

Sociology examines why people think and behave as they do in relationships, groups, institutions, and societies.

Major course topics include individual and group identity, social structures and institutions, social change, social stratification, social dynamics in recent and current events, the effects of social change on individuals, and the research methods used by social scientists.

In online discussions and polls, students reflect critically on their own experiences and ideas, as well as on the ideas of sociologists. Interactive multimedia activities include personal and historical accounts to which students can respond, using methods of inquiry from sociology. Written assignments provide opportunities to practice and develop skills in thinking and communicating about human relationships, individual and group identity, and all other major course topics.

This course is built to state standards and the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Expectations of Excellence: Curriculum Standards for Social Studies.

Length: One Semester

Unit 1: What Is Sociology?

- Applying the Sociological Perspective
- The Emergence of Sociology
- Ways of Thinking about Society
- Approaches to Sociological Investigation
- Methods of Social Research
- What Is Sociology? Wrap-Up

Unit 2: What Is Society?

- What Is Culture?
- Socialization: Creating the Person
- Society's Building Blocks: Social Structure and Interaction
- Society's Building Blocks: Groups and Organizations
- Breaking the Rules: Deviance
- What Is Society? Wrap-Up

Unit 3: What Is Social Inequality?

- Dimensions of Inequality
- Social Class in the United States
- Race and Ethnicity
- Gender and Social Inequality
- Aging and the Golden Years
- What Is Social Inequality? Wrap-Up

Unit 4: What Are Social Institutions?

- Institutions at Work: Jobs and the Economy
- Politics and Government
- Families and Religion
- Mass Media and Medicine
- Issues in Education
- What Are Social Institutions? Wrap-Up

Unit 5: What Is Social Change?

- Population Growth and Urbanization
- Social Changes Through Time and Technology
- Globalization and the Environment
- Collective Behavior and Social Movements
- Youth, Media, and Social Change in the 21st Century
- What Is Social Change? Wrap-Up

Unit 6: Review and Exam
