



## ST ANDREW'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE (SATC)

**COURSE NAME:** INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

**COURSE CODE:** IS300

**COURSE CREDIT:** 3

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Sociology is the study of society. It explores ways of looking at the world that allow us to understand how the events and experiences of our lives are part of group dynamics, of social institutions, of cultural meanings. It allows us to see personal events and meanings as affected by historical forces, and to see how historical events may be shaped by personal choices. It focuses on identifying, explaining, and interpreting patterns and processes of human social relations.

This course is an introduction to the set of perspectives on human life that allows us to understand how our personal lives are affected by our place in society. It is designed not just to teach students some of the major findings of sociology, but to help them to master fundamental sociological skills, including both the ability to think with a "sociological imagination" and to understand the basics of computer-based data analysis--skills which have broad applicability in a range of educational and work settings.

The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with some of the basic concepts in sociology and an understanding of how sociological research is conducted.

Throughout the course an attempt will be made to interrelate what is being studied to real life situations. It is important that students learn to determine the usefulness of information gathered by social scientists.

### **AIM:**

- To increase the student's knowledge of how the social and behavioural scientists discover, describe and explain the behaviours and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, events, and ideas.
- To better equip students to have a better understanding of themselves and the roles they play in addressing the issues facing society.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Students will be able to:

- Become familiar with different sociological perspectives and be able to apply the various perspectives to societal issues.
- Have a greater understanding of institutional structures and how these impact the lives of individuals.
- Develop their capacity for critical thinking, research and analysis.
- Know and understand major theoretical approaches in sociology.
- Distinguish and critically evaluate these approaches.
- Understand the different conclusions drawn when applying different theoretical approaches to identical problems.
- Describe and differentiate methodologies in the study of sociology.



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### **COURSE CONTENT:**

#### **Section # 1 Defining Sociology**

Defining Sociology  
Sociological Perspective  
Sociological Theory  
Theoretical perspectives  
Sociological Analysis

#### **Section #2: Socialization and Deviance**

Socialization  
Gender Socialization  
Deviance and Crime

#### **Section #3: Social Class**

Social Class in the Caribbean  
Poverty  
Social Structure and Social Interaction

#### **Section #4: Gender and Ethnicity**

Race and ethnicity  
Gender stratification  
Family  
Sexuality and Society

#### **Section #5: Other relevant topics**

Aging and the Elderly  
The Economy and Work

Religion

Education

Health, Population, Urbanization, and Environment

Collective Behavior and Social Movements

Change: Traditional, Modern, and Postmodern Societies

### **COURSE TEXTS:**

Barrow, C & Reddock, R. (Editors). (2001). *Caribbean Sociology: Introductory readings*. Jamaica: Ian Randle Publishers.

Haralambos, M. & Holborn, M. (2008). *Sociology themes and perspectives*. (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). London: Collins.

### **TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES:**

- Oral and Visual presentations
- Group presentations
- Discussions
- Case studies/Projects



## ST ANDREW'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE (SATC)

### COURSE ASSESSMENT:

Class Attendance	5%
Class Presentation	15% (Individual Student Presentation - Written and/or Oral)
Mid Term Exam	30%
Final Exam	50% (Essay; Response to a case study)
TOTAL	100%

Students are expected to attend classes regularly, and to complete the readings assigned for each class. Class participation is encouraged, to the extent possible in a large class. Readings should be completed before class. Students are responsible for all material covered in class, including assigned readings, power point-assisted lectures, films, video clips, and exercises in data analysis.

**Reading assignments** will be made for each class, and students are expected to have read them and to be prepared to discuss them. The course will involve a steady stream of exercises, a short paper, and two exams.