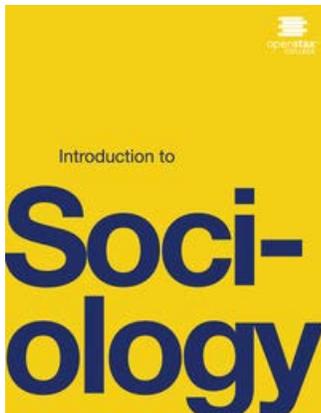# Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The California Open Educational Resources Council 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

License:

Find it: eTextbook Website

Textbook Authors:

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Reviewed by:

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University of California, Riverside

Title/Position:
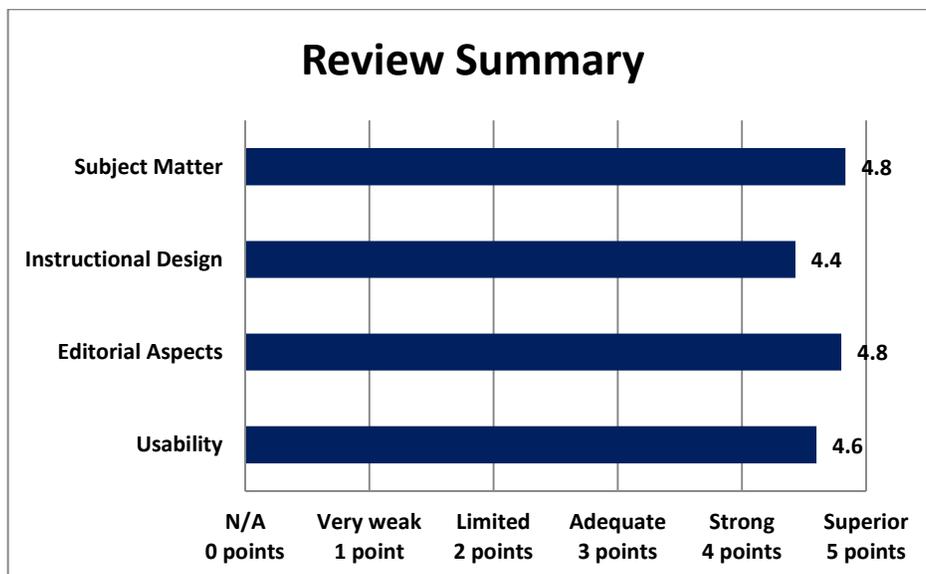
Professor, Department of Sociology

Format Reviewed:

PDF

A fee may be associated with various formats.

Date Reviewed:

October, 2014

Review Summary

Category	Score
Subject Matter	4.8
Instructional Design	4.4
Editorial Aspects	4.8
Usability	4.6

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 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

Total Points: 29 out of 30

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

- The learning objectives at the beginning of each were succinct, and were not overwhelming for the students and the instructor. Typically, these objectives were limited to 4. They helped the student know what to expect or what is expected of him/her even before beginning to read the chapter.
- The text gives a summary at the end, and prior to that, concepts met in th book are defined. This is good for review purposes, e.g. for an examination. The text also has practice questions, which the student could use to review material in order to show whether the given chapter was understood.

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: 31 out of 35

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

- The book was very well designed, with examples, photographs, and maps are needed. Different colors were used to organize the material. I could not tell whether there is a separate test bank, but it probably exists somewhere. At any rate, even without a test bank, the instructor can easily put exams together as the semester goes on. The authors also highlight important concepts by color.

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: 24 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- The book was written with the modern student in mind. Students taking Intro to Sociology are young, and likely to be online. A lot of examples given seem to have the age range of the students in mind. There was no audio in the book, but there are enough colors, and graphics that lend to easier understanding--more so than other textbooks that I have seen or used in the past.

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: 23 out of 25

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

- The book is 508 pages long, so this would be very difficult for an average student to print. However, many students that I now teach prefer reading on ipads, laptops, or other gadgets.

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: 10 out of 10

Overall Comments

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

- The information is very timely. Book is readable and most information is up to date. It is a comprehensive coverage of Sociology, and the book is written in an engaging manner.

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

- I am not teaching a course in Introduction to Sociology. If I were teaching one, I would adopt this textbook. I cannot think of any commercially produced text that is superior to this.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to the textbook site in MERLOT.
(Please register in MERLOT to post your feedback.)

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For questions or more information, contact the CA Open Educational Resources Council