

Common Course Outline
SOCL 125
American Society
3 Semester Hours

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

SOCL 125 – 3 Credits – American Society addresses the special perspectives and problems most relevant to the rapidly changing nature of American society; explores social inequality: the causes and consequences of social stratification; sociology of law: power and morality; and the changing nature of American values: youth culture; drug cultures, and contemporary lifestyles.

Prerequisite: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053

Overall Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. explain the special nature of the study of American society relative to general sociology;
2. identify the major problems and issues of contemporary American society;
3. explain the major theoretical orientations used in studying American society;
4. describe the application of major theoretical orientations in analyzing the problems and issues of American society;
5. describe the methods used in sociological research;
6. discuss how to utilize these methods in data gathering and analysis about American society;
7. analyze how power is utilized through the law in effecting the nature of basic institutions in American society;
8. describe the causes and effects of changing social values in American society;
9. discuss how change is an integral part of the American experience, and
10. discuss subcultures within American society including youth cultures, drug cultures, and contemporary lifestyles' cultures.

Major Topics

- I. Major problems and issues in America

- II. Major theoretical orientations
- III. Methods of sociological research used in studying American society
- IV. Change as a fundamental process in America
- V. Basic American institutions
- VI. Social stratification and inequality
- VII. Power and the law
- VIII. Changing American values

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty members but will include the following:

At least 3 examinations

Writing: The individual faculty member will determine specific writing assignments.