

KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

SOC. 31 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

SOC 03100 – INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (3 crs. 3 hrs.)

The social dimensions of human existence with stress on social structure and culture as governing factors in the lives of individuals with an introduction to basic concepts of sociology, major theoretical positions, and research methods. Meets the needs of students who want an introduction to the field as well as those who wish to undertake further study

Students can take Sociology 31 An Introduction to Sociology to fulfill one of their group requirements for the Liberal Arts degree. Sociology. 31 is also a pre-requisite for our sociology electives which offer students a deeper analysis of the topics presented in the introductory course. Sociology=s uniqueness and importance relates to the discipline=s inherent critical analysis of social and cultural issues and their impact on students= lives. Critical thinking is at the heart of a liberal arts education and sociology plays an important role in shaping this kind of thinking.

The Sociology curriculum includes a strong emphasis on diversity and multiculturalism to address a student body which is very diverse with large numbers of students born in other countries and for whom English is not their native language. Accordingly, we have an introductory sociology course for ESL students. In addition, there are Soc. 31 courses blocked with other disciplines for the KCC Writing Intensive Program, and an introductory sociology course for Women=s Studies students which along with Soc. 38 Sociology of Gender is part of the elective offerings of the Women=s Studies Concentration.

Sociology 31 is required by several other majors such as Mental Health and Human Services, Nursing, Early Childhood, Educational Studies, Community Health, and Sports Fitness and Therapeutic Recreation. In addition, Sociology 31 is also a group IV choice for all other majors and programs at Kingsborough

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of Soc. 31, students should be able to:

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| • Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view. |
| • Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically. |
| • Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions. |
- Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring the relationship between the individual and society, and in this course, define Sociology as an empirical social science with distinct theories and methods for gathering empirical evidence
 - Examine how an individual's place in society affects experiences, values, or choices.
 - Identify and engage with local, national, or global trends or ideologies, and analyze their impact on individual or collective decision-making.
 - Articulate ethical uses of data and other information resources to respond to problems and questions.

In addition, students should also be able to:

1. Show knowledge of the primary institutions of family, education, & religion and of economic and political structures
2. Interpret demographic data in graphs and tables and make tentative inferences and generalizations
3. Describe and analyze social movements and social change
4. Access, analyze, and use proper citations for information and sources; communicate adequately with the instructor and other student

Assessment

To assess student outcomes a variety of measures will be used as appropriate. These will include: objective tests such as multiple choice and fill-ins for recall and application of key sociological terms and concepts

Short essay questions to demonstrate ability to analyze and critically evaluate material

For example:

- What aspects of the social and work environment in a fast food restaurant would be of particular interest to a sociologist because of his or her “sociological imagination?”
- Drawing on Goffman’s dramaturgical approach, discuss how the following groups would engage in impression management: athletes, teachers, parents, physicians.
- What mechanisms of formal and informal control are evident in your college classes and in your social interactions in school?

Research papers on sociological topics covered in class (see below) to demonstrate the ability to gather, interpret and evaluate material from primary, secondary, and internet sources

Field work using questionnaires or observation to demonstrate an understanding of the methods of data collection and analysis

Example: Imagine that you have the opportunity to spend a year in a developing country studying inequality in the nation. How would you draw on the research designs of sociology (surveys, observations, experiments, existing data or sources) to better understand and document stratification in this developing country?

Topical Course Outline

I. Introduction

A. The Discipline

1. The Nature of Sociology
2. The Sociological Imagination
3. Sociology and the Social Sciences

B. The Origins of Sociology

1. Early Thinkers and Classical Theorists
2. Development of Sociology in America

C. Sociological Theories

1. Functionalism
2. Conflict Theory
3. Interaction and Interpretive Perspectives
4. Contemporary Theories and New Developments

II. Methods of Sociological Research

1. The Scientific Method
2. Research Designs and Methods for Collecting Data
3. Ethical Issues in Research

III. Culture

1. Culture and Society
2. Elements of Culture
3. Cultural Change and Diversity

IV. Socialization

1. The Role of Socialization
2. Theories of the Self and Socialization
3. Socialization and the Life Cycle
4. Agents of Socialization

V. Social Structure and Social Interaction

1. Elements of Social Structure
2. Social Interaction
3. Groups, Organizations and Bureaucracy

VI. Deviance and Social Control

1. Sociological Theories of Deviance
2. Crime: Types and Social Policies

VII. Social Inequality

1. Stratification
2. Social Mobility
3. Global Stratification

VIII. Racial and Ethnic Inequality

1. Minority, Racial, and Ethnic Groups
2. Prejudice and Discrimination
3. Patterns of Intergroup Relations
4. Race and Ethnicity in the United States

IX. Gender Inequality

1. Social Construction of Gender
2. Theories of Gender Inequality
3. Women: The Oppressed Majority

X. Social Institutions

1. The Economy and Work
2. Politics, Government, and the Military
3. Family
4. Education
5. Religion

XI. Social Dynamics

1. Population
2. Urbanization
3. Globalization

XII. Social Change

1. Collective Behavior
2. Social Movements