

# Statewide Dual Credit Learning Objectives

## Introduction to Sociology<sup>1</sup>

### Topic 1: Origins of Sociology

- 1a Explain what sociology is and explain why it is a science.
- 1b Explain the origins of sociology and significant contributions of the founders of Sociology and theoretical perspectives they are associated with.
- 1c Describe the Sociological Imagination and give two ways that it will benefit you.

### Topic 2: Theoretical Perspectives and Scientific Research

- 2a Identify the major sociological perspectives/theories.
- 2b Compare and contrast structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism.
- 2c Distinguish between quantitative and qualitative methods of research and know the parts of research.

### Topic 3: Culture

- 3a Define the term culture and explain and discuss the various elements of culture.
- 3b Define and explain the prominent characteristics of American culture define; discuss globalization and describe the various cultural universals.
- 3c Describe and explain the various sociological perspectives on culture.
- 3d Discuss the various cultural variations and explain what ethnocentrism and cultural relativism are.
- 3e Discuss the controversies surrounding bilingualism and immigration policies in the United States.

### Topic 4: Groups

- 4a Analyze the different aspects of social interaction in groups and organizations.
- 4b Explain the differences between the types of groups and the different types and roles of group leadership.
- 4c Define and explain the aspects of bureaucracy and explain how group size influences social interaction within and between groups/organizations.
- 4d Explain the significance and implications of the Solomon Asch experiment on peer pressure.

### Topic 5: Socialization

- 5a Define and explain both aspects of human behavior, nature and nurture, by using the cases of feral, isolated, and institutionalized children; provide evidence that social contact and interaction is essential for healthy human development; and explain why babies do not "naturally" develop into human adults.
- 5b Explain and describe the contributions of predominant theorists: Sigmund Freud; Jean Piaget; George Herbert Mead and Charles Horton Cooley, Lawrence Kohlberg and Carol Gilligan.
- 5c Describe the difference between socialization and resocialization.
- 5d Explain how gender, race, and class influence the socialization process.
- 5e Explain how socialization is a lifelong process and be able to discuss the different stages of life and the responsibilities of each stage: childhood, adolescence, transitional adulthood, middle years, and later years.

### Topic 6: Deviance and Social Control

- 6a Define deviance, explain how sociologists approach the study of deviant behavior, and differentiate between methods of social control.
- 6b Explain the major theoretical perspectives (structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism) approach crime and deviance.

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<sup>1</sup> The learning objectives for the SDC Introduction to Sociology course were designed to teach students how to think critically about the social constructions and social structures that make up a society. The course reflects the diversity that exists across societies, including American society, and how we collectively, as members of society and social groups, create social constructs and structures. The course and learning objectives are framed by the three foundational theoretical perspectives of sociology: structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism. Each of these perspectives aims to help us understand our social world by asking questions such as: What holds our society together? Why is there inequality? And how is meaning created through patterns of interaction and symbols?

- 6c Explain and describe the contributions of predominant theorists: Emile Durkheim, Howard Becker, Travis Hirschi, Robert Merton, Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay, Edwin Lemert, Edwin Sutherland, Karl Marx, and C. Wright Mills.
- 6d Explain the role that wealth and power play in defining and punishing deviance.
- 6e Identify the different types of crime, how crime statistics are gathered, and the three branches of the U.S. criminal justice system.

#### Topic 7: Economic Stratification

- 7a Describe and explain the major systems of social stratification and the different types of social mobility.
- 7b Explain the major theoretical perspectives (structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism) on stratification and use them to analyze inequality.
- 7c Explain and describe the contributions of predominant theorists on economic stratification: Max Weber, W.E.B. DuBois, Karl Marx, Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore, and Oscar Lewis.
- 7d Identify and explain how resources (such as income, education, wealth) are unequally distributed in the U.S. and be able to explain how stratification was created and is maintained structurally.
- 7e Identify the major characteristics of the poor in the United States and explain how ascribed statuses (race/ethnicity, gender, age) influence one's position in the economic realm.
- 7f Describe global stratification and different sociological models to understand global stratification.

#### Topic 8: Race and Ethnicity

- 8a Explain the differences between race and ethnicity.
- 8b Explain race as a social construction and explain the limitations of describing race as a biological phenomenon.
- 8c Explain and describe differences between stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination, and racism.
- 8d Describe the characteristics of minority groups and dominant groups and the patterns of conflict and control including genocide, assimilation, segregation, and expulsion.
- 8e Describe and explain the differences between prejudice and discrimination on individuals (microlevel) and at the institutional level (macrolevel).
- 8f Describe the various population patterns of racial and ethnic groups in the US and their relative economic positions, highlighting educational attainment, employment, occupations, wages, income, wealth, and housing.

#### Topic 9: Sex and Gender

- 9a Explain the difference between sex and gender and describe how the two terms are used and misused.
- 9b Explain the sociological perspectives on sexuality.
- 9c Explain the impact on gender roles and stereotypes in the U.S. and how it plays out in terms of gender inequality in social institutions such as the family, education, the workplace, etc.
- 9d Discuss the various sociological perspectives used to explain gender stratification and heterosexism.
- 9e Define sexism and discuss the effects of gender discrimination.
- 9f Explain homophobia, heterosexism, and discuss the contributions of queer theory.

#### Topic 10: Marriage and Family

- 10a Explain the different ways that family systems are organized and classified across different cultures.
- 10b Explain marriage & family from the point of view of the major theoretical perspectives: structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism.
- 10c Identify and explain the general patterns and trends in the postponement of marriage and marriage and family life in the United States, focusing on the characteristics and concerns of two-parent families, one-parent families, cohabitating adult, childless couples, blended families, and gay and lesbian families.
- 10d Explain the causes and consequences of divorce focusing on the different outcomes for men, women, and children, and the factors that most help children adjust to divorce in the United States.
- 10e Identify the characteristics that produce happy marriages and happy families.
- 10f Describe and explain social problems in family life: divorce, intimate partner violence (IPV), and child abuse.

### **Topic 11: Education**

- 11a** Explain and summarize the development of modern education, including the movement from pre-industrial to industrial society, and universal access to education.
- 11b** Explain education from the point of view of the major theoretical perspectives (structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism) using the key concepts from each perspective.
- 11c** Identify and explain the major problems that exist within the U.S. educational system and evaluate some of the potential solutions.

### **Topic 12: Religion**

- 12a** Define religion from a sociological perspective.
- 12b** Explain how the major theoretical perspectives structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism) understand religion.
- 12c** Summarize Max Weber's understanding of religion in light of "the spirit of capitalism" and Protestant ethic.
- 12d** Identify and describe several of the world religions.
- 12e** Identify and describe different types of religion, including animism, polytheism, and monotheism.

### **Topic 13: Politics and the Economy**

- 13a** Explain the difference between power and authority focusing on the different types of each and how they relate to the different political systems.
- 13b** Explain the basic ideologies of capitalism and socialism, the criticisms of capitalism and socialism, and the convergence of capitalism and socialism.
- 13c** Describe the different sectors of the economy and explain what has occurred to each sector (expansion or contraction) in the United States.
- 13d** Explain recent changes in the U.S. economy relating to automation, outsourcing, immigration, and underemployment.

### **Topic 14: Social Movements and Social Change**

- 14a** Describe different forms of collective behavior and differentiate between the different types of crowds.
- 14b** Discuss theoretical perspectives on social movements, like resource mobilization, framing, and new social movement theory.
- 14c** Explain how technology, social institutions, population, and the environment can bring about social change.
- 14d** Demonstrate awareness of social movements on a state, national, and global level and distinguish between different types of social movements.

### **Topic 15: Demography**

- 15a** Explain population changes in light of fertility, mortality rate, migration, and urbanization.
- 15b** Describe current population trends and patterns.
- 15c** Describe a variety of demographic theories, such as Malthusian, cornucopian, zero population growth, demographic transition theories.