

# **Introduction to Sociology**

## **Social Sciences Course**

### **Course Description:**

This course provides an introduction to the discipline of sociology, the systematic study of society, and social interaction. It explores the relationship between individual experiences and broader social forces, examining how various social institutions, structures, and processes shape human behavior and societal outcomes. Key topics include culture, socialization, social institutions, social stratification, and social change. Through this course, students will develop a sociological perspective, enabling them to analyze and understand the complexities of social life.

### **Learning Objectives:**

After completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. correctly identify causes of critical social issues through a systematic study of social behavior and social change;
2. demonstrate comprehension of roles and functions of various social institutions and relationships among them;
3. demonstrate understanding of several sociological theories and apply them to explain social phenomena or situations; and
4. use sociological imagination to explain their life experience in a broader social context.

### **Content:**

1. Introduction to Sociology
  - a. Definition, significance, and key concepts
  - b. Sociological perspectives
2. Culture
  - a. Definition and types (Material-non-material, Real-Ideal, and High-Popular)
  - b. Ethnocentrism - Xenocentrism
  - c. Multiculturalism-Subculture, Counter Culture
  - d. Components of Culture (Symbols, Language, Values, and Social Norms)
  - e. Social Control and Social Sanctions
3. Socialization
  - a. Agents of Socialization (Family, School, Peer Group, Mass Media, & Religion)
  - b. Theories of Personality Development
    - i. George Herbert Mead: The Social Self
  - c. C. H. Cooley: Theory of Looking Glass Self
4. Social Interaction
  - a. Social Structure
    - i. Status (Status Set, Ascribed and Achieved Status, and Master Status)
    - ii. Role (Role set, Role conflict, Role strain, Role Exit)
5. Groups and Organizations
  - a. Social Groups and their types (Primary, Secondary, In and Out, reference Group)
  - b. Group conformity, Size and Leadership

6. Deviance
  - a. Social Foundation of Deviance
  - b. Deviance and Social Diversity
7. Social Stratification and inequality
 

Dimensions: Class, Income, Wealth, Power, Schooling, Occupation, Ancestry/Caste, Race and Ethnicity, Gender, Age, Global Stratification.
8. Social Institutions
 

Functions and Change: The Economy, Politics, Family, Religion, Education, Health and Media
9. Social and Cultural Change

**Suggested Readings:**

- Andersen, M. L. (2006). *Sociology: Understanding a Diverse Society*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Australia: Thomson Wadsworth.
- Barnard, A. (2004) *Sociology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bryjak, G. J., & Michael, P. S. (1994). *Sociology. Cultural Diversity in a Changing World*, London: Allyn and Bacon
- Calhoun, C. & Donald, L. 1994. *Sociology*. New York: McGraw Hill Book Co.
- Cuff, C.W. 2006. *Perspective in Sociology*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. London: Routledge.
- Ginsberg, M. (2024). *Studies in sociology*. Taylor & Francis.
- Hughes, M. (2002). *Sociology: The Core*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill.
- Kammeyer, K. C. & Ritzier, G. (1994). *Sociology. Experiencing Changing Societies*. London: Allyn and Bacon
- Kornblum, W. (2003). *Sociology in a changing world*. 6th ed. Australia: Thomson Wadsworth.
- Macionis, J. J. (2016). *Sociology*. Hoboken.
- Ritzer, G., & Murphy, W. W. (2019). *Introduction to sociology*. SAGE Publications, Incorporated.
- Schaefer, R. T. (2001). *Sociology* 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: McGraw Hill.
- Tischler, H. L. (2002). *Introduction to Sociology*. 7th ed. New York: The Harcourt Press.