**Course and Module Objectives  
Introduction to Sociology**

**Course Objectives**

1. Explain the basic concepts and theories of the field of sociology, and apply them to yourself and other people.
2. Distinguish between the sociological perspective and the individualistic perspective, and specify the different ways in which you understand people and society based on the perspective you are using.
3. Identify, explain, and apply the major sociological theoretical perspectives – conflict, functionalist, symbolic interactionist.
4. Discuss the impact of a variety of social forces (including culture, socialization, groups, inequality, institutions, deviance, and social change), and explain how your own life and the lives of others are influenced by them.
5. Question the usefulness of understandings of people and society based on your own personal experience, media portrayals, or “conventional wisdom,” and locate valid information about people and society.
6. Develop an approach based on the sociological perspective to evaluate and constructively critique social institutions and policies, and explore solutions.

**Module/Unit Objectives**

(Course objectives that are addressed by each unit objective listed below are indicated in parentheses based on the list above.)

**I. Introduction to Sociology as a Perspective and a Science**

1. Contrast the sociological perspective with the individualistic perspective, and explore your beliefs about the role of internal and external forces in our lives. (CO2)

2. Describe the theoretical perspectives in sociology and analyze a topic using each perspective. (CO3)

3. Explain how research is conducted by sociologists, and compare and contrast scientific research with how you ordinarily gain information about people and society. (CO5)

**II. Building Blocks: The Self in Society (Culture, Socialization, Social Structure, Social Interaction, Groups, Deviance)**

4. Define and provide examples for each of the components of each building block of society. (CO1)

5. Discuss how you and others have been shaped and otherwise impacted by each of these building blocks. (CO1, CO4)

**III. Social Inequality (Social Class, Race, Gender)**

6. Explain the sociological view of inequality, and contrast that with the individualistic view. (CO2)

7. Delineate the evidence that inequality exists in each area of inequality. (CO1, CO4)

8. Describe the problems created by inequality, and suggest solutions. (CO4)

9. Locate and evaluate the validity of information about inequality. (CO5)

10. Explain the importance of inequality as a social force. (CO4)

**IV. Institutions (Economic, Political, Family, Education, Health, Religion)**

11. Explain how each institution is structured and operates in the U.S. and other cultures. (CO1)

12. Discuss each of the institutions from the functionalist, conflict, and interactionist perspectives. (CO3)

13. Identify and discuss the problems and controversies associated with each institution, and which segments of

society and/or the global community are most affected. (CO4)

14. Identify and discuss the ways in which your own life, and the lives of others, are influenced by the operations of

each institution. (CO4)

15. List and evaluate solutions to the problems of each institution based on the sociological perspective. (CO6)

16. Locate web sites that provide solutions to the problems of institutions, and evaluate their validity. (CO5)

**V. Social Issues, Change, Solutions and Bringing It All Together**

17. Discuss the causes and consequences of urbanization, including the concentration of poverty in the inner-cities. CO1, CO4)

18. Describe the major sources of social change. Explain the types of social movements, the factors that lead to them, and their stages. (CO6)

19. Summarize the solutions to societal issues suggested by sociologists. (CO6)

20. Discuss and apply concepts and theories from throughout the course. (CO1, CO2, CO4)