



Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The [California Open Educational Resources Council](http://www.cool4ed.org) has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education (www.cool4ed.org). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected free and open etextboks using a rubric. Faculty received a stipend for their efforts and funding was provided by the State of California, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Textbook Name:

Introduction to Sociology



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Introduction to Sociology by Ryan Cragun licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike 3.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/).

Find it: [eTextbook Website](#)

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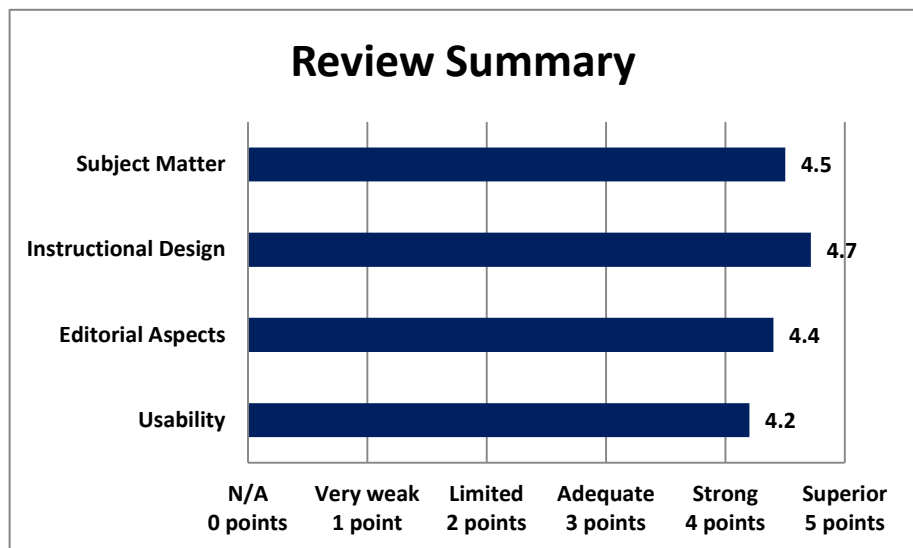
Format Reviewed:

[Online](#)

A fee may be associated with various formats.

Date Reviewed:

October, 2014



California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation

CA Course ID: [SOCI 110](#)

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased?					X	
Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?						X
Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples to present its subject matter?						X
Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?					X	
Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?						X

Does the textbook present its subject matter in a culturally sensitive manner? (e.g. Is the textbook free of offensive and insensitive examples? Does it include examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds?)						X	
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Total Points: 27 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- It provides a much longer list of chapters and topics that I have found in other (hard copy) Intro to Sociology textbooks. The subject matter is presented in a way that young people will find engaging and interesting.
- The text does not present a test bank, but it does have summary headings of expected parts of the chapter, further readings, and some exercise questions at the end of each chapter.

Instructional Design (35 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject materials at appropriate reading levels for undergrad use?						X
Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)						X
Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?						X
Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?						X
Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?					X	
Does the textbook contain sufficient effective ancillary materials? (e.g. test banks, individual and/or group activities or exercises, pedagogical apparatus, etc.)					X	
Is the textbook searchable?						X

Total Points: 33 out of 35

Please provide comments on any aspect of the instructional design of this textbook:

- The coverage of Demography and Deviance/Criminology was especially interesting, and I found it quite accurate with graphs and charts that the instructor will find helpful in preparing a lecture. The charts are up to date, and sources of data are generally provided, except in a few cases.

Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the language of the textbook free of grammatical, spelling, usage, and typographical errors?					X	
Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?					X	
Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages laid out and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?)					X	
Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)						X
How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)						X

Total Points: 22 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- Unfortunately, I preferred the PDF version. Although there was a tab to press and download, after 20 minutes, I got an error message stating that the document was corrupted. I was forced to review online (html format) which I generally do not like. Maybe this should be checked.
- I am not comfortable with the option for others (readers) to edit chapters, and it leaves room open for individuals to introduced unsubstantiated materials into the text. I am not familiar with the practices of WIKI, so maybe this is not a problem. I prefer a closed ended book that is not open to editing by the reader.

Usability (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
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Is the textbook compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in college/university campus student computer labs?					X	
Is the textbook accessible in a variety of different electronic formats? (e.g. .txt, .pdf, .epub, etc.)					X	
Can the textbook be printed easily?					X	
Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?						X
How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?					X	

Total Points: 21 out of 25

Please provide comments on any aspect of access concerning this textbook.

- As I said, I could not open the PDF version. There was a table entitled: Printable Version (I did not click on it). The PDF version definitely needs to be checked so that it can be downloaded at a faster speed. Typically, many students may find that useful as the text can be downloaded and read on multiple platforms.
- The printable version may have a drawback in view of the overall length of the book. I did not see ePubs, but the text has a section entitled: Future Chapters.

Overall Ratings						
	Not at all (0 pts)	Very Weak (1 pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3 pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
What is your overall impression of the textbook?						X
	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
How willing would you be to adopt this book?					X	

Total Points: 9 out of 10

Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?

- One of the unique features of this book (that is not typically found in Introduction to Sociology textbooks) is that it has a section about Why Students pick Sociology as a major, what percentage select sociology, jobs that a sociology major (with BA) typically do, where they are employed, the advantages of Sociology to various types of employers. The data presented negate the stereotype of Sociology being selected as a major by college students because it is perceived as a weak/soft major. Another unique feature of the book that should be of interest to instructors is that the text has a section entitled: Future Chapters. In this regard, the textbook is like a living document, and an instructor does not have to repeatedly wait for newer (and often costly) editions.
- The chapters are not too long, and there is a greater coverage of the history of sociology. The text presents Sociology as a newer discipline, but also a fast growing discipline. Examples given are up to date, and I especially liked the charts and graphs on population, spending on police, health insurance, the poverty rate, and distribution of inequality across the world.

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?

- There should be more international coverage, as Sociology has become a global discipline. There are some examples of life in other nations (e.g. Cape Verde, Ethiopia), but there is not much coverage in the text itself.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review [to the textbook site in MERLOT](#).
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