STUDYWALKS · COURSE SYLLABUS

Sociology — High School Course with CLEP Preparation

Sociology explains how groups, institutions and social structure shape people's lives.

CREDIT LABEL	HOURS GOAL	STUDYWALKS LEARNING HOURS	SUGGESTED OFFLINE HOURS
0.5 credit	**60 h**	**20.5 h**	**39.5 h**
high school, with the study plan	the 0.5-credit convention	measured runtime plus assessment time	reading, review and writing

20.5 h StudyWalks (3.9 h of lessons, 11.4 h of lectures, 5.1 h of quizzes and exams) + **39.5 h** suggested offline study = **60 h**. 537 lessons in 11 units; prepares for the CLEP Introductory Sociology exam.

High school credit is granted by the homeschool parent under the state's rules. StudyWalks supplies the record: hours, scores and this syllabus. The credit label is a suggestion; the parent makes the final call.

Course contents

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
1	**The Sociological Perspective and Its Theories** What the subject is · Scale, and the imagination · Two more instruments · The founders · Marx · Durkheim · Weber, and the methods split · Two Americans · Paradigms, and the first perspective · Three more frameworks · The error, and the procedure · Why, and the capstone	36	34 min
2	**Sociological Research** Why, and how · Setting up a study · Measuring · Two kinds of data · Who gets studied · Asking · Being there · Testing, and using what exists · Correlation, and the error · Five ways to read a number · Ethics	36	33 min
3	**Culture** Two halves of culture · Universals, and three stances · Values and beliefs · Norms, in four strengths · Sanctions · Symbols and language · Who has which culture · How culture changes · Culture across borders · Three lenses	33	28 min
4	**Society, Social Interaction, and Socialization** Societies, by subsistence · Durkheim's two solidarities · What industrial society did · Reality, constructed · Status · Role, and two tensions · Performance · What socialization is · How a self forms · Two rival accounts · What it accomplishes, and who does it · The adult agents · Across a lifetime · Unlearning · The unit on one case	59	54 min (2 parts)
5	**Groups, Organizations, Deviance, and Social Control** What a group is · Sorting groups · Pressure · Leading, and the cost of cohesion · Formal organizations · Bureaucracy, and what follows · What deviance is · Enforcement · Function, and strain · Definition, and label · Two more accounts · Crime · Counting it, and answering it · Where it lands, and how rules move · Support, stigma, and reclassification · The unit on one case	51	56 min (2 parts)

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
6	**Social Stratification and Global Inequality** What stratification is · Two systems, and an ideal · Mobility · Class · The layers · Defining poverty · Who bears it, and why it persists · The functionalist thesis, and its objections · Two more accounts · Inequality between nations · Two theories of global inequality · One system, three positions · What holds position in place · The unit on one case	43	54 min (2 parts)
7	**Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Sex, and Aging** Two classifications · The perspectives, and two more · Attitude, and action · Advantage, and working against it · Separation, and two poles · A stereotype, and a boundary · One case, three lenses · Three separate categories · The default, and the system · Measuring a gap · Organizing, and four accounts · Ideology, and aversion · A debate, and the uncounted work · The field, and its units of study · The prejudice, and the error under it · How societies arrange age · Who bears the cost · The end of life · Three functionalist accounts · Conflict, then interaction · One policy, then one life	65	1 h 26 min (3 parts)
8	**Institutions I: Family, Religion, and Education** The vocabulary · What varies across societies · Two household structures · Three perspectives on family · Arrangements the definition has to hold · A rate, and the claim built on it · Harm inside the household · The family block on one case · Religion, and the line a society draws · Three founders, three answers · Three lenses, and a fourth model · Organizations, ranked by influence · Classified by what is held divine · Two contemporary forms · Secularization, and what it does not mean · A live division, and the unit's procedure · What education names, and who gets in · Functionalism on schooling · Conflict theory: what schools reward, and how they sort · Two more perspectives on the same classroom · What a credential signals · The gap, and the law · Four questions the course reports and does not settle · The unit on one case	62	1 h 37 min (3 parts)
9	**Institutions II: Government, Work, and Health** Power, and the part of it people accept · Weber's three sources, and one administrative form · Rule by one, rule by a few · Complete control, and the form built against it · No government, and the vote a government counts · Three lenses, and the case they are asked of · What an economy is · Two systems, and what economies actually are · One dispute, three lenses · Across borders, and the number that compares · Who advances inside a labor market · What reshapes the supply of jobs · Poverty that survives employment · The economy on one case · Medical sociology, and illness as a social object · How health is distributed, and why the gaps reopen · What counts as illness, and who decides · The role, and the price of using it · Two distinctions the course locks · Paying for care, and comparing systems · Three lenses on health · One worker, three institutions	70	1 h 39 min (3 parts)
10	**Media, Population, Environment, and Social Change** Access, and what unequal access leaves behind · New media, and the pace it sets · Across borders, and who decides what reaches you · Three lenses on one institution · Demography's components, and the snapshot · Four theories, and two things left open · How a city forms, and how it spreads · Who moves, who directs growth, who absorbs the cost · The environment as a sociological subject · Climate, the dispute over it, and what pollution is · Where the burden lands, and the third lens arriving · Crowds, and three accounts of what they do · What makes a movement a movement · Why movements succeed · Social change, and what drives it · The unit on one coastline	72	1 h 25 min (3 parts)
11	**Capstones (synthesis only, no new doctrine)** A factory closes · A school sorts its students · An immigrant family settles in · A neighborhood organizes against a hazard · A region's health gap · A contested election · A supply chain across three nations · One person, three pressures · A case through a system · The course, closed	10	1 h (2 parts)

Assessment and grading

- **Unit quizzes.** 11 quizzes, 10 questions each, checked as the student goes, each answer with the lesson to review. Untimed; retakes are unlimited.
- **Mid exam.** 50 questions on units 1–6, drawn fresh each time and scored at the end with a breakdown by content area. Untimed; retakes are unlimited.
- **Final exam.** 100 questions, 90 minutes, on the whole course. Scored 20–80; 50 passes (67 of 100 correct, about 67%). Retakes are unlimited with a 24-hour wait, each a fresh draw.

Suggested composite grade

Part	Weight
Unit quizzes (average of best scores)	20%
Mid exam (best score)	20%
Final exam (percent correct)	60%

Suggested letter scale

Letter	Composite
A	90–100
B	80–89
C	70–79
D	60–69
F	below 60

Suggested; the parent sets the grade. A passing final is the completion standard for the course record.

Study plan

The 39.5 offline hours are spread over the units in proportion to each unit's StudyWalks time. For each unit: read the matching sections of *Introduction to Sociology 3e (OpenStax); Sociology: Understanding and Changing the Social World*, review the unit quiz misses, and write a one-page unit summary. Log the time as you go.

Unit	Title	StudyWalks	Offline, suggested	Unit total
1	The Sociological Perspective and Its Theories	49 min	2 h 5 min	2 h 54 min
2	Sociological Research	49 min	2 h 5 min	2 h 54 min
3	Culture	43 min	1 h 50 min	2 h 33 min
4	Society, Social Interaction, and Socialization	1 h 20 min	3 h 25 min	4 h 45 min
5	Groups, Organizations, Deviance, and Social Control	1 h 19 min	3 h 25 min	4 h 44 min
6	Social Stratification and Global Inequality	1 h 13 min	3 h 5 min	4 h 18 min
7	Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Sex, and Aging	1 h 55 min	4 h 55 min	6 h 50 min
8	Institutions I: Family, Religion, and Education	2 h 4 min	5 h 20 min	7 h 24 min
9	Institutions II: Government, Work, and Health	2 h 10 min	5 h 35 min	7 h 45 min
Lessons and lectures		**15 h 23 min**	**39 h 30 min**	**54 h 53 min**
Quizzes, mid exam and final (stated time)		**5 h 6 min**	**—**	**5 h 6 min**

Unit	Title	StudyWalks	Offline, suggested	Unit total
10	Media, Population, Environment, and Social Change	1 h 56 min	5 h	6 h 56 min
11	Capstones (synthesis only, no new doctrine)	1 h 5 min	2 h 45 min	3 h 50 min
Lessons and lectures		**15 h 23 min**	**39 h 30 min**	**54 h 53 min**
Quizzes, mid exam and final (stated time)		**5 h 6 min**	**—**	**5 h 6 min**

Unit times are the unit's lecture runtime plus its lessons at the course's measured average lesson length; totals can differ from the learning hours by rounding.

Sources

- **Anchor:** OpenStax, *Introduction to Sociology 3e* (senior contributing authors Tonja R. Conerly, Kathleen Holmes, Asha Lal Tamang). Pinned to the live web edition revised July 20, 2026. Twenty-one chapters, all mapped. CC BY-NC-SA 4.0
- **Secondary witness:** Steven E. Barkan, *Sociology: Understanding and Changing the Social World* (Saylor Academy 2016 / LibreTexts / Open Textbook Library). Independently authored, of non-OpenStax lineage. CC BY-NC-SA

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