



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Overview Sociology

Course Description:

Sociology introduces students to the study of society. Students learn about groups, culture, family, and social institutions. These concepts are explored in relation to how they affect society as a whole, and how identity affects individuals.

Essential Skills/Processes: Students will

- recognize and define sociology
- understand the nature of culture
- conceptualize the process of socialization
- analyze the five basic social institutions
- implement sociological scientific research techniques

Essential Knowledge:

Soc. 1.0 Students will gain a basic understanding of the purpose and nature of the field.

- Basic terms
- Relationship of sociology to other sciences
- Role and focus of the sociologist
- Major figures in sociology

Soc. 2.0 Students will review the work of the founders of sociology and the methods of research.

- ◆ Sociologists
 - Auguste Comte
 - Harriett Martineau
 - Herbert Spencer
 - Karl Marx
 - Emile Durkheim
 - Max Weber
- ◆ Theoretical Perspectives
 - Functionalism
 - Symbolic Interaction
 - Conflict Theory

Soc. 3.0 Students will understand that cultures consist of a complex pattern of items, traits, and world views.

- Communication
- Social and family structures
- Material traits
- Science/innovation
- Religion
- Government
- Fine Arts

- Soc. 4.0 Students will learn the process of socialization at the different stages of life.
- Early socialization
 - Adolescence
 - Adult years
- Soc. 5.0 Students will learn what groups are, and how they affect individuals and society.
- Primary groups
 - Secondary groups
 - Social networks
- Soc. 6.0 Students will study how deviance and social control affect society.
- Nature of deviance
 - Social control
- Soc. 7.0 Students will learn how age, race, class, gender, and religion affect relationships within society.
- Social stratification
 - Racial and ethnic minorities
 - Inequities of gender and age
- Soc. 8.0 Students will study the basic social institutions and their importance to society.
- Family
 - Education
 - Government
 - Religion
- Soc. 9.0 Students will review the major social problems, concerns, and issues as reflected in modern day society.
- Collective behavior
 - Social movements
 - Social change
- Soc. 10.0 Students will learn to use the tools of sociological and scientific research.
- Data collection
 - Research design and process

Resources:

Virginia Standards of Learning for All Subject and Grade Levels:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/index.shtml

History and Social Science Curriculum Framework and Resources:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/history_socialscience/index.shtml

Homepage for the American Sociological Society: <http://www.asanet.org/>