

READINESS PROFILE & COURSE EXPECTATIONS

SOCIOLOGY/LAW IN ACTION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a student centered interactive class involving resource persons from the community. Lawyers, judges, consumer advocates, law students, police officers and detectives, and government officials will be guests to enrich the student's experience. Curriculum will include the study of human relationships, types of structures, dynamics and function of groups. It will focus on how groups are organized and their function in our society. Topics discussed will provide problem solving opportunities that develop in students the knowledge and skills necessary for survival in our law-saturated society. This course may be used to meet the UC/CSU "G" requirement.

COURSE CONTENT AND EXPECTATIONS

Sociology and Law in Action is an elective class that combines the study of human relationships through analysis of the types, structures, dynamics and functions of groups with the practical, participatory education about law, democracy, and human rights.

This class is a blend of content and methodology that uses techniques which promote cooperative learning, critical thinking, and the ability to participate in a democratic society. The class promotes knowledge of legal rights and responsibilities, engagement in the democratic process, and belief in rule of law. This course's approach to law related education is to provide practical information and problem solving opportunities that develop the knowledge and skills necessary for survival in our law-saturated society.

Regular attendance and participation is essential. Homework will be assigned as needed, along with research projects. In addition, students will be required to maintain a course notebook, make oral presentations, and keep a guest speaker journal.

Text:

Sociology: The Study of Human Relationships, Holt McDougal. 2010.

Street Law, Glencoe-McGraw Hill. 2005

Photocopied, computer-based materials and primary sources will also be used to enrich the curriculum.

MAJOR UNITS OF STUDY

Sociology

Unit 1: Culture & Social Structure

Unit 2: The Individual in Society

Unit 3: Social Inequality

Unit 4: Social Institutions

Unit 5: The Changing Social World

Law in Action:

Unit 1: Introduction to Law and the Legal System

Unit 2: Criminal Law and Juvenile Justice

Unit 3: Torts

Unit 4: Consumer and Housing Law

Unit 5: Family Law

Please see syllabus for additional course rules and information

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Unit 6: Individual Rights and Liberties

**Professionals currently working in each of areas being studied will be visiting our class as guest speakers.

STUDENT BACKGROUND

Students entering Sociology/Law in Action should already have a good understanding of the following:

No prerequisites

Sociology/Law in Action sample questions:

- Do you think that folkways are necessary for our culture to exist? Why or why not?
- Based on your knowledge from this course as well as your own personal opinion, answer the following: Should parents be criminally responsible for the willful damage caused by their children? Why or why not?

WORKLOAD EXPECTATIONS

60 minutes per week

It is important to note that this serves as an estimate of the average weekly homework load. It is not intended to be a concrete value, and homework completion time will depend upon the nature of the assignment and the abilities and work habits of the student.

Please see syllabus for additional course rules and information