

7-12-2022

SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology OER Curation

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SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology OER Curation

Overview

Scope Notes

Catalog description: “Introduction to the fundamental questions, concepts, theories, and general principles of sociological thought. Inquiries into culture, socialization, norms, power relations, social institutions, and group interaction. Illustrates how human action transforms society, and how social and cultural forces constrain human action.”

This class necessitates a well-rounded text that takes a variety of diverse perspectives into account within its discussions. Open textbook reviews from faculty at other institutions indicate currency of materials is critical, as the sociological landscape is constantly shifting and current events need to be covered. Materials should, therefore: be current (preferably published within the past year to two years, if possible); well-written; consider a variety of perspectives and experiences; diminish bias wherever possible (and account for/openly state it when it cannot be eliminated); and foster serious discussions. Many of the topics covered in SOC 101 are sensitive and can be difficult to discuss, and so materials must strike a balance between being open and informative while also taking into account the associated trauma students face in their individual lives.

Current textbooks and materials

Sociology Matters Loose-Leaf (GVSU), 7th edition. Schaeffer, R. T. 2018. McGraw Hill. \$78.00

Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life, Brief, 6th edition. Newman, D. M. 2018. SAGE Publications. \$48.00-60.00

Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life, 13th edition. Newman, D. M. 2020. SAGE Publications. \$68.00-85.00

Human Societies: An Introduction to Macrosociology, 12th edition. Nolan, P. & Lenski, G. 2014. Oxford University Press. \$108.00-135.00

Studying Human Sociologies: A Primer and Guide, 12th edition. Nolan, P. 2014. Oxford University Press. \$52.00-65.00



Search Notes

There is a bevy of supplementary reading and lecture materials available. Many readings are readily accessible for specific disciplines within sociology (i.e. the study of culture, family, or criminality) with minimal searching required.

Gap Analysis

Within the ancillary materials currently available, there is a dearth of assessments and activities. While there are plenty of lectures and readings to be found, it is more difficult to find materials that aim to engage students in nontraditional ways.

Promising OER Options

Introduction to Sociology 3e

- Conerly, T. R., Holmes, K., & Tamang, A. L. (2021). *Introduction to Sociology 3e*. OpenStax.
- Available from [OpenStax](#)
- Online/in-browser eReader, PDF, print
- CC BY
- Comments: A basic textbook of introductory sociology intended to replace mainstream textbooks for introductory sociology courses. The 3rd edition has excellent reviews, with some minor critiques regarding the section on religion and a need for increased diverse representation in both the graphics and the text. It offers substantial accompanying instructor materials, though some of these resources are geared towards the 2nd edition of the text. Some features common to OpenStax textbooks are not yet available for this edition (such as iBook or Kindle versions of the textbook and the ability to customize each chapter's content via Google Docs), but will likely become available with time.

Introduction to Sociology - 2nd Canadian Edition

- Little, W. (2016). *Introduction to Sociology - 2nd Canadian Edition*. BCcampus.
- Available from [Pressbooks](#)
- EPUB, Digital PDF, Print PDF, XHTML, Pressbooks XML, Common Cartridge
- CC BY
- Comments: This textbook is, as one might expect, centered around a Canadian perspective. It is built off of OpenStax's *Introduction to Sociology 2e*, rather than the more recent 3rd edition, so it does not benefit from the 3rd edition's revisions and/or changes. There are many adaptations of this textbook on Pressbooks, and Pressbooks offers lots of customizability for instructors.

Stretch Resource Options

Speaking of Culture

- Citation: Weil, N. (2017). *Speaking of Culture*. UEN Digital Press with Pressbooks.
- Available from [Pressbooks](#)
- EPUB, Digital PDF, Print PDF
- CC BY-NC
- Comments: Collection of background readings not intended to be its own course textbook/coursebook, but rather to supplement discussions on culture and adjacent concepts.

Sociology: Understanding and Changing the Social World

- *Sociology: Understanding and Changing the Social World* (2010). University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing.
- Available from [Pressbooks](#)
- EPUB3, EPUB, Digital PDF, Print PDF, MOBI, Pressbooks XML, WordPress XML, OpenDocument
- CC BY-NC-SA
- Comments: Reviewers agree that the textbook itself is good, but it hasn't been substantially updated since its original publication in 2010, which is a serious problem considering the importance of issues like race and gender within sociology. Reviewers say the examples, graphs, charts, and data are obviously outdated. The removal of the author's credentials has been cited as an issue, as instructors are unable to assess the author's reliability and cannot go to them with questions. Another issue cited is the lack of a glossary or index. Reviewers did concur, however, that the text is well-written and concise, it just needs serious supplementing or updating to be suitable for current use.

SSOAR

- *Social Science Open Access Repository* (n.d.). GESIS-Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences.
- Available from [SSOAR website](#)
- Full-text database
- CC BY-NC-SA
- Comments: This is a source of quality open access supplementary readings. Created and maintained by the GESIS-Leibniz Institute for Social Sciences, the repository contains: journal articles and contributions to edited volumes; contributing working paper series (gray literature); monographs and edited volumes; and theses and dissertations. One issue is that the repository is not English language only, and there is no ability to filter by language, so searching can be somewhat difficult unless you are looking for something specific and already have keywords ready. Even when using English keywords (e.g., sexuality), non-English results may sometimes come up.

Everyday Social Justice

- Chavarria, J. A. (n.d.). *Everyday Social Justice: Using simple words to talk about equity and oppression*. <https://www.everydaysocialjustice.com/home>
- Available from [Everyday Social Justice website](#)
- Video, Microsoft Word document, PDF
- CC BY-NC 3.0
- Comments: Good potential source of videos, supplementary readings, activities, and lessons about social justice topics, including Women and Gender Studies and LGBTQ+ Studies.

Resources for Lecturers by Alison Phipps

- Phipps, A. (n.d.). *Resources for lecturers*. Alison Phipps. <https://phipps.space/lecturers/>
- Available from [Alison Phipps website](#)
- Presentation, Prezi, PDF, Microsoft Word Document, image (PNG),
- CC BY
- Comments: Excellent teaching resources for topics surrounding women, feminism, and gender by Alison Phipps of Newcastle University. Includes lectures, presentations, readings, and other teaching tools (i.e., guidelines to create a space where difficult discussions can happen safely).

Essential (non medical) Workers and COVID-19

- Stahl, J. (2020). *Essential (non-medical) Workers and COVID-19*. OER Commons. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cILzapHV1LXyoHy3AP8eBjyDjM5IIDJ1>
- Available from [OER Commons](#)
- Google Drive folder
- CC BY-NC-ND
- Comments: Good open access source of data and information from early in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community Tool Box

- The University of Kansas (2022). *Community Tool Box*. Community Tool Box. <https://ctb.ku.edu/en>
- Available from [Community Tool Box website](#)
- Website
- CC BY-NC-SA
- Comments: Website of resources for “community health and development.” Created and maintained by the University of Kansas.

Introducing Vigilant Audiences

- Trottier, D., Gabdulhakov, R., & Huang, Q. (2020). *Introducing Vigilant Audiences*. OpenBook Publishers.
- Available from [OpenBook Publishers](#)
- eReader/HTML, PDF, XML, EPUB, MOBI, print
- CC BY
- Comments: Collection of essays about digital vigilantism. Also includes links to a video and a blog post.

Global Warming in Local Discourses: How Communities around the World Make Sense of Climate Change

- Bruggemann, M., & Rodder, S. (2020). *Global Warming in Local Discourses: How Communities around the World Make Sense of Climate Change*. OpenBook Publishers.
- Available from [OpenBook Publishers](#)
- eReader/HTML, PDF, XML, EPUB, MOBI, print
- CC BY
- Comments: Collection of case studies from local communities about the international effects of climate change.

Humans R Social Media - Open Textbook Edition

- iVoices Media Lab & Daly, D. (2021). *Humans R Social Media - Open Textbook Edition*. Pressbooks.
- Available from [Pressbooks](#)
- EPUB3, EPUB, PDF (digital and print), HTMLBook, XHTML, Pressbooks XML, WordPress XML, OpenDocument, Common Cartridge
- CC BY
- Comments: Book about social media with potential usefulness for ancillary readings.