

01_Sociology CP: Foundations of Sociology and Sociological Research

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Semester**
Length: **2 weeks**
Status: **Published**

General Overview, Course Description or Course Philosophy

This course focuses on the dynamics of social development and change in terms of the geographic, biological, cultural, and environmental forces that act on the individual and the group. Within this context, students will explore customs, traditions, and the roles of various social systems that impact group life. Students will learn the basic principles, concepts, and research findings in sociology and will become acquainted with sociological research methods and procedures by conducting various research exercises. Students will be presented with opportunities to discuss current topics, events, real life experiences, and applications of sociological theories and research. Furthermore, students will learn the organizational and study skills important to succeed in college courses, as well as develop their oral and written communication skills as they write and present research findings. Students will also be exposed to exercises, demonstrations, and video presentations designed or selected especially for this course.

OBJECTIVES, ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS, ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

it According to the American Sociology Association's National Standards For High School Sociology (2015):

Domain 1: The Sociological Perspective and Methods of Inquiry

- This domain introduces students to the study of sociology and the sociological perspective. Sociology's core theoretical and methodological content distinguishes it from other social sciences. By examining social constructions of reality and the impact of social context on human behavior, students begin to develop a sociological perspective, or sociological imagination. Students will become familiar with the major theoretical perspectives—functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism—and learn to apply them in order to better understand social behavior and its consequences. Students will learn about methods of sociological research and advance their analytic skills by recognizing strengths and weaknesses of each theoretical and methodological approach.

Essential Question(s):

- What is Sociology?
- What are the different sociology approaches/perspectives and how do they differ?
- Why is ethics important in research?

Enduring Understanding(s):

- Students will understand that sociology is the study of how humans interact within groups.
- Students will understand that sociology's core theoretical and methodological content distinguishes it from other social sciences.
- Students will understand that by examining social constructions of reality and the impact of social context on human behavior, it begins the development of a sociological perspective, or sociological imagination.
- Students will understand that the major theoretical perspectives—functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism—can be applied in order to better understand social behavior and its consequences.
- Students will understand that the methods of sociological research will advance their analytic skills by recognizing strengths and weaknesses of each theoretical and methodological approach.

CONTENT AREA STANDARDS

SOC.9-12.1	The Sociological Perspective and Methods of Inquiry
SOC.9-12.1.1	Students will identify sociology as a scientific field of inquiry.
SOC.9-12.1.1.1	Scientific method
SOC.9-12.1.1.2	Hypotheses
SOC.9-12.1.1.3	Independent and dependent variables
SOC.9-12.1.1.4	Scientific study of society
SOC.9-12.1.2	Students will compare and contrast the sociological perspective and how it differs from other social sciences.
SOC.9-12.1.2.1	Impact of social context on human behavior
SOC.9-12.1.2.2	Social construction of reality
SOC.9-12.1.2.3	Sociological imagination
SOC.9-12.1.3	Students will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the major methods of sociological research.
SOC.9-12.1.3.1	Surveys and interviews

SOC.9-12.1.3.2	Experiments
SOC.9-12.1.3.3	Observations
SOC.9-12.1.3.4	Content analysis
SOC.9-12.1.3.5	Research ethics
SOC.9-12.1.4	Students will identify, differentiate among, and apply a variety of sociological theories.
SOC.9-12.1.4.1	Functionalist perspective
SOC.9-12.1.4.2	Conflict theory
SOC.9-12.1.4.3	Symbolic interaction

RELATED STANDARDS (Technology, 21st Century Life & Careers, ELA Companion Standards are Required)

LA.RH.11-12.7	Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, qualitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.
LA.WHST.11-12.7	Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
CS.K-12.3	Recognizing and Defining Computational Problems
CS.K-12.4	Developing and Using Abstractions
WRK.9.2.12.CAP.2	Develop college and career readiness skills by participating in opportunities such as structured learning experiences, apprenticeships, and dual enrollment programs.
WRK.9.2.12.CAP.3	Investigate how continuing education contributes to one's career and personal growth.
WRK.9.2.12.CAP.4	Evaluate different careers and develop various plans (e.g., costs of public, private, training schools) and timetables for achieving them, including educational/training requirements, costs, loans, and debt repayment.
TECH.K-12.P.1	Act as a responsible and contributing community members and employee.
TECH.K-12.P.5	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

STUDENT LEARNING TARGETS

Declarative Knowledge

Students will know:

- Sociology as a scientific field of inquiry.
- The sociological perspective and how it differs from other social sciences.
- The strengths and weaknesses of the major methods of sociological research.
- How to differentiate among and apply a variety of sociological theories.

Procedural Knowledge

Students will be able to:

- Identify sociology as a scientific field of inquiry.
- Compare and contrast the sociological perspective and how it differs from other social sciences.
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the major methods of sociological research.
- Identify, differentiate among, and apply a variety of sociological theories.

EVIDENCE OF LEARNING

Alternative:

- Portfolios
- Verbal Assessment (instead of written)
- Multiple choice
- Modified Rubrics
- Performance Based Assessments

Benchmark:

Standards based through Pear Assessment

Formative Assessments

For this unit, formative assessments can/will include:

- Students will recognize introductory concepts by watching videos that outline the different themes of Sociology and answer questions

- Students will create a list of professions for someone who graduates with a Sociology degree
- Students will practice the concepts of the three sociological lens by using white boards or movement to a classroom location to match a statement on the Smartboard with the answers hanging in the room
- Students will create a poster to teach about a Sociologist in their expert groups

Alternative:

- Students will journal about the ethics of sociological research
- Students will read a case study, "How Much Privacy Still Exists," and answer higher and lower level questions

Summative Assessments

For this unit, summative assessments can/will include:

- Students will complete an introductory teacher created quiz
- Students will present a digital presentation of a topic related to the foundations of sociology. In the presentations, students will be required to provide an analysis of the three approaches to sociology, evaluate a current news story and explain how it connects to the topic. A teacher made rubric will be used to grade the assessment.

RESOURCES (Instructional, Supplemental, Intervention Materials)

Resources Include:

Core:

- Schaefer, Richard T. Sociology 13th ed. McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. New York: New York, 2011. Chapters 1 and 2.
- *The Social Dilemma*

Supplemental:

- “Will We Have Any Privacy Left?” and “Cheating in American Schools” case study worksheets – available on the History Drive
- Classroom LMS

INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS

Technology/Multimedia

- Audio/Visual Analysis

Math

- Data Collection/analysis

Career Readiness

- Applicable career options are discussed as they arise throughout the course; career options include but are not limited to business, journalism, education, psychology, social work, politics, research and art.
- Use technology to enhance productivity.
- Employ valid and reliable research strategies.

Visual Performing Arts

- Cinematic Analysis

Science & Health

- Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text. Distinguish among facts, reasoned judgment based on research findings, and speculation in a text.
- Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic.
- Social Emotional Learning
- Experimentation

ACCOMMODATIONS & MODIFICATIONS FOR SUBGROUPS

See link to Accommodations & Modifications document in course folder.

