* – Video Proctoring**

All Final Exams are video proctored with Proctorio. ([www.proctorio.com](http://www.proctorio.com))

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## ADA Policy

Excel Education Systems is committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible environment to all students, across all of its schools, in accordance with the 1990 Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

There is a **total of 385 points** in this course:

### Grade Weighting

Chapter Quizzes	70%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>30%</u>
	100%

Assessment	Points Available	Percentage of Final Grade
Chapter 1 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 2 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 3 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 4 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 5 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 6 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 7 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 8 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 9 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 10 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 11 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 12 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 13 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 14 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 15 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 16 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 17 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 18 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 19 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 20 Quiz	15	3.34%
Chapter 21 Quiz	15	3.34%
Final Exam	70	30.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Course Contents and Objectives

Chapter 1 – An Introduction to Sociology	
Lessons	1.1 What Is Sociology?

	1.2 The History of Sociology 1.3 Theoretical Perspectives 1.4 Why Study Sociology?
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain concepts central to sociology</li> <li>• Understand how different sociological perspectives have developed</li> <li>• Explain why sociology emerged when it did</li> <li>• Describe how sociology became a separate academic discipline</li> <li>• Explain what sociological theories are and how they are used</li> <li>• Understand the similarities and differences between structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism</li> <li>• Explain why it is worthwhile to study sociology</li> <li>• Identify ways sociology is applied in the real world</li> </ul>

<b>Chapter 2 – Sociological Research</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	2.1 Approaches to Sociological Research 2.2 Research Methods 2.3 Ethical Concerns
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define and describe the scientific method</li> <li>• Explain how the scientific method is used in sociological research</li> <li>• Understand the function and importance of an interpretive framework</li> <li>• Define what reliability and validity mean in a research study</li> <li>• Differentiate between four kinds of research methods: surveys, field research, experiments, and secondary data analysis</li> <li>• Understand why different topics are better suited to different research approaches</li> <li>• Understand why ethical standards exist</li> <li>• Demonstrate awareness of the American Sociological Association’s Code of Ethics</li> <li>• Define value neutrality</li> </ul>

<b>Chapter 3 – Culture</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	3.1 What Is Culture? 3.2 Elements of Culture 3.3 Pop Culture, Subculture, and Cultural Change 3.4 Theoretical Perspectives on Culture
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differentiate between culture and society</li> <li>• Explain material versus nonmaterial culture</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the concept of cultural universalism as it relates to society</li> <li>• Compare and contrast ethnocentrism and xenocentrism</li> <li>• Understand how values and beliefs differ from norms</li> <li>• Explain the significance of symbols and language to a culture</li> <li>• Explain the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis</li> <li>• Discuss the role of social control within culture</li> <li>• Discuss the roles of both high culture and pop culture within society</li> <li>• Differentiate between subculture and counterculture</li> <li>• Explain the role of innovation, invention, and discovery in culture</li> <li>• Understand the role of cultural lag and globalization in cultural change</li> <li>• Discuss the major theoretical approaches to cultural interpretation</li> </ul>
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<b>Chapter 4 – Society and Social Interaction</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	4.1 Types of Societies 4.2 Theoretical Perspectives on Society 4.3 Social Constructions of Reality
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the difference between preindustrial, industrial, and postindustrial societies</li> <li>• Understand the role of environment on preindustrial societies</li> <li>• Understand how technology impacts societal development</li> <li>• Describe Durkheim’s functionalist view of society</li> <li>• Understand the conflict theorist view of society</li> <li>• Explain Marx’s concepts of class and alienation</li> <li>• Identify how symbolic interactionists understand society</li> <li>• Understand the sociological concept of reality as a social construct</li> <li>• Define roles and describe their places in people’s daily interactions</li> <li>• Explain how individuals present themselves and perceive themselves in a social context</li> </ul>

<b>Chapter 5 – Socialization</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	5.1 Theories of Self Development 5.2 Why Socialization Matters 5.3 Agents of Socialization 5.4 Socialization Across the Life Course
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the difference between psychological and sociological theories of self-development</li> <li>• Explain the process of moral development</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the importance of socialization both for individuals and society</li> <li>• Explain the nature versus nurture debate</li> <li>• Learn the roles of families and peer groups in socialization</li> <li>• Understand how we are socialized through formal institutions like schools, workplaces, and the government</li> <li>• Explain how socialization occurs and recurs throughout life</li> <li>• Understand how people are socialized into new roles at age-related transition points</li> <li>• Describe when and how resocialization occurs</li> </ul>
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<b>Chapter 6 – Groups and Organizations</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	6.1 Types of Groups 6.2 Group Size and Structure 6.3 Formal Organizations
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand primary and secondary groups as the two sociological groups</li> <li>• Recognize in-groups and out-groups as subtypes of primary and secondary groups</li> <li>• Define reference groups</li> <li>• Explain how size influences group dynamics</li> <li>• Describe different styles of leadership</li> <li>• Explain how conformity is impacted by groups</li> <li>• Understand the different types of formal organizations</li> <li>• Recognize the characteristics of bureaucracies</li> <li>• Identify the concepts of the McJob and the McDonaldization of society</li> </ul>

<b>Chapter 7 – Deviance, Crime, and Social Control</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	7.1 Deviance and Control 7.2 Theoretical Perspectives on Deviance 7.3 Crime and the Law
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define deviance, and explain the nature of deviant behavior</li> <li>• Differentiate between methods of social control</li> <li>• Describe the functionalist view of deviance in society through four sociologist's theories</li> <li>• Explain how conflict theory understands deviance and crime in society</li> <li>• Describe the symbolic interactionist approach to deviance, including labeling and other theories</li> <li>• Identify and differentiate between different types of crimes</li> <li>• Evaluate U.S. crime statistics</li> <li>• Understand the three branches of the U.S. criminal justice system</li> </ul>

<b>Chapter 8 – Media and Technology</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	8.1 Technology Today 8.2 Media and Technology in Society 8.3 Global Implications 8.4 Theoretical Perspectives on Media and Technology
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define technology and describe its evolution</li> <li>• Understand technological inequality and issues related to unequal access to technology</li> <li>• Describe the role of planned obsolescence in technological development</li> <li>• Describe the evolution and current role of different media, like newspapers, television, and new media</li> <li>• Understand the function of product advertising in media</li> <li>• Demonstrate awareness of the social homogenization and social fragmentation that occur via modern society's use of technology and media</li> <li>• Explain the advantages and concerns of media globalization</li> <li>• Understand the globalization of technology</li> <li>• Understand and discuss how we analyze media and technology through various sociological perspectives</li> </ul>

<b>Chapter 9 – Social Stratification in the United States</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	9.1 What Is Social Stratification? 9.2 Social Stratification and Mobility in the United States 9.3 Global Stratification and Inequality 9.4 Theoretical Perspectives on Social Stratification
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differentiate between open and closed stratification systems</li> <li>• Distinguish between caste and class systems</li> <li>• Understand meritocracy as an ideal system of stratification</li> <li>• Understand the U.S. class structure</li> <li>• Describe several types of social mobility</li> <li>• Recognize characteristics that define and identify class</li> <li>• Define global stratification</li> <li>• Describe different sociological models for understanding global stratification</li> <li>• Understand how studies of global stratification identify worldwide inequalities</li> <li>• Understand and apply functionalist, conflict theory, and interactionist perspectives on social stratification</li> </ul>

<b>Chapter 10 – Global Inequality</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	10.1 Global Stratification and Classification 10.2 Global Wealth and Poverty 10.3 Theoretical Perspectives on Global Stratification

<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe global stratification</li> <li>• Understand how different classification systems have developed</li> <li>• Use terminology from Wallerstein’s world systems approach</li> <li>• Explain the World Bank’s classification of economies</li> <li>• Understand the differences between relative, absolute, and subjective poverty</li> <li>• Describe the economic situation of some of the world’s most impoverished areas</li> <li>• Explain the cyclical impact of the consequences of poverty</li> <li>• Describe the modernization and dependency theory perspectives on global stratification</li> </ul>
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<b>Chapter 11 – Race and Ethnicity</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	11.1 Racial, Ethnic, and Minority Groups 11.2 Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination 11.3 Theories of Race and Ethnicity 11.4 Intergroup Relationships 11.5 Race and Ethnicity in the United States
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the difference between race and ethnicity</li> <li>• Define a majority group (dominant group)</li> <li>• Define a minority group (subordinate group)</li> <li>• Explain the difference between stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination, and racism</li> <li>• Identify different types of discrimination</li> <li>• View racial tension through a sociological lens</li> <li>• Describe how major sociological perspectives view race and ethnicity</li> <li>• Identify examples of culture of prejudice</li> <li>• Explain different intergroup relations in terms of their relative levels of tolerance</li> <li>• Give historical and/or contemporary examples of each type of intergroup relation</li> <li>• Compare and contrast the different experiences of various ethnic groups in the United States</li> <li>• Apply theories of intergroup relations, race, and ethnicity to different subordinate groups</li> </ul>

<b>Chapter 12 – Gender, Sex, and Sexuality</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	12.1 The Difference Between Sex and Gender 12.2 Gender 12.3 Sex and Sexuality
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define and differentiate between sex and gender</li> <li>• Define and discuss what is meant by gender identity</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand and discuss the role of homophobia and heterosexism in society</li> <li>• Distinguish the meanings of transgender, transsexual, and homosexual identities</li> <li>• Explain the influence of socialization on gender roles in the United States</li> <li>• Understand the stratification of gender in major American institutions</li> <li>• Describe gender from the view of each sociological perspective</li> <li>• Understand different attitudes associated with sex and sexuality</li> <li>• Define sexual inequality in various societies</li> <li>• Discuss theoretical perspectives on sex and sexuality</li> </ul>
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<b>Chapter 13 – Aging and the Elderly</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	13.1 Who Are the Elderly? Aging in Society 13.2 The Process of Aging 13.3 Challenges Facing the Elderly 13.4 Theoretical Perspectives on Aging
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the difference between senior age groups (young-old, middle-old, and old-old)</li> <li>• Describe the “graying of the United States” as the population experiences increased life expectancies</li> <li>• Examine aging as a global issue</li> <li>• Consider the biological, social, and psychological changes in aging</li> <li>• Describe the birth of the field of geriatrics</li> <li>• Examine attitudes toward death and dying and how they affect the elderly</li> <li>• Name the five stages of grief developed by Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross</li> <li>• Understand the historical and current trends of poverty among elderly populations</li> <li>• Recognize ageist thinking and ageist attitudes in individuals and institutions</li> <li>• Learn about elderly individuals’ risks of being mistreated and abused</li> <li>• Compare and contrast sociological theoretical perspectives on aging</li> </ul>

<b>Chapter 14 – Marriage and Family</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	14.1 What Is Marriage? What Is a Family? 14.2 Variations in Family Life 14.3 Challenges Families Face
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe society’s current understanding of family</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize changes in marriage and family patterns</li> <li>• Differentiate between lines of descent and residence</li> <li>• Recognize variations in family life</li> <li>• Understand the prevalence of single parents, cohabitation, same-sex couples, and unmarried individuals</li> <li>• Discuss the social impact of changing family structures</li> <li>• Understand the social and interpersonal impact of divorce</li> <li>• Describe the social and interpersonal impact of family abuse</li> </ul>
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<b>Chapter 15 – Religion</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	15.1 The Sociological Approach to Religion 15.2 World Religions 15.3 Religion in the United States
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the historical view of religion from a sociological perspective</li> <li>• Understand how the major sociological paradigms view religion</li> <li>• Explain the differences between various types of religious organizations</li> <li>• Understand classifications of religion, like animism, polytheism, monotheism, and atheism</li> <li>• Describe several major world religions</li> <li>• Give examples of religion as an agent of social change</li> <li>• Describe current U.S. trends including megachurches and secularization</li> </ul>

<b>Chapter 16 – Education</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	16.1 Education around the World 16.2 Theoretical Perspectives on Education 16.3 Issues in Education
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify differences in educational resources around the world</li> <li>• Describe the concept of universal access to education</li> <li>• Define manifest and latent functions of education</li> <li>• Explain and discuss how functionalism, conflict theory, feminism, and interactionism view issues of education</li> <li>• Identify and discuss historical and contemporary issues in education</li> </ul>

<b>Chapter 17 – Government and Politics</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	17.1 Power and Authority 17.2 Forms of Government 17.3 Politics in the United States 17.4 Theoretical Perspectives on Government and Power
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define and differentiate between power and authority</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and describe the three types of authority</li> <li>• Define common forms of government, such as monarchy, oligarchy, dictatorship, and democracy</li> <li>• Compare common forms of government and identify real-life examples of each</li> <li>• Explain the significance of “one person, one vote” in determining U.S. policy</li> <li>• Discuss how voter participation affects politics in the United States</li> <li>• Explore the influence of race, gender, and class issues on the voting process</li> <li>• Understand how functionalists, conflict theorists, and interactionists view government and politics</li> </ul>
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<b>Chapter 18 – Work and the Economy</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	18.1 Economic Systems 18.2 Globalization and the Economy 18.3 Work in the United States
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand types of economic systems and their historical development</li> <li>• Describe capitalism and socialism both in theory and in practice</li> <li>• Discuss how functionalists, conflict theorists, and symbolic interactionists view the economy and work</li> <li>• Define globalization and describe its manifestation in modern society</li> <li>• Discuss the pros and cons of globalization from an economic standpoint</li> <li>• Describe the current U.S. workforce and the trend of polarization</li> <li>• Explain how women and immigrants have changed the modern U.S. workforce</li> <li>• Understand the basic elements of poverty in the United States today</li> </ul>

<b>Chapter 19 – Health and Medicine</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	19.1 The Social Construction of Health 19.2 Global Health 19.3 Health in the United States 19.4 Comparative Health and Medicine 19.5 Theoretical Perspectives on Health and Medicine
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define the term medical sociology</li> <li>• Understand the difference between the cultural meaning of illness, the social construction of illness, and the social construction of medical knowledge</li> <li>• Define social epidemiology</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply theories of social epidemiology to an understanding of global health issues</li> <li>• Understand the differences between high-income and low-income nations</li> <li>• Understand how social epidemiology can be applied to health in the United States</li> <li>• Explain disparities of health based on gender, socioeconomic status, race, and ethnicity</li> <li>• Give an overview of mental health and disability issues in the United States</li> <li>• Explain the terms stigma and medicalization</li> <li>• Explain the different types of health care available in the United States</li> <li>• Compare the health care system of the United States with that of other countries</li> <li>• Apply functionalist, conflict theorist, and interactionist perspectives to health issues</li> </ul>
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<b>Chapter 20 – Population, Urbanization, and the Environment</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	20.1 Demography and Population 20.2 Urbanization 20.3 The Environment and Society
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand demographic measurements like fertility and mortality rates</li> <li>• Describe a variety of demographic theories, such as Malthusian, cornucopian, zero population growth, and demographic transition theories</li> <li>• Be familiar with current population trends and patterns</li> <li>• Understand the difference between an internally displaced person, an asylum-seeker, and a refugee</li> <li>• Describe the process of urbanization in the United States and the growth of urban populations worldwide</li> <li>• Understand the function of suburbs, exurbs, and concentric zones</li> <li>• Discuss urbanization from various sociological perspectives</li> <li>• Describe climate change and its importance</li> <li>• Apply the concept of carrying capacity to environmental concerns</li> <li>• Understand the challenges presented by pollution, garbage, e-waste, and toxic hazards</li> <li>• Discuss real-world instances of environmental racism</li> </ul>

<b>Chapter 21 – Social Movements and Social Change</b>	
<b>Lessons</b>	21.1 Collective Behavior 21.2 Social Movements

	21.3 Social Change
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe different forms of collective behavior</li> <li>• Differentiate between types of crowds</li> <li>• Discuss emergent norm, value-added, and assembling perspective analyses of collective behavior</li> <li>• Demonstrate awareness of social movements on a state, national, and global level</li> <li>• Distinguish between different types of social movements</li> <li>• Identify stages of social movements</li> <li>• Discuss theoretical perspectives on social movements, like resource mobilization, framing, and new social movement theory</li> <li>• Explain how technology, social institutions, population, and the environment can bring about social change</li> <li>• Discuss the importance of modernization in relation to social change</li> </ul>

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