Introduction to Sociology, 2e

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This OER textbook is an online/downloadable text and one that I am thinking of using as an additional text for my Introduction to Sociology 201. There is already a complete course OER course to import for Introduction to Sociology from Lumen Learning. Therefore, I am weighing the options for this text and whether it would augment or supplant the material already available from SUNY Open OER. In some form, the textbook will be used for the 2019-2020 academic year. This textbook contains most of the topics taught in the course and has one of the most flexible Creative Commons licenses since it lets one distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon the work, even commercially, if you credit the original creation. It is recommended for maximum dissemination and use of licensed materials. Being able to tailor the material by writing additional topics makes this book attractive. The content adheres to the scope and sequence of a typical, one-semester introductory sociology course. It offers comprehensive coverage of core concepts, foundational scholars, and emerging theories. The textbook presents section reviews with rich questions, discussions that help students apply their knowledge, and features that draw learners into the discipline in meaningful ways. The second edition has been updated significantly to reflect the latest research and current, relevant examples.

Due to this flexibility, I will be using the OER textbook in its entirety for the course this Fall semester unless an alternative from Lumen Learning proves to be worthy competition. The course capacity for each section ranges from 30-32 students. The last textbook that was required of the course Essentials of Sociology, by James Henslin, 12th edition at a cost of approximately varied depending on new/used/ own or rent/digital.

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1. Clarity and comprehensibility - content, including the instructions and exercises

This text is designed specifically for an introductory-level sociology course. The topics includes basic sociology terminology, theorists and theories, vocabulary, key terms, end of the section multiple choice questions/short answer and further research.
2. **Accuracy - this requires subject matter expertise**
The subject matter was historically accurate and contemporary examples were relevant, particularly the section within each chapter entitled Sociology in the Real World. The textbook used and defined commonly used basic concepts and terminology accurately for students. Charts, tables, and diagrams were explanatory.

3. **Readability - in terms of logic, sequencing, and flow**
The textbook was readable for college students and had section vocabulary bold-faced to make it easier to find within the section key concepts. Chapters are well organized because sections are broken down by headers as subtopics. The textbook is laid out well, like the text previously being used in my Introduction to Sociology course.

4. **Consistency of course materials - consistency in the content language and use of key terms as is necessary to facilitate understanding by novice users**
Any unfamiliar, subject-specific sociology vocabulary is consistent throughout the textbook. It includes a list of key concepts, section by section for students to know.

5. **Appropriateness of content - appropriateness of the material for community college level courses**
The content is appropriate in scope and sequence for community college level courses as it follows many introductory sociology texts in terms of section topics. It promotes active learning and proper explanations to the problems at the end of each chapter.

6. **Interface - technological issues such as broken links, improperly displayed graphics, and ease of navigation**
There were no technological issues, as this textbook was in pdf format. It is easy to download as either chapter or entire textbook. If accessed on [http://cnx.org](http://cnx.org) as a collection of modules that can be rearranged and modified to suit your individual course needs. Note that modules often contain references to content in other modules, as most topics in sociology cannot be discussed in isolation.

7. **Content usefulness - the ways in which the content could be useful for teachers, students, and those with a general interest in the subject area.**
The content is useful for an introductory sociology course as a stand-alone or as a supplementary text. The instructor can easily select specific chapters. Since current events influence our social perspectives and the field of sociology in general, OpenStax encourages instructors to keep this book fresh by sending in up-to-date examples to info@openstaxcollege.org so that students and instructors around the country can relate and engage in the most discussions.

8. **Modularity - the ability to adapt, rearrange, add, delete and modify the content by sections**
This OER is editable and customizable to fit the needs of the course. In order to create content for an OpenStax book, one needs to create an account on [https://legacy.cnx.org/](https://legacy.cnx.org/). Once that is created, individual section of the text can be uploaded and modified. Since the textbook is editable, additional material within each section can be incorporated making it as current as possible.

9. **Content errors - the presence or absence of factual errors, grammatical errors, and typographical errors in the content**
I was unable to locate any factual or grammatical errors in the textbook. According to the organization, “All OpenStax textbooks undergo a rigorous review process. However, like any professional-grade textbook, errors sometimes occur. The good part is, since our books are web-based, we can make
updates periodically. If you have a correction to suggest, submit it here. We review your suggestion and make necessary changes.” There is a direct link to contact the organization for corrections.

10. **Reading level - appropriate for community college level students**
   After reading a sampling of the text, the material is readable for any college-level student.

11. **Cultural relevance - use of examples that are inclusive of diverse races/ethnicities/age/sexuality**
    As an introductory sociology book, sections such as “Race and Ethnicity,” “Gender, Sex and Sexuality,” “Marriage and Family,” are included. The books does a good job being inclusive regarding those aforementioned variables.