

# Sociology

The student will explain the sociological perspective and identify sociology as a scientific field of inquiry. **S.1**

- 1 Describe the development of the field of sociology as a social science, including the contributions of leading theorists within sociology. S.1.1**
- 2 Identify, differentiate among, and apply the major sociological theories (e.g., functionalist perspective, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism). S.1.2**
- 3 Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the major methods of sociological research, including surveys and interviews, experiments, observations, content analysis, and research ethics. S.1.3**
- 4 Apply the scientific method of inquiry on the study of society, including developing a hypothesis, and identifying independent and dependent variables. S.1.4**

The student will examine the influence of culture and the way cultural transmission is accomplished. **S.2**

- 1 Describe culture and the components of culture, including norms and values, material and non-material culture, and explain the ways culture influences individuals. S.2.1**
- 2 Explain the process of the social construction of the self and analyze how culture influences individuals, groups, and subcultures. S.2.2**

Students will examine the social construction of groups and their impact on individuals. **S.3**

- 1 Describe the process of socialization, examining how social groups are composed and why individuals become members of or associate with different social groups. S.3.1**
- 2 Describe various subcultures and countercultures and explain their influence according to sociological perspectives. S.3.2**
- 3 Analyze how culture influences individuals, including the mechanisms of ethnocentrism, cultural relativity, and culture shock. S.3.3**
- 4 Identify aspects of social structure, including social class, social status and roles, as well as their influences on individuals and groups. S.3.4**
- 5 Describe status as a component of social structure, including status sets, ascribed and achieved statuses, status symbols and master status. S.3.5**

The student will analyze the effects of social institutions on group

- 1 Evaluate the characteristics of primary and secondary groups, including their influence over the behavior, attitudes, and values of their members. S.4.1**

**behavior over the life course of individuals.** S.4

- 
- 2 Identify various reference groups and explain how they are used by individuals to evaluate themselves.** S.4.2

---

  - 3 Examine the influence of major social institutions, including family, education, religion, and the media.** S.4.3

---

  - 4 Examine the benefits of belonging to social groups, as well as the power of social groups over behavior and attitudes.** S.4.4

---

  - 5 Explain how and why social institutions and cultures change over time.** S.4.5
- 

**The student will analyze social problems that affect large numbers of people within a social system.** S.5

- 1 Analyze patterns of social stratification and their effects on individuals and groups.** S.5.1

---

- 2 Describe social problems and distinguish between characteristics of a social problem versus an individual problem.** S.5.2

---

- 3 Analyze patterns of behavior found within social problems and their implications for society (e.g., juvenile crime, long-term unemployment).** S.5.3

---

- 4 Examine the extent to which individual and group responses influence potential resolutions to social problems.** S.5.4