

### Student Learning Outcomes: Sociology Major\*

**I. Learning Goal: Know and understand the central concepts and guiding theories of sociology**

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME	MEASUREMENT
Define theory and describe its role in building sociological knowledge	SOCI 0101: Essay question or short written assignment Upper-level courses: Essay questions or short written assignments
Compare and contrast the basic elements of structural functional theory, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism	SOCI 0101: Essay question; short-answer questions; objective questions SOCI 0330: Essay questions; written answers to questions about classic texts Upper-level courses: Essay questions or written assignments asking for the application of these perspectives to the substantive areas under discussion
Describe the historical and cultural contexts in which specific theories were developed	SOCI 0330: Essay questions; written answers to questions about classic texts
Apply basic theories or theoretical approaches to at least one area of social reality (e.g., deviance, social stratification, socialization)	SOCI 0101: Essay questions or short written assignments or objective questions Upper-level courses: Essay questions or written assignments
Define and appropriately apply basic sociological concepts, including but not limited to the following: culture, social change, socialization, stratification, social structure, social institutions, race/ethnicity, gender, deviance, ascription, achievement, status group, socioeconomic status, power, social distance, segregation, pluralism, cultural relativism, assimilation, ethnocentrism, the Thomas theorem, social construction of reality, quantitative and qualitative research methods, statistical significance.	SOCI 0101: Standard examinations including both objective and essay questions; short written assignments in which students define some central concepts and apply them to a current issue or example Upper-level courses: Essay questions; papers requiring the application of some of these concepts

**II. Learning Goal: Possess the skills of critical thinkers and analytical observers of human behavior**

<b>PERFORMANCE OUTCOME</b>	<b>MEASUREMENT</b>
Demonstrate skills in recall, analysis, application, synthesis and evaluation	SOCI 101 and upper-level courses: Standard examinations with essay and objective questions; short response papers; research papers; responses to questions based on readings SOCI 0104: Design and carry out small research projects
Identify underlying assumptions in theoretical orientations or arguments	Upper-level courses: written assignments of varying lengths
Identify underlying assumptions in particular methodological approaches	SOCI 0101: Examinations and short written assignments SOCI 0104: Examinations and short written assignments; design and development of small research projects Upper-level courses: written assignments of varying lengths
Show how patterns of thought and knowledge are influenced by social conditions/social location. For example, discuss how liberation movements of the 1960s led to changes in sociological theory	Upper-level courses: Examinations and written assignments of varying length
Present opposing viewpoints and alternative hypotheses	Upper-level courses: Written critiques and evaluations of the findings of empirical research; papers; essay questions; debates

**III. Learning Goal: Have an understanding of how the self is shaped by, and shapes, social forces and social structure**

<b>PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES</b>	<b>MEASUREMENT</b>
Explain how a particular social change, such as the American civil rights movement or the women's movement, has affected individuals and social structures	Upper-level courses: Examinations and written assignments of varying length
Explain how sociology views the development of the self	SOCI 0101: Examination questions; short written assignments SOCI 0330: Essay questions; written responses to questions about classic texts

Explain how culture is internalized	SOCI 0101: Examination questions; short written assignments SOCI 0200: Examination questions; short written assignments
Explain how social interaction affects both the development of the self and the reproduction of social structure	SOCI 0101: Examination questions; short written assignments SOCI 0330: Essay questions; written responses to questions about classic texts Upper-level courses: Examination questions; written assignments

**IV. Learning Goal: Possess the skills necessary to design and carry out basic research projects, analyze data, and present conclusions in a clear and persuasive manner.**

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME	MEASUREMENT
Explain the basic elements and logic of survey research, ethnographic research, experimental design, and content analysis	SOCI 0101: Examination questions SOCI 0204: Examination questions
Describe issues of validity reliability associated with different research designs	SOCI 0101: Examination questions SOCI 0204: Examination questions
Design and carry out small research projects collecting and analyzing both qualitative and quantitative data	SOCI 0204: Written assignments; research projects; computer work Upper-level courses: Optional projects
Demonstrate research report writing skills	SOCI 0204: Written assignments; research projects Upper-level courses: Optional projects
Demonstrate literature review skills	SOCI 0204: Written assignments; research projects Upper-level courses: Term projects
Use SPSS to describe and analyze quantitative data	SOCI 0204: Homework assignments; computer work; research projects Upper-level courses: Optional projects

**V. Learning Goal: Understand the diversity of world cultures**

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME	MEASUREMENT
Explain the difference between race and ethnicity and explain why race is significant socially while it is meaningless biologically	SOCIO 0101: Examination questions; short written assignments Upper-level courses: Examination questions; written assignments of varying length; term papers or projects
Describe the internal diversity of the U.S. by race/ethnicity, class, gender, age, religion, and sexual orientation and explain how opportunities are influenced by these variables	SOCIO 0101: Examination questions; short written assignments Upper-level courses: Examination questions; written assignments of varying length; term papers or projects
Explain the concept of globalization and identify the factors contributing to its development; describe its impact on the U.S.	Upper-level courses: Examination questions; written assignments of varying length; term papers or projects
Define the concepts of prejudice, discrimination, and stereotype and show how they pertain to the U.S. experience	SOCIO 0101: Examination questions; short written assignments Upper-level courses: Examination questions; written assignments of varying length; term papers or projects

\*Adapted from: ASA Task Force on Assessing the Undergraduate Sociology Major, *Creating an Effective Assessment Plan for the Sociology Major*, American Sociological Association, January 2005.