

**Major/Program: Sociology**

**Annual ASSESSMENT of the Major/Program**

**Fall 2020-Spring 2021**

**What are the student learning outcomes in the major/program? When were they last revised?**

**Sociology Program Goals and Learning Objectives: (Revised AY 2018/19)**

To support the development of our students and our mission we have established the following learning goals and outcomes for our Indiana University Northwest Sociology Program:

Sociology Program Goals: Students completing a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology will:

1. Develop a depth of content knowledge,
2. Practice sociological interpretation,
3. Appreciate and understand diversity in culture and belief,
4. Think critically,
5. Employ research and analysis methods, and
6. Communicate concepts and ideas with precision and clarity.

Sociology Program Learning Objectives:

**Learning Objective #1** Critical sociological thinking, argument, analysis, & awareness

Outcomes --Students will be able to:

- 1a. Identify the presence of the sociological imagination in source material;
- 1b. Explain the importance of considering the relationship between biography & history;
- 1c. Analyze issues from multiple points of view;
- 1d. Critically assess the historical & social structural contexts of an argument.
- 1e. Describe the discipline of sociology, the sociological perspective, and the contribution of sociology to our understanding of social reality.

**Learning Objective #2** Ability to use qualitative & quantitative research methods to examine social life.

Students will be able to:

- 2a. Identify basic methodological approaches & describe the general role of methods in building sociological knowledge;
- 2b. Design a research study & explain rationale for various choices;
- 2c. Respect ethical codes that govern the conduct of sociologists;
- 2d. Identify bias & logical fallacies;
- 2e. Evaluate the evidence given for an argument.

**Learning Outcome #3** An ability to critically differentiate & apply dominant theoretical frames of analysis to substantive structural, cultural, & interactional issues.

Students will be able to:

- 3a. Summarize major theoretical arguments and key concepts of: functionalist theory, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, & social constructionism;
- 3b. Compare and contrast theories at the micro, macro, and meso level with those at another level;
- 3c. Evaluate the utility of theoretical perspectives;
- 3d. Correctly apply & relate theoretical perspectives to substantive structural, cultural, & interactional issues.

**Learning Objective #4** Understand the structure and functions of social inequalities & hierarchies of difference & power.

Students will be able to:

- 4a. Demonstrate how social inequities are maintained within various levels of society.;
- 4b. Analyze processes & institutions connected with social inequalities, including, but not limited to, race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, and age;
- 4c. Analyze the role of social networks & key processes of Globalization, Inequality, & Diversity in shaping contemporary societies;
- 4d. Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical implications & consequences of social inequalities;
- 4.e Develop & propose personal, interactional & structural solutions to create a more equitable social world.

**Learning Objective #5** Understand how agency, culture, and social structure operate in society.

Students will be able to:

- 5a. Explain how societal and structural factors influence individual behavior and the development of the self.
- 5b. Demonstrate how self and social interaction influence society and social structure;
- 5c. Evaluate the interlinking effects of institutions, culture, individuals, and groups;
- 5d. Demonstrate how culture and social structure vary across time and place;
- 5e. Develop specific policy implications of research and theories in a substantive area.

**Which outcome(s) did you assess this academic year?**

**Learning Objective #2** Ability to use qualitative & quantitative research methods to examine social life.

**How did you assess the learning outcomes this academic year?**

Qualitative and Quantitative research techniques are introduced in SOC-S161 Principles of Sociology. These techniques are then reinforced in SOC-S261 Research Methods. Additionally, students in S261 learn how to code, clean, and analyze quantitative and qualitative data to draw conclusions about social phenomena. Ideally, students enroll in SOC-S262 Statistics for Sociology the following semester. In this class quantitative research techniques are again reinforced and inferential statistical methods for data analysis are introduced. In spring semester 2020 we began offering an additional class as an elective in the research methods sequence in the spring of even years. SOC-S450 Topics in Methods and Measurement functions like SOC-S262 by reinforcing qualitative research techniques and introducing more advanced methods for analyzing qualitative data such as grounded theory and institutional ethnography. We assessed outcomes in SOC-S450 by embedding prompts indicating breadth of learning in the final research paper assignment. This course is cross-listed with ANTH-E404 Field Methods in Ethnography.

Please **summarize the data** you have collected this academic year.

Students were asked to devote a section of their final research report to explaining how their data collection, results, and conclusions might have been different had they used a different qualitative research strategy from the one they chose for their projects. Discussions varied in length from a paragraph to two and a half pages. The quality of all discussions earned at least the letter grade C with 3 of 8 (37.5%) earning an A.

Please **describe any programmatic changes you have made or are planning to make based on the data you have collected (action steps)**.

We plan to broaden the introduction of qualitative research techniques in SOC-S261. Given that students are provided advanced experience with statistical analysis in the second course of the methods sequence (S262), we feel it is appropriate to devote an additional week to qualitative analysis in S261.

Please report on the progress of your **action steps** reported in 2019-2020. See <http://www.iun.edu/campus-assessment/assessment-results/index.htm> for your previous unit reports.

Key concepts first introduced in SOC-S161 Principles of Sociology are now intentionally reinforced and assessed in our most frequently offered courses in the elective sequence.

**\*\*Note:** Please use this template to provide the responses to the prompts above.\*\*