

# **Sociology**

**Unit Themes**

**Essential Questions**

**Enduring Understandings**

**Wisconsin State Social Studies Standards**

**Curriculum Revision**

**2011 - 2012**

## Unit 1: Sociology as a science:

### Essential Questions:

- 1) What is sociology?
  - a. How is it defined?
  - b. What is its history?
  - c. How is it applied to real life?
- 2) What are the major theoretical perspectives held in Modern Sociology?
- 3) How is sociological research conducted?
- 4) What do Sociologists study?
  - a. What is culture and how does it apply to real life?
  - b. What are values and how do they apply to America?
  - c. How do societies interact and how do individuals interact within societies?
  - d. How do societies break themselves up into manageable pieces?
  - e. How do those pieces interact?

### Enduring Understandings:

- 1) Sociology is the study of groups: How they are made, how they interact and how they affect individuals.
- 2) The five fathers of sociology provided the structure and philosophy of current sociologists.
- 3) The three theoretical perspectives are functionalism, conflict, and symbolic interactionism.
- 4) Sociology utilizes the same scientific method as all other sciences.
- 5) Culture is the way a group of people lives including artifacts, technology, norms, values, language and symbols.
- 6) American values have been fairly stable over history with a few exceptions.
- 7) There are a variety of different types of cultures in the world.
- 8) Individuals are ascribed and achieve statuses, play roles and become members of groups.
- 9) Group interactions have common themes and common results.

### Wisconsin State Social Studies Standards addressed:

E.12.3 Compare and describe similarities and differences in the ways various cultures define individual rights and responsibilities, including the use of rules, folkways, mores, and taboos

E.12.5 Describe the ways cultural and social groups are defined and how they have changed over time

E.12.10 Describe a particular culture as an integrated whole and use that understanding to explain its language, literature, arts, traditions, beliefs, values, and behaviors

E.12.14 Use the research procedures and skills of the behavioral sciences (such as gathering, organizing, and interpreting data from several sources) to develop an informed position on an issue

D.12.7 Compare, contrast, and evaluate different types of economies (traditional, command, market, and mixed) and analyze how they have been affected in the past by specific social and political systems and important historical events

A.12.13 Give examples and analyze conflict and cooperation in the establishment of cultural regions and political boundaries

## Unit 2: Sociology studies the individual

### Essential Questions:

- 1) What is society's role in making you, you?
  - a. What does social isolation tell us about personality development?
  - b. What different theories of self exist?
  - c. How do we classify agents of socialization?
- 2) How does society control you?
- 3) What happens when one doesn't go along with what society wants?

### Enduring Understandings:

- 1) Nature and nurture both play a role in making your personality.
- 2) Social Isolation provides solid evidence of the effects of Nurture on personality.
- 3) There are four theories about the development of one's self which all build upon one another.
- 4) Different groups in society have specific effects on the development of one's self.
- 5) Society controls individuals through the socialization process including internalization and sanctioning.
- 6) Deviance is a violation of social expectations and ranges in severity and amounts of control society places on that behavior.
- 7) There are 5 theories attempting to explain why deviance occurs which have different root sources.

### Wisconsin State Social Studies Standards Addressed:

E.12.2 Explain how such factors as physical endowment and capabilities, family, gender, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, attitudes, beliefs, work, and motivation contribute to individual identity and development

E.12.6 Analyze the means by which and extent to which groups and institutions can influence people, events, and cultures in both historical and contemporary settings

E.12.15 Identify the skills needed to work effectively alone, in groups, and in institutions

E.12.16 Identify and analyze factors that influence a person's mental health

D.12.4 Explain and evaluate the effects of new technology, global economic interdependence, and competition on the development of national policies and on the lives of individuals and families in the United States and the world

C.12.2 Describe how different political systems define and protect individual human rights

C.12.14 Explain and analyze how different political and social movements have sought to mobilize public opinion and obtain governmental support in order to achieve their goals

C.12.11 Evaluate the ways in which public opinion can be used to influence and shape public policy

B.12.2 Analyze primary and secondary sources related to a historical question to evaluate their relevance, make comparisons, integrate new information with prior knowledge, and come to a reasoned conclusion

A.12.9 Identify and analyze cultural factors, such as human needs, values, ideals, and public policies, that influence the design of places, such as an urban center, an industrial park, a public project, or a planned neighborhood

## Unit 3: Social Inequality and other social issues

### **Essential Questions:**

- 1) What is social inequality and what are its root causes?
- 2) What are the realities of social inequality in America?
- 3) What roles do race, ethnicity, gender, age and health play in the social inequality present in America?

### **Enduring Understandings:**

- 1) Social inequality is the unequal sharing and/or access to the resources needed satisfy an individual's wants and needs
- 2) There are three dimensions on which individuals can be unequal: Wealth, Power, and Prestige.
- 3) America has a very well defined class system with fairly rigid criteria for entrance and exit.
- 4) Poverty has causes and symptoms that are cyclical.

### **Wisconsin State Social Studies Standards Addressed:**

E.12.8 Analyze issues of cultural assimilation and cultural preservation among ethnic and racial groups in Wisconsin, the United States, and the world

E.12.12 Explain current and past efforts of groups and institutions to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against racial, ethnic, religious, and social groups such as women, children, the elderly, and individuals who are disabled

C.12.16 Describe the evolution of movements to assert rights by people with disabilities, ethnic and racial groups, minorities, and women

C.12.15 Describe and analyze the origins and consequences of slavery, genocide, and other forms of persecution, including the Holocaust

B.12.18 Explain the history of slavery, racial and ethnic discrimination, and efforts to eliminate discrimination in the United States and elsewhere in the world

E.12.11 Illustrate and evaluate ways in which cultures resolve conflicting beliefs and practices

## **Project:**

- 1) Using the current social institutions of the family, the economy, politics, education, religion, sports, and mass media:
  - a. Determine a social issue that is interesting to you.
  - b. Devise a research question you would like to answer for yourself and the class.
  - c. Research what others have said about your question and organize that research into a speech on your topic.
  - d. This speech will be presented with visuals to the class.

## **Enduring Understandings:**

- 1) There are a variety of social institutions that each have a variety of issues.
- 2) Various people have differing opinions on the solutions to those issues.
- 3) Being able to synthesize others thoughts into a coherent argument is an essential skill.
- 4) Being able to convey a coherent argument where others can comprehend and react is an essential skill.

## **Wisconsin State Social Studies Standards Addressed:**

E.12.17 Examine and describe various belief systems that exist in the world, such as democracy, socialism, and capitalism

E.12.4 Analyze the role of economic, political, educational, familial, and religious institutions as agents of both continuity and change, citing current and past examples

E.12.7 Use scientific methods to assess the influence of media on people's behavior and decisions

E.12.9 Defend a point of view related to an ethical issue such as genetic engineering, declaring conscientious objector status, or restricting immigration

E.12.14 Use the research procedures and skills of the behavioral sciences (such as gathering, organizing, and interpreting data from several sources) to develop an informed position on an issue

D.12.14 Analyze the economic roles of institutions, such as corporations and businesses, banks, labor unions, and the Federal Reserve System

D.12.4 Explain and evaluate the effects of new technology, global economic interdependence, and competition on the development of national policies and on the lives of individuals and families in the United States and the world

B.12.10 Select instances of scientific, intellectual, and religious change in various regions of the world at different times in history and discuss the impact those changes had on beliefs and values