Madison Local Schools

Course of Study

Advanced Sociology (Course #764)

Prerequisite: Sociology (Course #763)

2016-17

**Unit One**

Students will briefly review and recap the importance of the prerequisite course of Sociology-Course #763 and apply their basic knowledge, vocabulary, and content to more complex ideas of Sociology. This Unit is composed primarily of going deeper into the topics that were introduced in Course #763. The concept of “forcing conformity” upon members of our society who cannot or will not adhere to society’s norms, is tackled in this unit. Crime and Deviance Theories; Types of Crime; Prison; Differing Punishments; Capital Punishment; Pro/Con of Guns in America; Violent Crime in America; and the Role of the Government/Police in American Society are topics to be covered in this Unit.

**Topic A**: Based upon what we know about the Socialization Process (from prior course), Folkways, More’s, Laws, and Positive/Negative Reinforcement…how do we define crime and deviant behavior? Deviance/Crime Theories of Emile Durkheim, Robert Merton, E.H. Sutherland, Henry S. Becker, William Chambliss, Caesar Lombroso, Karl Marx, and Sigmund Freud.

**Topic B**: identify and analyze Types of Crime: Victimless; Violent; White-Collar; Corporate; Organized; Situational/Habitual; Juvenile; Professional; Hate; Cyber; etc.

**Topic C**: Analyze current U.S. Crime Statistics; the “Crime Clock”; and Homicide Rates…

**Topic D**: Examine the U.S. Criminal Justice System and how the court system deals with crime and deviant behavior.

**Topic E**: Discuss the differing types of punishment/corrections for crime and deviant behavior; the ultimate purpose of prison; rehabilitation. How effective is the U.S. prison system? Recidivism rates, etc.

**Topic F**: Analyze and dissect the ultimate punishment(s) in U.S. Society: Life prison sentences or the Death Penalty? Trace the world history of Capital Punishment. Trace America’s history of the Death Penalty. Current U.S. status on Capital Punishment. Pros/Cons of the Death Penalty. U.S. Death Row inmate statistics.

**Expectations of Learning**

* Gain mastery of terms, definitions, and theorists in the study of Crime and Deviant Behavior.
* Understand the major Crime and Deviance Sociological Theories.
* Have knowledge on the major Types of Crime; FBI Classifications of Crime; and Crime Statistics.
* Students will have a basic understanding of the U.S. Criminal Justice System.
* Understanding of the purposes of the American Prison System; prison life; and alternate punishments.
* Students will be able to back up their opinion(s) of the Death Penalty with use of factual statistics, not just acting upon emotion.

**Vocabulary**

Crime; Deviance; Criminology; Criminologist; Behavioral Analysis Team/Unit; modernization, materialism; competition; Differential Association Theory; Labelling Theory; Sociopathic Behavior Traits; Personality Disorders; Nature vs. Nurture; “Crime Clock”; Rehabilitation; Recidivism; Racial Profiling; Police Discretion; Capital Punishment; Deterrence; Death Row.

**Resources**

Student text(s): *Sociology: The Study of Human Relationships* (2010); *Understanding Sociology* (1995); teacher-led lecture/discussion; teacher-authored “formal notes”; *USA Today*; videos/documentaries; portions of relevant movies, field trip(s); and guest speaker(s).

**Assessments**

Formative: teacher-authored/generated activities and assignments.

Summative: Quizzes; Unit Test; Notebook/Project.

**Pacing**

Approximately nine weeks in duration.

**Unit Two**

This unit will primarily deal with contemporary social issues and problems. Topics include: problems of urbanization; race/ethnic relations; poverty; homelessness; environmental issues; social stratification and inequality; the failure of society’s institutions; and the rise and fall of societies/empires. Other pertinent topics include the dangers of new/high technology and the mass and social media; the rise of mental and psychological health issues; and the “aging of America”.

**Topic A**: Analyze the many problems of America’s urban areas and the concept of urbanization. As cities grow-and shrink-many social problems become manifested. Problems such as unemployment; racial/ethnic problems; crime; increasing drug/alcohol abuse; broken families; and poverty; social stratification and inequality. What is the role of our government with all of these urbanization problems?

**Topic B**: Have society’s major institutions begun a slow decay, decline, and eventual failure? Examine the problems of Family, Religion, Economics, Education System, and Government in our society. Problems in all five of our “pillars of society” and the stark sociological possibility that “if one falls, they all fall like a house of cards.” Domino theory sociology?

**Topic C**: Analyze the commonalities of the “rise and fall” of great world empires/societies. Examples include Greek, Roman, and Germany of the Nazi Third Reich. Can the U.S. empire share in the great stories of rising and falling empires? What are the sociological signs and symptoms of an empire in decay?

**Topic D**: The re-examination of the powerful “Agents of Socialization” of the mass/social media and the dangers of our new high technology world. Is all this technology actually sociologically damaging our society more than it is benefitting? Violence and video games.

**Topic E**: The “Aging of America”. Physical and mental health of an aging society becomes a problem. The Baby Boomer generation is now the retired and elderly, which raises many financial and medical questions. The role and expectations of rest homes and mental health facilities of the older generation.

**Topic F**: Terrorism and world conflict. History of world conflict illustrates that there is the great likelihood of yet another world conflict. How can sociological rationale offer hope for an end to the string of world wars and conflict? Life after the next total, high tech world crisis. Can the human race survive this probable future apocalyptic war?

**Expectations of Learning**

* Urbanization and the many social problems that are manifested in urban America.
* Analyze the possibility the major sociological institutions of society are in decay.
* Knowledge of the world history of the rise and fall of empires/societies.
* Analyze the hidden powers and dangers of the mass media and social media.
* Examine the sociologically damaging effects of new/high technology in society.
* Exposure to the concept of “Aging America” and the host of problems that accompanies this large-and growing-U.S. population.
* Examine and analyze the possibility of further terrorism and world conflict and crisis.

**Vocabulary**

Urbanization; Urban Ecology; Urban Sprawl; Subculture Theory; Over-urbanization; Demography; Death Rate; Growth Rate; Malthusian Theory; Social Stratification; Inequality; Societal Institutions; Mass Media; Social Media; Digital Divide; Spiral of Silence; Information Society; Media Convergence; “Baby Boomers”; Terrorism; Isolationism.

**Resources**

Same as Unit One. Please refer to Unit One Resources.

**Assessments**

Formative: Teacher-generated assignments and activities.

Summative: quizzes; Unit Test; Notebook/Project.

**Pacing**

Approximately nine weeks in duration.