Social Studies Georgia Standards of Excellence

Sociology

This course is an introductory study in sociology, the study of social behavior and the

organization of human society. Students will learn about the historical development of the field

of sociology and the procedures for conducting research in sociology. Students will also learn the

importance and role of culture, social structure, socialization, and social change in today’s

society.

Foundations and Research

**SSSocFR1 Explain the origins of sociology, the sociological perspective, and how sociology**

**relates to the other social sciences.**

a. Explain sociology, sociological perspective, and the sociological imagination.

b. Describe the origins of sociology as a social science and the significance of its historical

framework.

c. Explain the relationship of sociology to the other social sciences.

d. Identify careers where sociological knowledge is applicable.

**SSSocFR2 Explain the research methodologies used in sociology.**

a. Identify the major research methods used in sociology.

b. Explain how various methods are used to conduct research in sociology.

c. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the methods of sociological research.

d. Explain the importance and influence of ethics in guiding research and data collection in

sociology.

**SSSocFR3 Explain the major theoretical perspectives in sociology.**

a. Explain and apply the theoretical perspectives of Structural Functionalism, Symbolic

Interaction, and Conflict Theory.

b. Compare and evaluate the theoretical perspectives of Structural Functionalism, Symbolic

Interaction, and Conflict Theory.

Culture and Social Structure

**SSSocC1 Explain the development and importance of culture.**

a. Describe how culture is a social construction.

b. Identify the basic elements of culture.

c. Explain the importance of culture as an organizing tool in society.

d. Describe the components of culture to include language, symbols, norms, and values; also

include material and non-material culture.

Social Studies Georgia Standards of Excellence

Georgia Department of Education

June 9, 2016  Page 2 of 9

**SSSocC2 Evaluate how cultures evolve over time.**

a. Explain cultural change and diversity include ethnocentrism, cultural relativism, folk

culture, pop culture, counterculture, subculture, and culture shock.

b. Analyze the impact of globalization on U.S. and other world cultures.

SSSocC3 Analyze social structure and interaction within society.

a. Explain the components of social structure, include: status, role and social institutions.

b. Describe and compare various types of societies.

c. Categorize groups within a society by comparing primary and secondary groups, in and out

groups, reference groups, and social networks.

d. Analyze the components, varieties, and functions of group dynamics, include: such factors

as group size, leadership and authority, and such processes as bystander effect and

groupthink.

e. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of formal organizations and bureaucracies.

Socialization and Social Control

**SSSocSC1 Explain the process of socialization.**

a. Identify and describe the roles and responsibilities of an individual in society.

b. Analyze the individual development theories of Cooley and Mead.

c. Identify and compare the stages of socialization, include: childhood, adolescence,

adulthood, and death/dying.

d. Evaluate the agents of socialization including family, peers, education, media, and religion.

e. Analyze gender, race/ethnicity, and socio-economic status as contributing factors to

individual socialization.

**SSSocSC2 Analyze deviance in society.**

a. Explain the socially constructed nature of deviance.

b. Explain the relationship of social control and power in society.

c. Analyze the causes of deviant behavior.

d. Explain the impact of deviance on society.

**SSSocSC3 Analyze the impact of social control on deviance in society.**

a. Explain theories of social control, include: control and labeling theories.

b. Explain conformity in relationship to deviance and social control.

c. Describe adaptation, cooperation, accommodation, and competition in the context of social

control.

Social Studies Georgia Standards of Excellence

Georgia Department of Education

June 9, 2016  Page 3 of 9

**SSSocSC4 Analyze the function of social institutions as agents of social control across**

**differing societies and times.**

a. Analyze the function of social institutions in society, include: family, education, religion,

economy, government/politics, health care, and media.

b. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various social institutions.

c. Evaluate other possible social institutions such as sports.

d. Analyze the functions and inequalities of the criminal justice system in relationship to a

society’s construct of crime and punishment.

e. Explain the role of total institutions.

f. Analyze the re-socialization process.

Social Inequities and Change

**SSSocIC1 Analyze forms of social inequality.**

a. Explain how unequal distribution of power and resources affects the life chances of

individuals in that society.

b. Analyze the sources and effects of stratification on the basis of social class, race and

ethnicity, gender, age, and emotional, mental, and physical disabilities.

c. Analyze the sources of global stratification and inequality.

d. Evaluate the impact of global stratification and inequality on global relations.

**SSSocIC2 Analyze social change processes in a society.**

a. Describe the various forms of collective behavior as factors of social change.

b. Explain the impact of globalization on social change.

c. Evaluate the impact of technology on social change.

d. Analyze the impact of demographic changes and changes in settlement patterns on a

society.