Department:

Sociology

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to sociology and the basic principles of sociological perspectives, theories, and research methods. The course will focus on the way culture patterns societies and social interaction and how these patterns are transmitted through socialization and social interaction. The course will also cover social stratification systems, social institutions, collective behaviors, social change, and perspectives on how social forces influence human activity and how human activity creates social forces.

Course Competencies:

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups for this course as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents. (Kansas Regents Shared Number Course and Title: KRSN Course SOC1010 Introduction to Sociology.)

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe the fundamental significance of social institutions.
2. Compare and contrast the foundations of society and sociology.
3. Explain the main ideas of functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, and postmodernism.
4. Explain the concept and dynamics of social change.
5. Design and complete a project that illustrates human diversity in terms of social and economic class, age, gender, religion, ethnicity, ability/disability, residence, sexual orientation, and education.
6. Explain how systems of social stratification affect social advantages and disadvantages.
7. Describe the relationship between social structure and individual behavior.
8. Define the major components of culture, including the role of socialization, social norms, and social deviance.
9. Distinguish between qualitative and quantitative approaches to conducting sociological research.
10. Apply sociological principles to his or her individual situation.

Course Content:

A. Foundations of Sociology
   1. History and Philosophy
   2. The Sociological Imagination
   3. Major Sociological Perspectives
4. Research Methods and Ethical Issues

B. Foundations of Society
   1. Major Components of Culture
   2. Major Types of Societies
   3. The Process of Socialization
   4. Components of Social Structure
   5. Social Interaction
   6. Theories of Deviance and Types of Social Control

C. Social Inequality and Cultural Diversity
   1. Major Theoretical Explanations of Social Inequality
   2. Local, National, and Global Dimensions of Social Stratification
   3. Areas of Social Inequality

D. Social Institutions
   1. Significance of Social Institutions
   2. Features and Interrelationships of Social Institutions

E. Social Change
   1. Dynamics of Social Change
   2. Collective Behavior, Social Movements, and Social Change in Local, National, and Global Contexts

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by use of a fieldwork research project, written assignments, quizzes, group work, oral reports, exams, Internet research assignments, and reflection papers.

Instructional Materials:


Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students must complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” at this link: https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.