

AICE Sociology A Level

Course

Students will learn about Sociology as an academic discipline. AICE Sociology (AL) will focus on the history of sociology, its perspectives, methods of research and application. Students will then apply this knowledge to an understanding of the family in society. Sociology emphasizes critical and creative thinking skills and an ability to formulate and to test valid analyses. Themes

The course is divided up by the following themes:

- Theme 1 The Institution of Education
- Theme 2 Global Development
- Theme 3 The Media as an Institution
- Theme 4 Religion as an Institution
- Theme 5 Review for Paper 3 Exam

Textbooks

Barnard, Andy, et. al. *AS Level and A Level Sociology*.

Recommended: Livesy, Chris. *Cambridge International AS and A Level Sociology Coursebook*..

Expectations

This course will emphasize building one's sociological imagination. This involves learning how to observe the world using sociological perspectives, and analyzing the lived experience by applying sociological theory and practice.

The class will be conducted as an independent study, which means the emphasis will be on the student to complete all challenges with my guidance. I will be grading output only. Notes and any other work a student may do to help them complete their work will be entirely for the benefit of the student. Completion of the independent study will require the student to complete one major research project and at least three Cambridge Essays per quarter plus a Cambridge Assessment at the end of each quarter.

The student will be expected to keep and to maintain their own research folders, notes and materials. They will be accountable for deadlines. The student will also be responsible for completing any readings, videos or other informational sources assigned. There will be no corresponding assignments tied to these readings, but completing the readings will be crucial for completing the projects, essays and assessments.

Pacing**

Theme1: The Institution of Education

Topics

- Education and the Economy
- Explanation of Educational Achievement and Intelligence
- Education and Social Mobility
- Social Inequality and Educational Opportunity and Achievement
- The Social Construction of Knowledge
- Language, Deprivation and Knowledge
- Teacher-Pupil Relationships
- Pupil Sub-Cultures and Attitudes to Education

Due Dates

- August 13: Essay Prompts Assigned
- August 27: Essay 1 Due
- September 14: Essay 2 Due
- October 2: Essay 3 Due
- October 4: Project Due
- October 8: Exam 1

Theme 2: Global Development

Topics

- Concepts of Development
- Different Theories of Development
- Debates about Aid and Development
- Population Growth and Development
- Migration, International Employment Patterns and Demographic Change
- Causes and Consequences of Poverty
- Sociological Theories of Globalization
- The Role of Transnational Organizations

Due Dates

- October 17: Essay Prompts Assigned
- October 31: Essay 1 Due
- November 16: Essay 2 Due
- December 3: Essay 3 Due
- December 17: Project Due
- December 19-21: Midterm Exam

Theme 3: The Media as an Institution

Topics

- Control of the Media
- Perspectives on Media Control
- Pluralist and Marxist Theories on the Role of Media
- Selection and Presentation of Media Content
- The Media and the State
- Impact of New Media

The role of the Media With Regard to Diversity
Social Patterns in Listening, Viewing and Reading
Different Theories on Effects and Uses of the Media
Impact of the Media on Behavior, Violence and Deviance
Problems of Research

Due Dates

January 10: Essay Prompts Assigned
January 24: Essay 1 Due
February 11: Essay 2 Due
March 1: Essay 3 Due
March 5: Projects Due
March 7: Exam 3

Theme 4: Religion as an Institution

Topics

Sociological Perspectives on Religion
Religion and Social Change
Religion and Modernity and Postmodernity
Different Religious Movements
Debates About Secularization
Relationship Between Religious Belief, Organization and Social Groups

Due Dates

March 25: Essay Prompts Assigned
April 8: Essay 1 Due
April 26: Essay 2 Due
May 10: Essay 3 Due
May 10: Project Due
May 28-30: Final Exam

Papers 3 June 3 Afternoon

Dates are subject to change as necessity mandates.