Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

Textbook Name:

Introduction to Sociology

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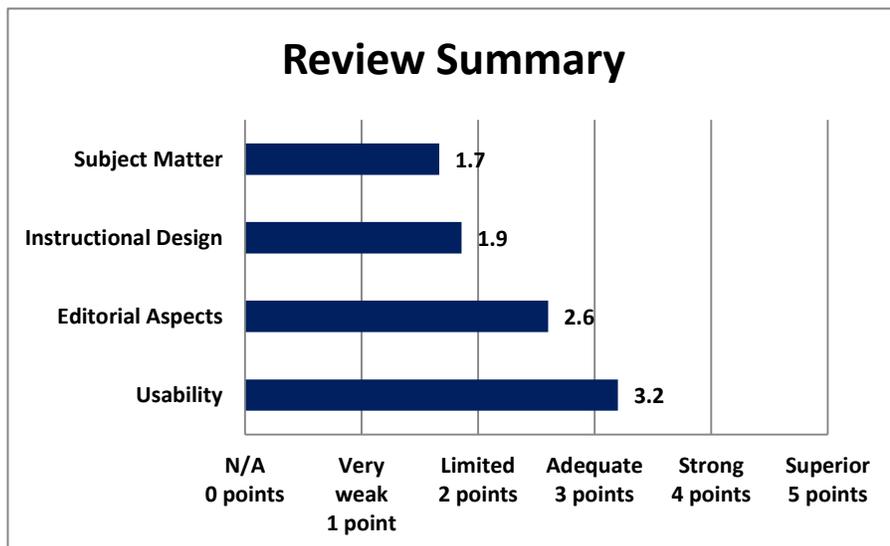
Professor, Department of Sociology

Format Reviewed:

Online

A fee may be associated with various formats.

Date Reviewed:

October, 2014

Review Summary

Category	Score
Subject Matter	1.7
Instructional Design	1.9
Editorial Aspects	2.6
Usability	3.2

Scale:
N/A 0 points | Very weak 1 point | Limited 2 points | Adequate 3 points | Strong 4 points | Superior 5 points

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			X			

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?)						

Total Points: 10 out of 30

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

- The text does not define all major terms and concepts (i.e. macro and micro perspectives). There is no connection between major concepts and/or theoretical perspectives including positivism to quantitative research or verstehen to qualitative, and information presented is disorganized and not methodical. Emphasis is on the field of social science rather than sociology as a discipline. Content is out-of-place or unnecessary (e.g. who first taught sociology and who was the first to publish). The text is missing a discussion on major theorists (Marx, Weber, and Durkheim) and their contributions to sociology in the History and Development of Sociology sections. The text does not accurately define or discuss theoretical paradigms (includes role theory, social constructionism, and integration theory as major paradigms while excluding feminism, exchange theory, and environmental theory). External links are not explained or integrated to chapter content.

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: 13 out of 35

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

- In evaluating a cross-section of the text (excerpts from three chapters), the readability was calculated at a 9.2 Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level. The text is easily accessible and functions similar to Wikipedia. The print and downloadable versions operate similar to other e-books. Sections are not connected and stand alone. Discussion questions at the end of each section are limited and do not measure depth of knowledge or invoke critical thinking. The links to sociology videos are not all operational, the information provided is minimal to generic, and the working links connect to random lectures posted by faculty on YouTube.

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 latid0out 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: 13 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- The text does not consistently incorporate tables, charts, and graphical images to explain concepts or theories. Some sections are rich in data tables while others are completely missing relevant research and/or examples. Most of the photos and artwork are stock clip art images.

Usability (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
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: 16 out of 25

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

- The user must be familiar with the interface chosen to be able to interact and navigate the text.

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: 3 out of 10

Overall Comments

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

- The online text is easy to use like Wikipedia. This text may be a good supplemental e-resource (i.e. Comte's work, integration theory, and biological and psychological comparisons on thinking and behavior).

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

- The text needs to address sociological concepts, principles, theories, and theorists (currently the text emphasizes the social science field). There are no recommended exercises or discussions on how to apply major concepts and theories. Overall, the text lacks continuity between sections/chapters and functions like an encyclopedia.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to the textbook site in MERLOT.
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