

**URBANDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK OUTLINE**

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**SUBJECT:** Social Studies  
**COURSE TITLE:** Sociology  
**PREREQUISITES:** 10-12

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Students explore the concepts and theories necessary to systematic understanding of our social worlds. Topics include considering sociology as science, the nature of large- and small-scale groups, social stratification, historical eras and social change, and race, ethnic and gender relations.

**UCSD CONTENT STANDARDS:**

In order that students achieve the maximum benefit from their talents and abilities, the students of Urbandale Community School District's Sociology program should be able to...

**Content Standard I. Make connections among personal behaviors, group behaviors, and social issues to inform opinions and decisions.**

Benchmarks: Identify/recognize the historical development of the behavioral sciences and the changing nature of society.  
Tell the influences on individual and group behavior and group decision-making.  
Evaluate current social issues to determine how the individual is able to formulate opinions and responds to those issues.

**Content Standard II. Analyze relationships between economic systems and their interdependence in the modern world.**

Benchmarks: *Not addressed in this course.*

**Content Standard III. Analyze the interrelationship of people, places and environments to understand societies.**

Benchmarks: *Not addressed in this course.*

**Content Standard IV. Investigate historical interactions to determine the development and evolution of societies.**

Benchmarks: Compare the role of individuals and groups within a society as promoters of change or the status quo.  
Examine the role of culture and cultural diffusion on the development and maintenance of societies.  
Recognize how and why people create, maintain, or change systems of power, authority, and governance.  
Analyze the role of innovation on the development and interaction of societies.



**Content Standard V. Apply knowledge of democratic principles and various political systems through life long civic action.**

Benchmarks: *Not addressed in this course.*

**Content Standard VI. Evaluate and synthesize information to communicate an understanding of knowledge relative to social science content.**

Benchmarks: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.

Determine the central ideas or information of a primary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationship among the key ideas.

Write informative/ explanatory texts, focused on discipline-specific content.

Conduct research projects and gather relevant information from multiple sources.



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**CONTENT STANDARDS AND COURSE BENCHMARKS WITH INDICATORS FOR SOCIOLOGY:**

**Standard I: Make connections among personal behaviors, group behaviors, and social issues to inform opinions and decisions.**

**Benchmark: Identify/recognize the historical development of the behavioral sciences and the changing nature of society.**

Indicators: Identify how/when the fields of sociology developed in response to social and economic changes.  
Examine the role of major social institutions of American society.  
Recognize the effects mass media, migrations and conquest have had on social change by exposing one culture to another.  
Identify the change and development in institutions further both continuity and change in societies.

**Benchmark: Tell the influences on individual and group behavior and group decision-making.**

Indicators: Identify the components of social structure and how social structure affects the individual in society.  
Examine how society practices social control through the use of norms and sanctions.  
Examine the role of deviance in society and its effects on individual and group behavior.  
Identify that a group may act, hold beliefs, and/ or present itself as a cohesive whole, and yet individual members may hold varying beliefs.  
Conclude that people might ignore evidence that challenges their beliefs and more readily accept evidence that supports them.

**Benchmark: Evaluate current social issues to determine how the individual is able to formulate opinions and responds to those issues.**

Indicators: Outline past and current cultural, religious, and social reform movements.  
Identify that conflict between people or groups may arise from competition over ideas, resources, power, and/or status.



Interpret the influence of personal values on the types of conclusions people make.  
Examine that even when the majority of people in a society agree on a social decisions, the minority who disagree must be protected from oppression.  
Analyze changes in social and political institutions reflect and affect individuals' values and behaviors.

**Standard IV. Investigate historical interactions to determine the development and evolution of societies.**

**Benchmark: Compare the role of individuals and groups within a society as promoters of change or the status quo.**

Indicators: Identify the concept of stratification.  
Examine the effects of gender, age, health, and socioeconomic on social inequality.  
Analyze changes in social and political institutions reflect and affect individuals' values and behaviors.

**Benchmark: Examine the role of culture and cultural diffusion on the development and maintenance of societies.**

Indicators: Describe the concept of culture.  
Identify that peoples' values and behavior are shaped by their culture.  
Analyze the processes of cultural transmission and cultural change.

**Benchmark: Recognize how and why people create, maintain, or change systems of power, authority, and governance.**

Indicators: Describe the ways in which groups and institutions sometimes promote social conformity.  
Identify how agents of socialization impact the individual and society.

**Benchmarks: Analyze the role of innovation on the development and interaction of societies.**

Indicators: Describe the process of socialization.  
Analyze the role of social institutions, individual and group behaviors and how they bring about social change.

**Standard VI. Evaluate and synthesize information to communicate an understanding of knowledge relative to social science content.**

**Benchmark: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.**



Indicators: Analyze the author's purpose in providing an explanation, describing a procedure, or discussing an experiment in text.  
Synthesize information from a range of sources.  
Evaluate the hypotheses, data, analysis, and conclusions of Sociology text.

**Benchmark: Determine the central ideas or information of a primary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationship among the key ideas.**

Indicators: Interpret the meanings of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific or technical context.  
Analyze how the text structures information or ideas into categories.  
Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media.

**Benchmark: Write informative/explanatory texts, focused on discipline-specific content.**

Indicators: Generate written responses to specific content.  
Summarize information about topics and apply information to specific questions.

**Benchmark: Conduct research projects and gather relevant information from multiple sources.**

Indicators: Write short and long term writing assignments that focus on reflection, revision and audience specific topics.  
Summarize information about topics and apply information to specific questions.

