Overview

Learn how sociology applies to your everyday life and helps you better communicate and understand people and your environment.

About this course

Sociology is about people. Each individual is unique and idiosyncratic. Yet, when we come together for a common purpose, we try to conduct ourselves in a manner that will achieve mutually desired outcomes. Sometimes we manage to achieve this; sometimes we don’t. Sociology is about that process. By understanding sociology and how we interact with each other, you can yield more personal and professional success.

In this sociology course, you will learn about the social processes groups of all sizes follow to form, function and evolve over time. You will also learn about the ongoing dynamic individuals actively create in their social environment and how they are shaped by it. This course provides an understanding of how the formation and longevity of a society is possible when its members are diverse in their values, beliefs, preferences and agendas.

You will learn about group dynamics, skills for effective interaction in groups and organizations, and obtain a deeper understanding of how sociology applies to everyday life and current events.

Topics include:

- Society
- Culture
- Socialization
- Stratification and Inequality
- Gender Roles
- Major Social Institutions in the U.S. Including the Family, Government and Education System
- Deviance and Social Control
- Social Problems and Social Change

Required prior knowledge and skills

To be successful in this course, we recommend English language fluency and computer literacy.

Learning Outcomes

- You will become more knowledgeable about basic sociological theories and concepts
- You will become more knowledgeable about current events
- You will see how sociological ideas apply everyday life and current events
- You will sharpen your critical thinking and writing skills
- You will become knowledgeable about and more accepting of people who look different than you and of beliefs, opinions and perspectives that differ from your own.
Additional Info

This course satisfies 3 credit hours toward the Social-Behavioral Sciences (SB) General Studies requirement at Arizona State University. It is strongly encouraged that you consult with your institution of choice to determine how these credits will be applied to their degree requirements prior to transferring the credit.

Creators

Lisa Whitaker, Ph.D.

Lisa Whitaker earned her BA in Sociology from Arizona State University and her MA and Ph.D. in Sociology from Stanford University, with particular certification in the areas of Deviance and Phenomenology. Shortly after earning her Ph.D., Dr. Whitaker left academia because she was tired of it and was interested in doing other things. She received culinary training at the Cordon Bleu Cookery School in London, England; then worked for several years as a cook and caterer in the San Francisco Bay area. She then left that career to apply her academic training in an applied setting. More specifically she worked for 14+ years as a probation officer, working with adult offenders.

Ultimately Dr. Whitaker resigned from her probation position to pursue an entirely different course: She moved to Mexico to steep herself in the Mexican language and culture. While there, she was offered and accepted an adjunct faculty position at a small, private four-year college for Mexican students. There she taught Sociology, Social Psychology and ESL courses (in Spanish) for one academic year, before returning to the U.S./Arizona in 2000. She taught sociology courses in the local community college system for a semester; then spent a semester in France, living in the French language and culture. She returned to the U.S./Arizona in Summer 2001 and began teaching Sociology courses at Arizona State University in Fall 2001. She has been an ASU instructional faculty member since that time and holds the title of Senior Lecturer. Originally born in Globe, Arizona (small town), but was raised in Phoenix, Arizona. Reanna is married to her high school sweetheart, and they have a beautiful 5-year-old son named Lucian. Currently working as a billing coordinator for a mental health billing company. In the past, Reanna worked for almost 5 years as an office manager at an intensive outpatient facility that treats drug/alcohol abuse, sex addiction, and eating disorders. The work was very rewarding and challenging and allowed her to work with a part of society that is very much in need.
Jennifer Harrison, Ph.D.

Jennifer Harrison earned her MA and Ph.D. in Sociology from Arizona State University with specializations in statistics and medical sociology. After starting out at community college as a first-generation college student, she earned her AA in Sociology from Fullerton College, her BA in Sociology from California State University, Long Beach.

During several years in graduate school at ASU, Dr. Harrison taught classes on the Tempe campus and online before taking a 5-year hiatus from teaching when she accepted a position in academic publishing. She worked mainly in the educational technology field writing digital educational content, working as a course designer, and ultimately as the product manager of print and digital Sociology learning materials. But all that time, while interacting with students and instructors through research, conferences, and demos, she realized how much she missed teaching in her own classes and working directly with students. Dr. Harrison left the publishing industry for a faculty position in 2015 where she has been an instructional faculty member as a Lecturer in the Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics at ASU.