



Course Template:

Introduction to Sociology, SOC1101

Abstract:

This instructional unit pertains to socialization throughout the lifespan and is designed to present theories of socialization, agents of socialization, and types of socialization experienced throughout life. Introduction to the pregnancy planning/prevention information includes a module on socialization of teenagers and answers questions like the following: Who are the agents of teenage socialization? When do teenagers begin to understand about the roles they play in society? What experiences do they have that affect their life trajectories? After a general discussion of life as a teenager, the instructor will introduce the concept of teenage parents. Students will watch episodes of “The Baby Borrowers” in class. They will watch the first three episodes over a span of three class periods (30-minute episodes) and then discuss the question, “Do teenagers make good parents?” Students will also get introduced to websites where they will start to gather information on teenage pregnancy on their own time at home or in the library. This material will also be presented during the marriage and the family chapter. It will be addressed in their journal reflections on “The Baby Borrowers” and through their service learning projects. Websites will be used as follows: taking the *Fog Zone* quiz (in class); researching for statistics and information related to this special topic (out of class) at: www.TheNationalCampaign.org; www.bedsider.org; www.sexreally.com; and www.stayteen.org.

Academic Objectives:

After completing this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explain the importance of agencies of socialization such as family, school, religion, peer groups, mass media, and the workplace
2. Unravel how teenagers learn to be parents and how their attitudes, beliefs, and lifetime experiences prepare them (or do not prepare them) to become teenage parents
3. Better understand socialization of teenagers
4. Better understand trends in marriage and the family in today’s society
5. Research independent websites to learn about teenage pregnancy and contraception

Pregnancy Planning/Prevention Objectives:

After completing this lesson, students will

1. Understand how unplanned pregnancy can affect college completion
2. Understand the importance of healthy relationships
3. Know what campus and community resources are available to pregnant and parenting college students and their partners
4. Be familiar with a variety of birth control options and where to get them in the community (e.g., www.bedsider.org)
5. Be exposed to various electronic information sources (e.g., www.TheNationalCampaign.org)

Preparation:

For preparation of this module, instructors will have to watch episodes of “The Baby Borrowers” and become familiar with the scenarios. In addition, instructors will read the video guide book to familiarize themselves with the purposeful content of the videos. Instructors will need to visit www.TheNationalCampaign.org. A wealth of information is included on the site, including links to other related websites and PDFs of printable brochures. (For a list of these helpful links, review information below under the heading “Materials about Unplanned Pregnancy.”)

Opening/Introduction:

Students will need to finish reading the textbook chapter on socialization, take the *Fog Zone* questionnaire in class, and watch “The Baby Borrowers” before participating in the discussion about teenage pregnancy and parenthood. Students will later visit the websites to research information for the service learning project described below. They will use the research information to tie in with their curricular information from the chapter on marriage and the family.

Student Activity:

Students will be doing the following activities:

- Watching episodes of “The Baby Borrowers” (week 3)
- Taking the *Fog Zone* quiz (week 3)
- Participating in in-depth class discussions
- Writing a reflection paper answering the question “Do Teenagers Make Good Parents?”
- Researching suggested websites for facts and data
- Completing a service learning project (see following description)

Service Learning Activity:

Students participate in a poster-making activity to demonstrate what they have learned. Part of three class periods will be dedicated to making posters that students will present to the class. Once the class is completed, the posters will hang around the college campus so that all students can gather information from them.

Teaching:

Although this module is developed around the topic of socialization and teenage socialization specifically, it crosses over into many other theories and topics discussed in Sociology 1101—specifically, marriage and the family. Topics surface again when the class learns about diversity in family trends, single parent households, blended families, and age of young parents. Students will learn an in-depth view of socialization through the lifespan.

Reconnection to Opening/Lesson Objective:

The curriculum will constantly touch on topics that relate to life experiences and the ways we are socialized in society. These objectives are focused mainly in chapter on socialization, but become a common thread throughout the course. The course ends with completion of the service learning activity, which disseminates the information about these topics addressed by the class.

Connection to the Real World:

Students watch “The Baby Borrowers” episodes and discuss real life examples of teenage parents among their friends and family. These connections from the video are so intense and vibrant that students begin relating them to the real world while the videos are still playing. They are eager to tell their own stories and share personal perspectives on teenage pregnancy and parenthood.

Materials about Unplanned Pregnancy:

- “The Baby Borrowers” videos
- The *Fog Zone* quiz at www.thenationalcampaign.org/fogzone/
- www.TheNationalCampaign.org
- www.bedsider.org
- www.sexreally.com
- www.stayteen.org

Assessment:

The methods of assessment include:

- Exams covering text material will assess mastery of socialization concepts and marriage and family trends
- Written reflections will assess application of material and depth of thought
- Service learning projects will assess the knowledge that students gathered from the national websites
- Students will be participating in pre- and post-course surveys sponsored by AACC for their own assessment uses

Exams/papers will account for 80% of the student’s grade; service learning will be valued at 20%.

Student Engagement:

Students easily engage in the activities explained above, particularly enjoying the videos and websites. All students participate in the service learning activity.

General Comments/Advice:

This is a simple lesson to replicate in that the websites and videos provide a starting point for discussion of these topics. In addition, sociology is a course where most of the pregnancy planning/prevention objectives tie in naturally and completely to text materials.

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