



Course Overview

High School | Social Studies | Introduction to Sociology - Last Updated on April 3, 2025

DESCRIPTION

K-12 Content Area | Mission & Philosophy Statement

- Social Studies prepares the nation’s young people for college, careers, and civic life.
- Inquiry is at the heart of social studies instruction which involves interdisciplinary applications, deep understandings, concepts, and skills from the disciplines.
- Young people require analytic, strategic, chronological, and critical thinking skills to prepare for participating in democratic decision-making.
- Social studies instruction directly and explicitly connects to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts.

Course Description

This elective course invites students to explore the structure and dynamics of human society by examining the forces that shape communities, influence group behavior, and affect individual life experiences. Through the lens of sociology, students will investigate pressing issues such as discrimination, poverty, crime, aging, alienation, and environmental challenges, with a focus on real-world applications and community-based problem solving. Emphasis is placed on understanding how technological advancements, cultural norms, and institutional frameworks impact modern life. Students will engage with current events, conduct research, and utilize technology to analyze and present findings related to social issues at both local and global levels.

The course is organized into four major units that build a comprehensive understanding of sociological principles. Students will begin by learning how sociologists apply scientific methods to study society and how different theoretical perspectives—functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism—shape interpretation. They will then explore how culture and social institutions form the foundation of social structure and how individuals are shaped by, and respond to, these systems. Further units examine the process of socialization, the influence of group dynamics, and the formation of identity. The course culminates in an analysis of social stratification and inequality, exploring how systems of power and privilege affect life outcomes and societal organization. By the end of the course, students will be equipped with the analytical tools to think critically about the world around them and contribute thoughtfully to their communities.

STANDARDS

American Sociological Association (ASA) - High School - Sociology

- 1.1
- 1.2
- 1.3
- 1.4
- 2.1
- 2.2
- 2.3
- 2.4
- 3.1
- 3.2
- 3.3
- 4.1
- 4.2
- 4.3
- 4.4



Course Overview

High School | Social Studies | Introduction to Sociology - Last Updated on April 3, 2025

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Objectives for this course are aligned to the American Sociological Association Standards for High School Sociology.

ASSESSMENT TYPES

The following assessment types will be used during the course:

- Curriculum-based Measures
- Formative Assessments
- Summative Assessments

SUGGESTED METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Below is a list of suggested strategies for high-quality instruction in Social Studies:

- Instructional components outlined in the *Framework for Teaching*
- Lecture/discussion
- Directed research
- Demonstrations
- Inquiry-based instruction



Course Overview

High School | Social Studies | Introduction to Sociology - Last Updated on April 3, 2025

RESOURCES

District Approved Program Resources	District Approved Supplemental Resources	District Approved Technology Resources
<p>Conerly, Tonja R., Holmes, Kathleen, and Tamang, Asha Lal. <u>Introduction to Sociology</u>. Houston: OpenStax, 2021. Available online at: https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e?Book%20details</p> <p>Jon M. Shepard and Robert W. Greene. <u>Sociology and You</u>. New York: Glencoe, 2003.</p>	<p>Atkinson, Sam, ed. <u>The Sociology Book</u>. New York: DK, 2015.</p> <p>Cargan, Leonard, and Ballantine, Jeanne H. <u>Sociological Footprints: Introductory Readings in Sociology</u>. 11th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2010.</p> <p><u>Contexts: Sociology for the Public</u>. (Quarterly magazine published for general audience) Available at: http://contexts.org/</p> <p>Henslin, James M. <u>Down to Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings</u>. 14th ed. New York: Free, 2007.</p> <p>Macionis, John J. and Benokraitis, Nijole V. <u>Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology</u>. 8th ed. Boston: Prentice Hall, 2010</p>	