

Northern Marianas College

CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Effective Semester / Session: Fall 2010

Type of Action:

☐ New
☒ Modification
☐ Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
☐ Cancellation

Course Alpha and Number: SO 101

Course Title: Introduction to Sociology

Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:

This course guide is being modified to reflect changes in the purpose of the course, the catalog course description, textbook edition, degree and certificate requirements met by the course, course outline, instructional goals, student learning outcomes, and assessment measures.

Thomas D. Sharts

 10/22/10

Proposer

Date

Thomas D. Sharts

 10/23/10

Department Chair

Date

Barbara K. Merfalen

 10.24.10

Dean of Academic Programs and Services

Date

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Course Guide

Course: SO 101 Introduction to Sociology

1. Department

Social Sciences and Fine Arts

2. Purpose

This course introduces students to the basic concepts, theories, and methods of sociological scientific analysis. This course explores how sociology differs from the other social sciences, and how social science academic disciplines complement one another in relation to their study of human behavior, culture, socialization, and organizational behavior .

3. Description

A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials

Required: Newman, David M. *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life*. 7th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press, 2008.

Readability level: Grade 12.1

Handouts on specific topics will also be distributed.

B. Contact Hours

1. **Lecture:** 3 hours per week / 45 per semester
2. **Lab:**
3. **Other:**

C. Credits

1. **Number:** 3
2. **Type:** Regular degree credits

D. Catalogue Course Description

This is an introductory course covering the basic concepts, methods, and theories of sociology. This course explores, in local and global contexts, elements of social life, including history, culture, socialization, various social structural contexts, social stratification variables such as status, prestige, race and ethnicity, gender, education, etc., economic and political institutions, and explanations for criminal deviance and other deviant behavior, social control, and social change.

Prerequisites: None. English Placement Level: EN 093/094.

Math Placement Level: None. (Offered Fall and Spring).

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E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course

This course fulfills part of the General Education requirements for Social Sciences for the A.A. degree in Liberal Arts and the A.A. degree in Business. This course is a required course for the A.A.S. degree in Criminal Justice and for the Certificate of Completion in Basic Law Enforcement, and it is an elective course for the A.A. degree in Liberal Arts and the A.S. degree in Natural Resource Management.

F. Course Activities and Design

This course incorporates lectures, group discussions, audiovisual presentations, oral presentations, take-home assignments, guest speakers, quizzes, and a final exam. Students may also be assigned readings on relevant sociological, political, and economic issues in the CNMI, the U.S., and worldwide.

4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment; Required English/Mathematics Placement Level(s)

Prerequisite(s): None.

English Placement Level: EN 093/094.

Math Placement Level: None.

5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed

Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit course, the cost of the textbook, and the student activities fee.

Cost to the College: Instructor's salary.

Instructional resources needed for this course include computers and software, overhead projector, TV/VCR, videotaped programs, library books, photocopy machine, photocopy paper, chalk, and chalkboard.

6. Method of Evaluation

Students grades will be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0.

B: Above average – grade points: 3.0.

C: Average – grade points: 2.0.

D: Below average – grade points: 1.0.

F: Failure – grade points: 0.0.

NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.

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7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

- 1.0 Taking a Look at a Familiar World
 - 1.1 What does it mean to be human?
 - 1.2 Defining Sociology
 - 1.3 The sociological perspective tool of analysis
- 2.0 Seeing and Thinking Sociologically
 - 2.1 The effects of social structure on our everyday lives
 - 2.1.1 Statuses and roles
 - 2.1.2 Groups
 - 2.1.3 Organizations
 - 2.1.4 Social institutions
 - 2.1.5 Culture
 - 2.2 Three theories of social analysis: Structural functionalism, conflict perspective, and symbolic interactionism
- 3.0 Understanding the Social Construction of Reality
 - 3.1 Laying the foundation: The 7 primary areas that define social reality: historical, social structural, cultural, economic, political, institutional, and environmental
- 4.0 Conducting Sociological Research
 - 4.1 The empirical nature of sociological research
 - 4.2 Empirical aspects of research study design
 - 4.3 The trustworthiness of social research
 - 4.4 Samples
 - 4.5 Generalizability issues
- 5.0 Building Social Order: Culture and History
 - 5.1 Types of cultures: mainstream, sub, and counterculture
 - 5.2 Material and non-material culture
 - 5.3 Norms and sanctions
 - 5.4 Cultural relativism and ethnocentrism
- 6.0 Building Identity: Socialization
 - 6.1 Types of socialization mechanisms
 - 6.2 Stake issues related to socialization goals

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- 7.0 Building Image: The Presentation of Self
 - 7.1 Forming impressions of others
 - 7.2 Managing impressions
 - 7.2.1 Looking glass self theory
 - 7.2.2 Dramaturgical Analysis: Actors on a social stage
 - 7.2.3 Social influences on impression management
 - 7.2.4 Collective impression management
- 8.0 Constructing Difference: Social Deviance
 - 8.1 Defining deviance
 - 8.1.1 Absolutist definitions
 - 8.1.2 Relativist definitions
 - 8.1.3 Elements of crime and deviance
 - 8.2 Explaining why people become criminal and/or deviant
 - 8.2.1 Deterrence theory
 - 8.2.2 Labeling theory
 - 8.2.3 Social control theory
- 9.0 The Structure of Society: Organizations, Social Institutions, and Globalization
 - 9.1 Identifying the types of social structures in everyday life
 - 9.2 Social dilemmas: Individual stake issues and structural needs
 - 9.3 The structure of organizations
 - 9.4 Organizations and institutions
 - 9.5 Globalization and social institutions
- 10.0 The Architecture of Stratification: Social Class and Inequality
 - 10.1 Stratification systems: Slavery, caste systems, estate systems, and social class systems
 - 10.2 Sociological perspectives on stratification
 - 10.2.1 Structural functionalist view of stratification
 - 10.2.2 Conflict views of stratification
 - 10.3 Class inequality in the United States
 - 10.3.1 How the United States is stratified
 - 10.4 Global development and inequality
 - 10.4.1 Defining social class in industrialized societies
 - 10.4.2 Defining social status and prestige in industrialized societies

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- 11.0 Educational Institutions and Socialization
 - 11.1 Educational goals of institutions
 - 11.2 Gender socialization goals of institutions
- 12.0 The Social Architecture of Economic Systems
 - 12.1 Types of economic systems: communist, socialist, free market capitalist, agricultural, bartering, hunting/gathering
- 13.0 The Social Architecture of Political Systems
 - 13.1 Types of governments: absolute monarchy, democracy, communist, dictatorship, etc.
 - 13.2 Methods of power: appeal to reason, coercion, diplomacy, etc.
- 14.0 Sociological Explanations for Social Change: Reconstructing Society
 - 14.1 Social change
 - 14.2 Causes of social change
 - 14.3 Social movements

8. Instructional Goals

This course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 The development of sociology as the study of social life and the social correlates and social consequences of human social behavior;
- 2.0 Different theories on social order and social change;
- 3.0 The seven primary areas that define social reality;
- 4.0 The nature and methods of sociological research;
- 5.0 The characteristics and dimensions of culture, and the impact of culture on social structural entities;
- 6.0 The processes of socialization throughout the life cycle;
- 7.0 Characteristics and stake issue dilemmas of intimate social relationships, particularly familial relationships;
- 8.0 Individual and collective impression of self-development and identity;

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- 9.0 Concepts and elements of crime and deviance, theories as to their causes, and the nature and extent of corporate and white-collar crimes and drug crimes;
- 10.0 The relevance of organizations and institutions in society, and the interactions between these structures and individual interests;
- 11.0 How social inequality is expressed and inter-related in everyday life, notably through social stratification based on status, prestige, class, race, ethnicity, gender, and age;
- 12.0 The major social institutions of the family, education, the economy, politics and law, religion, health care, the military, and mass media;
- 13.0 The global and local sources, processes, and impacts of social change at the global and local levels; and
- 14.0 The application of critical thinking skills to local and global issues as they relate to course content.

9. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1.0 Articulate the development of sociology as the study of social life and the social correlates and consequences of human behavior;
- 2.0 Describe different theories of social order and social change;
- 3.0 Identify and define the seven primary areas that define social reality;
- 4.0 Describe the nature and methods of sociological research;
- 5.0 Identify and describe the characteristics and dimensions of culture, and the impact of cultural expectations on social order;
- 6.0 Explain the processes of socialization throughout the life cycle;
- 7.0 Describe characteristics and dilemmas of intimate social relationships, particularly familial relationships;

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- 8.0 Describe individual and collective impression of self-development and identity;
- 9.0 Explain the concepts and elements of crime and deviance, theories as to their causes, and the nature and extent of corporate crimes, white-collar crimes, and drug crimes;
- 10.0 Outline the characteristics of organizations and institutions in the social structure, and the interactions between social structures and individual interests;
- 11.0 Explain how social inequality is expressed and inter-related in everyday life, notably through social stratification based on status, prestige, class, race, ethnicity, gender, and age;
- 12.0 Describe the major social institutions of the family, education, the economy, politics and law, religion, health care, the military, and mass media;
- 13.0 Explain the global and local sources, processes, and impacts of social change at the global and local levels; and
- 14.0 Apply critical thinking skills to global and local issues as they relate to course content.

10. Assessment Measures

Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1.0 Periodic testing to assess the students' understanding of sociological concepts and their abilities to use critical thinking skills in the application of these concepts to real-world global and local issues;
- 2.0 Writing assignments that examine specific social topics using sociological concepts; and
- 3.0 Small group discussions that explore different sociological perspectives on various social issues.