

SOC 101 – PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY

Westfield State University
Online Course SOCI 0101-0005
Fall 2020

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Office hours: by appointment

This is an entirely online version of “Principles of Sociology,” a college-level introduction to the fundamental concepts of group behavior, major social institutions, principal theoretical perspectives, and the nature of sociological research. Topics to be covered include (but are not limited to): the development of the discipline of sociology, components of culture, socialization, research methods, questions of sex and gender, and of social stratification and inequality.

“Principles of Sociology” is part of the Common Core of Studies at WSU and counts as 3 of the 12 required credits in the Common Core Social Section.

Students will take part in weekly group discussions, take a short quiz each week, and during the term will write a 5-7 page research paper and a 1-2 page reflection essay.

Our textbook will be: James M. Henslin. *Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach* (Fourteenth Edition, Pearson, 2019). It’s available for purchase or rental in hardcover and digital versions through the WSU Bookstore. Students will also need access to a good computer.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1: Introduction Is Sociology a Science?	Week 9: Social Structure and the Social Construction of Reality
Week 2: Theoretical Perspectives What is Culture?	Week 10: Organizations: Bureaucracies and Voluntary Associations
Week 3: Values and Cultural Universals	Week 11: Theories of Stratification Global Inequalities
Week 4: What Makes Us Human? Socialization and Gender	Week 12: Social Class in the US
Week 5: Agents of Socialization Socialization and the Life Course	Week 13: The Consequences of Class
Week 6: More on Sex and Gender	Week 14: Race and Ethnicity
Week 7: Research Methods	Week 15: Conclusions?
Week 8: Society, Groups, and Group Dynamics	