

## COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA

### COURSE OUTLINE

**Course Number:** SS 130

**Course Title:** Introduction to Sociology

**Course Description:** This is an introductory course in sociology. It is a course in the Social Science Division designed for first year students to fulfill their requirements or even electives. The students will develop clear perspective of human behaviors, as individuals and groups. There are problems that can be created because of these individual behaviors that varies from one time to another. There are differences in cultures, backgrounds, and beliefs that students are to be aware of. The students' roles are to identify these differences define them, classify them, and be able to cope with according to what professionals indicated in their studies. The students will describe different societies and how to function in groups.

#### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

To provide the students with an overview of the field of Sociology including an understanding of the benefits and applications of the study of sociology.

To introduce the students to the basic techniques and methods of sociological research.

To familiarize the student with the fundamental concepts; theories and terminology of sociology.

To help the student compare and contrast his/her own society with those of other Micronesian and industrial societies.

To study the influences and effects of society upon the individual and individual's upon their society.

To help the student examine and evaluate the functions and inter-relationships of the primary structures and components of society.

To help the student gain an understanding of the diversity, trends and changes in modern day societies, placing an emphasis on how these factors effect Micronesian societies.

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

After completing the course students will be able to:

1. Define and provide reasons for the study of sociology.
2. Define "*society*" and explain the major components of *society* that are of specific interest to the sociologist.
3. List and explain both the physical and emotional basic human needs of the individual
4. Explain the fundamental purposes of the organization of individuals into a structured society with respect to the survival needs of the individual.

5. Discuss the inter-relationship and interdependence between the individual and family, social groups, social institutions, culture and physical environment.
6. Demonstrate in either class discussions, essays or report/ project an understanding of research design and data collection methods used by sociologists.
7. Define and provide an example of an appropriate application of the following sociological models: conflict model, structural functionalism (unity model) and symbolic inter-actionalism.
8. Define, compare, contrast and give examples of "manifest functions" and "latent functions".
9. Define "culture" and discuss in essay form its basic characteristics and functions.
10. Describe some of the major causes of cultural change (cultural dynamics) such as population changes, migration/diffusion, inventions, conflicts, etc; and be able to recognize some of the new and changing aspects of the students own culture.
11. Discuss and / or demonstrate in essay form an understanding of the following sociological concepts: alienation, socialization, ethnocentrism, and cultural relativism.
12. Explain what it meant by the term " social stratification"; compare and contrast open and closed social systems; and identify the specific kind of social system employed by his/her society, including the social criteria used by individuals to differentiate between social classes.
13. Identify major social institution, including marriage and family, educational systems, religion, government, etc.; and list the primary functions of each
14. Present and in depth report or essay of the manifest functions and the latent functions of one afore mentioned social institutions.
15. Define and discuss the meaning and implications of the concept of diversity within a society (including class structures: ethnic racial or religious groups, etc.) and be able to cite examples of how diversity can create strain in society.
16. Define and explain the inter- relationship between the following terms: stereotypes, racism, minority status, prejudice and discrimination; and provide current examples of these terms bath as they apply to Micronesian and non- Micronesian societies.
17. Define "deviant behavior", contrasting it to the concept of "social norms".
18. Outline possible areas of deviance within a society (i.e. beliefs and /or actions) and discuss the possible causes and consequences of deviance for both the individual as well as for the society.
19. Define "demography"; explain why the study of demography is of interest to sociologists.
20. Discuss in essay the relationship between population growth and available resources, including how the "Malthusian Principle" applies to this subject; including a comparison of the contrast between developing and industrialized societies.

21. Discuss world trends with respect to population growth and the possible consequences of those trends for the individual and society in both the near and distant future (preferably using Micronesia as the model for this discussion).
22. Discuss the causes and effects of urbanization on the societies of developing nations and the implications for the individual.
23. Discuss the impact of immigration of non Micronesians to Micronesian islands, and relate to the immigration of aliens to the United States and other industrialized nations.
24. Discuss "brain drain" and its effects .
25. Discuss the role of the sociologist in society and possible useful applications of sociological research as it might apply to Micronesia.

## **COURSE CONTENT**

- Introduction to the Sociological perspective
- Sociological Research Methods
- Culture
- Socialization
- Deviant Behavior
- Social Stratification( class, age and sex divisions)
- Race, Ethnicity and Minority status
- Social Institutions
- Population Trends and Consequences
- Societal trends in Micronesia
- Education and Society: Goals and Functions
- The Political Institution
- Religion

## **TEXT**

Ferrante, Joan. Sociology: A Global Perspective. Wadsworth Pub. 2006. (or newer). ISBN: 0495390917.

Films( optional)

- "Socialization, Roles, and Cultural Changes"
- "Social Stratification", "Social interaction"
- "Crime/ human nature"
- "Kevin's story"
- "Four Families"
- "Two-thirds and Counting"
- Optional Full -length feature films
- Ghandi( 3-hours)
- The Doll Maker (2 hours) Re- urbanization and re-socialization

## **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

- Lecture
- Text Evaluation/ analysis
- Films
- Class Discussion
- Guest Speakers

## **METHODS OF EVALUATION**

- Attendance
- Assignments/Quizzes
- Oral Presentation /Group Discussion
- Written Essay/ Objective questions
- Portfolios