SOCIOLOGY-Course Syllabus

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Course Description:
Honors Sociology is an elective course that studies human society and social behavior. Positive human relationships are an essential part of a civilized society and how we interact with each other is important so that we can find answers to questions and solve problems in our world. “Sociology teaches us to look at life in a scientific, systematic way.” The way that we view the world comes from what we learn in our everyday activities. “The values, beliefs, lifestyles of those around us, as well as historic events help to mold us into unique individuals who have varied outlooks on social reality.” This course deals with the social atmosphere that helps to make us who we are and how we behave. Sociology will cover topics such as culture, violence, deviance, social control, socialization and personality, group behavior, social class, and social institutions. The key component of this course is to study ourselves and the society that influences our behavior.

Benchmarks:
* Students will be able to explain what group is in terms of origin of groups, development of group behavior and interaction of groups.
* Students will be able to analyze the ways in which groups influence social institutions, teach individuals what is appropriate and inappropriate, facilitate change and hinder it, indicate status, class and power level and show prejudice and discrimination.
* Students will be able to explain the basic characteristics of culture and analyze how cultures differ.
* Students will be able to understand how cultures pass values, beliefs, and traditions to the next generation and sanction behaviors.
* Students will be able to understand the sociological perspective and apply that perspective to their own reality.
* Students will be able to understand and apply to sociological concepts the three major sociological orientations: conflict theory, structural functionalism and symbolic interactionism.

Grading Scale %:

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<th>Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>90-92</td>
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<td>64-66</td>
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<td>Anything below 59% will receive a failing grade.</td>
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Grading:
(Grades will be based on a total number of points earned.) More in depth assignments will be worth more points. Standard grading scale will be used. (See above)
A. Participation is required (note: a large portion of your grade will be determined on your willingness to carry and at times lead class discussions).
B. Daily readings, Assignments, Written Papers, Case study analysis, Experiments, and Individual / Group research presentations
C. Weekly sociological perspective journal
D. Exams - (Due to the nature of this course and the option of credit through Lakeland, you will
be expected to retain information and show mastery of material). Final exam will equal approximately 10% of final grade.

Text Title:

Classroom rules:
A. Treat others as you would like to be treated (dignity, respect, common courtesy)
B. Be on time
C. Meet deadlines (Do not let group members down! Be responsible!!)
D. Don’t interrupt while others are speaking. Respect other opinions!
E. PARTICIPATION IN CLASS DISCUSSIONS IS REQUIRED

Note: Sociology is an honors course with college credit available. You are choosing to study it. It will require you to do more work than what you might be accustomed to doing compared to regular high school courses. Please be prepared to be challenged and to take an active role in your learning.

Course goals and objectives:
A. To understand human behavior of different groups and their impact on society.
B. To understand the nature of change and its effect on people and society.
C. To use essential skills to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate ideas and arguments.
D. To develop high level discussions of issues.
E. To use a scientific, systematic approach to understand ourselves as social beings
F. To have fun and to take a more active and meaningful role in society.

I & II. Introduction to Sociology (2-73)

Essential Question - Why is developing sociological imagination important in the study of sociology?

A. Define Sociology /Sociological Imagination
   - Develop a working definition of sociology that has personal application.
B. Development of Sociology
   -(Comte, Durkheim, Spencer, Weber, Mills, and Marx)
   - Examine changing points of view of social issues, such as poverty, crime, and discrimination
C. Sociological Perspectives
   - Conflict, Functionalist, Symbolic interactionist.
D. Application of Sociology (research)
   - Evaluate various sociological research methods.
   - Distinguish fact from opinion in data sources to analyze various points of view about a social issue.
   - Identify, evaluate and use appropriate reference materials and technology to interpret information about cultural life in the US and other world cultures. (Past and present.)
   - Reports (oral and written presentations on specific events, people or historical eras as related to sociological research.)
     (historical, content analysis, survey, observation, case study, statistical analysis)

III. Culture (74-107)

Essential Question - What effects does culture have on human’s behavior and interactions?

A. Meaning of culture / components of culture
   - Define the key components of a culture, such as knowledge, language, and communication, customs, values, norms, and physical objects.
-Recognize the influences of genetic inheritance and culture on human behavior.
-Compare social norms among various subcultures.

B. Cultural variation / Variation in society
-Explain the differences between a culture and a society.
-Give example of subcultures and describe what makes them unique.

C. Cultural Conformity and Adaptation
-Identify the factors that promote cultural diversity within the US. (Economics; Civics and government; Geography; History.)

D. American Value System
-Demonstrate democratic approaches to managing disagreements and resolving conflicts.
-Compare and contrast ideas about citizenship and cultural participation from the past with those of the present community.

E. Social Control / formal & informal sanctions
-Compare and contrast different types of societies, such as hunting and gathering, agrarian, industrial, and postindustrial.
-Work independently and cooperatively in class and the school and provide leadership in age-appropriate activities.

F. Social Change / impact
-Explain how various practices of the culture create differences within group behavior.

IV. Socialization (108-137)
Essential question - How do rules and norms affect the forming of roles and groups?

A. Personality development (nature v nurture)
- Discuss social norms
-What happens when rules are broken.
-Explain how roles and role expectations can lead to role conflict.

B. Social self (theories Locke, Cooley, Mead)

C. Agents of Socialization (family, peer groups, school, media)
-Describe how individuals are affected by different social groups to which they belong.
-Discuss how humans interact in a variety of social settings.
-Determine how cultural patterns of the behavior within such social groups as rural/urban or rich/poor.

V & VI. Society, Social Structure, & Interaction & Groups and Organizations (138-207)
Essential Question - How does social structure affect how we interact with each other?

A. Building blocks = status /role
-cribed, achieved, master etc.
-Explain how roles and role expectation can lead to role conflict.

B. Group Structures and Societies
-Examine and analyze various points of view relating to historical and current events.

C. Types of social interaction
-Describe how social status affects social order. Example" Upper class/middle-class/lower class; professional/blue collar/unemployed.
-Describe how and why societies change over time.
-Describe how collective behavior can influence and change society.

D. Structure of formal organizations
-Determine a cause and effect relationship among historical events, themes, and concepts in the US and world history as they relate to sociology.
-Examine various social influences that can lead to immediate and long-term changes.
VII. Deviance and Social Control (208-247)
   Essential Question - What defines deviance and why is it functional for society?
   A. Social functions of deviance
      -Discuss the concept of deviance and how society discourages deviant behavior sing social control.
   B. Explanation (theories / terms)
   C. Crime (statistics, types of crime, criminal justice system)

VIII & IX. Social Stratification (248-317)
   Essential Question - What role does the government play in our class system and poverty levels in the US?
   A. Define and explain social inequality and stratification
   B. American Class System (mobility)
      -Distinguish the degree of assimilation that ethnic, cultural, and social groups achieve within the US culture.
   C. Poverty (government responses)

X & XI. Racial and Ethnic Relations (318-387)
   Essential Question - What roles do gender, age, health, and race play in our behavior and interactions with each other?
   A. Gender (male & female roles) politics
   B. Age (politics of aging)
   C. Health (health care costs) politics
   D. Race, Ethnicity and Social Structure
      -Describe ethnocentrism, and explain how it can be beneficial or destructive to a culture.
   E. Intergroup Relations (minorities, discrimination, prejudice)
      -Investigate stereotypes of the various US subcultures such as American Indians, American cowboys, teenagers, hippies from a world perspective.
   F. Minority Groups in the U. S.
      -Investigate and compare the ideas about citizenship and cultural participation of social groups from the past with those of the present community.

XII. Aging and Inequality Based on Age (388-417)
   Essential Question - What is the mindset of different age groups and how do different developmental stages help people to see their place in society?
   A. Adolescence in society / Characteristics
      -Explain how students are members of primary and secondary groups and how these group memberships influence students’ behavior.
   B. Teens & dating
   C. Problems of Adolescence (sexual behavior, drug use, suicide)
   D. Adulthood
   E. Early and middle adulthood
   F. Work world (professions, occupations, job satisfaction & current trends)
   G. The Later years (retirement, aging)

XIII & XIV. The Economy & Work & Politics and Government in Global Perspective (418-487)
   Essential Question - How are our beliefs about work influenced by changes in the economy and the world in which we live?
   A. Economy and Politics
   B. The Economic Institution (nature of economic systems, types of systems)
      -Demonstrate democratic approaches to managing disagreements and solving conflicts.
- Discuss how social interactions and culture could be affected in the future due to innovations in science and technology.
- Describe how the role of the mass media has changed over time and project what changes might occur in the future.
- Distinguish major differences between social movements and collective behavior with examples from history and the contemporary world.
- Trace the development of the use of a specific type of technology in the community.

C. Political Institution (compare types of government systems)

XV. Families & Intimate Relationships (488-521)

Essential Question - Why are many family related concerns - such as divorce and child care - viewed primarily as personal problems rather than social concerns requiring macro level solutions?

A. Family in Cross Cultural perspective
   - Identify basic social institutions and how they contribute to the transition of society's values.
     (Familial, religious, educational, economic, and political institutions.

B. Marriage
   - Discuss how societies recognize rites of passage. (Marriage, Baptism or other religious ceremonies.)

C. American Family (violence, divorce, trends)
   - Discuss the impact of major social institution on individuals, groups, and organizations within society.
   - Discuss the concept of political power and factors that influence that political power.

XVI & XVII. Education and Religion (522-625)

Essential Question - How does education and religion affect our culture and interactions?

A. Sociology of Education
B. The Sociology of Religion

XVIII. Collective Behavior and Social Movements (626-685)

Essential Question - What role does collective behavior play in how we interact with one another?

A. Collective Behavior (Why do people act differently in groups?)
B. Social movements (types) (Why do they occur?/ resistance)
   - Describe how and why societies change over time.
   - Examine various social influences that can lead to immediate and long-term changes.

Assessment Methods:
There will be a wide variety of teaching techniques, strategies, and assessment methods used in Sociology. Some of the assessment methods will include:
- Quizzes, journals (sociological imagination)
- Unit Tests that are composed of selected response and essay
- Oral presentations mini, informal, and formal
- Observations, experiments, surveys
- Daily participation in class discussions
- Written papers, reports, projects, reflections
- Role playing, interviewing
- Analyzing and interpreting and constructing case studies
- Statistical analysis
- Content analysis
- Historical method

6/04