

Course Outcomes Guide

Course Title: Introduction to Sociology SOC 101

Date: January 2015

Course Team: Daniel Madron and Daniel Ryan

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Explain how sociological concepts can be found in everyday situations.
- Use the sociological perspective to analyze and discuss several major social issues affecting the nation and the world in the twenty-first century.
- Obtain a working knowledge of those sociological concepts and skills which provide the expected foundation for advanced educational offerings in sociology and other related social sciences.

Assessment:

Nearing the end of each semester, sociology instructors administer a common assessment exam to SOC 101 classes. The assessment exam covers all course outcomes. Data from the most recent assessments is analyzed and compared to previous semesters.

Validation:

The course outcomes and assessment tool for Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101) are consistent and aligned with recommendations from the *American Sociological Association's Task Force on College Level Courses* and the "Creating an Effective Assessment Plan for the Sociology Major" guide published by the ASA's *Task Force on Assessing the Undergraduate Sociology Major*.

Results:

Common Assessment Exam Results: Fall 2013 & Spring 2014

The overall average score for the exam was an 8/10 for both semesters. The sample size was 227 for the Fall and 138 for the Spring. The breakdown by question is shown in the charts below. While questions 1 and 10 did decrease from 90% of students answering them correct to around 80%, having 80% of students answering those questions correct is still satisfactory. There was a great deal of improvement from the Fall to Spring for question 2. Just 66% answered Q2 correctly in the Fall of 2013, while 85% of students answered it correctly in the Spring of 2014. Some instructors offer credit for the common assessment while others do not. This could cause for some variation in the scores. The common assessment exam can be found below the results charts.

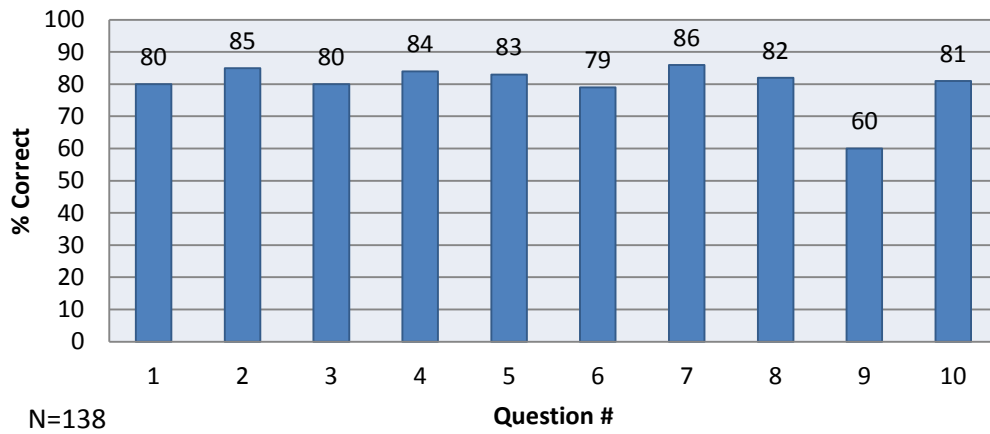
Strengths & Weaknesses: Based in the data, most students perform at a satisfactory level on questions pertaining to race, class, gender, stratification, socialization and basic research methodologies. The most common problem is an apparent lack of comprehension of the applied questions that require students to differentiate the major macro and micro theoretical perspectives in sociology: symbolic interactionism, conflict, and functionalism.

Follow-up : Data was collected during the Fall 2014 semester and will be analyzed during the Spring 2015 semester. If there a continuing trend of deficiencies in students demonstrating a basic understanding of major theoretical areas in the discipline, the measurement tool may be adjusted to address the comparatively low outcomes. Pedagogical improvements will be discussed between members of the sociology team in an effort to improve outcomes.

Budget Justification

Current resources are adequate

Common Assessment Exam Results (Spring 2014)



Common Assessment Exam Results (Fall 2013)

