

Norwood Public Schools

Grade 11-12 (Sociology) Curriculum Overview

Description (including primary objectives and outcomes):

This course, open to juniors and seniors, focuses on the study of society, social institutions, and social relationships. A goal of the course is to make students aware of how sociology applies to many areas of life and how it can be used in day-to-day activities. Emphasis is placed on sociological methodology, culture, values, norms, family, group behavior, and socialization. The study of adolescence, deviant behavior, gender, race and ethnicity will allow students to explore the many areas of sociology.

Learning Experiences:

Introductory Activities – How sociology is used in everyday life, sociological findings vs common sense, environmental factors in terrorism, role of influence

Culture – Nacirema, Saudi Arabian norms, gestures from around the world, cultural variation readings, Mead’s study, melting-pot activity, Amish

Social Structure/Socialization – role expectations activity, group behavior activities, birth-order reading, personality essay, impact of mass media activities

Adolescence – life shield, Tiwi, USA today reading on changing dating patterns, 60 minutes segment on underage drinking, Newsweek reading on suicide, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, music and suicide activity, suicide prevention

Deviant Behavior – What Makes Us Moral, Prison Nation, juvenile offender web-quest, life sentences, gang behavior, serial killers

Discrimination and Prejudice – Gender roles project, gender variation around the world, Separate but Effective?, The Issue is Race, White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack, Eye Color Experiment: A Class Divided, Tuskegee Ex, Crash

Content Outline:

The Sociological Point of View – Examining social life and the beginnings of sociology as a field of study.

Cultural Diversity – Meaning of culture, components of culture and cultural variation

Cultural Conformity and Adaptation – American values, social control and social change

Social Structure – Statuses, roles, groups, social institutions, societies and types of social interaction

Socializing the Individual – Personality development, the social self and agents of socialization

Adolescence – Emergence of adolescence as a life stage, dating and problems of adolescence including suicide, drug/alcohol use and teenage sexual behavior

Deviance and Social Control – Nature, functions and theories of deviant behavior; Crime and the criminal justice system

Prejudice and Discrimination – gender, race, ethnicity; sources of discrimination/prejudice and patterns of intergroup relations

Resources Used:

Textbook: Sociology – The Study of Human Relationships (5th Edition) – Holt, Rinehart and Winston

Sociology – The Center for Learning – Class Activity Workbook

Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach (9th Edition) – James M. Henslin

Do's and Taboos Around the World (3rd Edition) – Roger E. Axtell

PBS: Frontline – A Class Divided

Time Magazine, Newsweek

As of (3/20/12)