Hello, and welcome!

Think about the groups you belong to. For example, these might be your family or your neighborhood. They might also include a club, sport, or charity. How do those groups influence you? And how do you affect them? We are all so connected. In this course, you will learn about sociology. It is the study of how social groups are organized and how they impact our world. You will examine the dynamic relationship between our social environments and individual lives.

We invite you to take a minute to learn about the course by reviewing the information that follows. This way, you will be better able to understand the expectations of the course as a whole. Then you can determine how to manage your time and efforts as you navigate through it.

Be curious and explore these concepts.
We’re here to help you every step of the way!
Course Description and Competencies

What to Expect

Our society is heavily influenced by many factors. These include religion, race, gender, education, and culture. In this course, you will study the hidden rules, or norms, by which people live. And you will consider how those norms permit or limit certain behaviors. You will learn how families, schools, workplaces, and governments shape (and or shaped by) our society. You will also discover how people deviate from the rules by challenging norms. And you will learn how such behavior may result in social change.

Throughout the course, you will find a variety of interactive elements. These include knowledge checks to assess your understanding and help deepen your understanding of the content. That way, you can determine your readiness for the final exam. Your competency will be demonstrated by the successful completion of that objective final exam.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Explain major perspectives and key contributors to the development of sociology.
2. Identify components of culture and socialization as they relate to individuals in society.
3. Explain the constructs of conformity to and deviance from social norms.
4. Explain how societies are stratified across various social statuses.
5. Explain reciprocal relationships between social institutions and individuals.

The objective assessment allows you to demonstrate three core competencies from the course. You will have two attempts to pass the exam.
Course Outline

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. **Foundations of Sociology**
   - Explain the development of the field of sociology.
   - Identify the major perspectives in sociology.
   - Identify sociological research methods.

2. **Culture & Socialization**
   - Define culture and the processes of culture.
   - Identify the components of culture.
   - Identify the socialization process in the development of the self.
   - Explain the socialization process.

3. **Organizations & Deviance**
   - Identify the impact of groups in establishing and enforcing social norms.
   - Identify the dynamics of groups and organizations.
   - Identify major sociological explanations of deviance.
   - Identify the patterns of crime and sanctions for crime across various social groups.

4. **Social Inequality**
   - Identify the significance of race and ethnicity in society.
   - Identify the significance of sex, gender, and sexuality in society.
   - Identify the significance of stratification systems globally.

5. **Institutions & Change**
   - Identify the significance of the institution of marriage and families.
   - Identify the significance of institutions of religion and education.
   - Identify the significance of the institution of health care in the United States of America.
   - Identify significant components of social change.
Technology Requirements

We want you to have the tools to succeed! Since this course includes at least one proctored test, please be sure to have a working microphone, speakers, and an external webcam. Unfortunately, an internal webcam (built into many laptops) is not acceptable. For other details about the technology you’ll need, review the Computer System and Technology Requirements. If you have questions about your setup, contact support@academy.wgu.edu.

Key Contacts

Your Fellow Learners
Check out the Introduction to Sociology Lobby in the course site! In this online community, you can ask questions and explore ideas. You can touch base with your fellow learners. When you use this site, you will realize that other learners may have the same questions you have. You can all benefit from learning together!

Technical Support
If you encounter technical issues, be sure to contact the Help Desk. Just submit a Support Request for assistance.

Tutor.com
If you need academic support, don’t hesitate to contact Tutor.com. There, you have access to thousands of tutors. And they are available 24/7 from any internet-ready device. You can also benefit from instructional videos, study tools, and other assistance. Please ignore any reference to a course instructor in the videos and direct your questions to a tutor or other resource listed here as necessary.

Program Support
Do you have questions about your account? Our Academy Support Team has answers. They can help with billing, switching courses, and other requests. You can contact them at (888) 320-0540 or support@academy.wgu.edu.

Accommodations

WGU Academy provides compliant and accessible learning experiences. If you require accommodation, please contact us at the start of the course. You can email StudentAffairs@academy.wgu.edu or call (888) 320-0540. We are committed to ensuring that all students with disabilities have equal access to WGU Academy’s services and materials. We strive to use best practices for accessibility. Our goal is to conform to existing U.S. laws. These include the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Our learning management system (LMS) platform is Open edX. Open edX’s commitment to accessible content is published on their Website Accessibility Policy.