

# SOCIOLOGY, USC, COLUMBIA

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### Fall 2021

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.1: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **TR**      **10:05AM – 11:20AM**      *Mia Brantley Wright*

This course offers you an introduction to the theories, methodologies, vocabulary, and themes in the field of sociology. It will focus on the organization and function of society, as well as how society impacts and influences individual understanding, action, and well-being. Basic sociological ideas will be explored, such as culture, socialization, gender, race, and inequality. In addition, we will examine how social institutions, such as family, health, and education, influence everyday life chances. The purpose of the course is to instill in you the ability to apply a sociological lens which can be used to decipher current social issues. The knowledge gained in this course will aid you in future studies in a variety of fields and careers, as well as encourage the development of critically thinking about important social issues.

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.2: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **TR**      **2:50PM – 4:05PM**      *Calley Fisk*

This course provides an overview of key theories and concepts in sociology. In this course students will study interactions among human groups and institutions and how human behavior influences these relationships. Throughout the course of the semester, students also learn skills that will enhance their ability to think critically, develop their ability to express their thoughts, and gain insight into how they shape society and how society shapes them.

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.3: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **MWF**      **10:50AM – 11:40AM**      *Patricia Lewis*

This course is a broad introduction to the field of sociology. Throughout the semester, we will practice taking a sociological perspective – assessing the effects of context, social forces, and society on individuals, and the effects of individual behavior on shaping social environments. We will discuss how knowledge accumulates in social science by discussing sociological methods of research. Due to the breadth of the discipline of sociology, this course will take a topical approach – discussing some of the most important lines of inquiry in the field.

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.4: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **MW**      **2:20PM – 3:35PM**      *Patricia Lewis*

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.5: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **MW**      **2:20PM – 3:35PM**      *Patricia Lewis*

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.6: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **TR**      **1:15PM – 2:30PM**      *Patricia Lewis*

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.7: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **TR**      **11:40AM – 12:55PM**      *Patricia Lewis*

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.8: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **MWF**      **9:40AM – 10:30PM**      **Victoria Money**

This course is a broad introduction to the field of sociology. Throughout the semester, we will practice taking a sociological perspective – assessing the effects of context, social forces, and society on individuals, and the effects of individual behavior on shaping social environments. We will discuss how knowledge accumulates in social science by discussing sociological methods of research. Due to the breadth of the discipline of sociology, this course will take a topical approach – discussing current issues of our time.

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.H01: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **TR**      **8:30AM – 9:45AM**      **Professor Laura Brashears**  
**Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students**

Each of us has an idea of what is meant by the word “society:” the people we live with, the work we do, and the government agencies that touch our lives. We live in particular places, work at specific businesses, and belong to our own groups. And while we must experience society from our own individual perspectives, none of those individual perspectives can encompass the totality of each of our experiences. Sociologists seek to examine the social world through an objective lens, rising above individual experiences to understand the whole. In other words, sociologists do not take the world before their eyes for granted; rather, we use scientific methods to gain a deeper understanding of how “society is inside of man and man is inside society.”

No social endeavor is off-limits to sociologists; we study religion, education, the family, the self, crime, work, economics, politics, organizations, demographic shifts, gender, race and ethnicity and social movements, among other things. We even study how science itself operates as a social entity.

In this course, I will introduce you to a lot of facts that sociologists have collected within quite a few of these areas. While I think these facts are interesting, and important (or I wouldn't bother teaching them!), I am much more concerned with teaching you how to step back and examine your world from an “outsider's” perspective. In other words you will learn to use the “sociological imagination”, a faculty that allows us to see the way the world is, and to imagine how it might have been, or might become, different. Once you do so, you will be able to develop a deeper understanding of how social factors have influenced you in the past and will continue to influence you in the future.

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.H02: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **TR**      **1:15PM – 2:30PM**      **Professor Laura Brashears**  
**Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students**

**SOCIOLOGY 101.H03: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **TR**      **4:25PM – 5:40PM**      **Professor Shane Thye**  
**Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students**

**CONTENT:** This survey course covers many aspects of modern sociology. The course begins with an overview of the origins of sociology. Then the course covers a survey of sociological research methods and the role of science in sociology. Theoretical perspectives on social life are covered along with sociological treatments of societal institutions. Theories of socialization, deviance, family, group dynamics and organizations are also covered. Student assessment takes the form of four examinations and a short film assignment. Students should gain a grasp of the role of social structures on individual lives and an understanding of the role of sociology in the modern world.

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.J10: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **ONLINE**      **TBA**      **Hanne Van Der Iest**

This Carolina Core course will give you a broad introduction to the field of sociology. Throughout the semester, we will practice taking a sociological perspective – assessing the effects of context, social forces, and society on individuals, and the effects of individual behavior on shaping social environments. Due to the breadth of the discipline of sociology, we will take a topical approach – discussing some of the most important lines of inquiry in the field.

This 100% online course is divided into 14 Modules, covering a range of sociological topics. Each Module contains video lectures, readings, and other media. Each Module also contains a guide detailing its learning goals and the sequence in which materials should be covered. To be successful in this course, you will need to critically process the assigned materials, take diligent notes, and summarize

main concepts. You will be assessed weekly with a class participation assignment, homework, and a timed test containing up to 4 Modules of material. You will also have one small final test covering all Modules.

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.J11: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **ONLINE**      **TBA**      ***Hanne Van Der Iest***

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.J12: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **ONLINE**      **TBA**      ***Hanne Van Der Iest***

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.J13: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **ONLINE**      **TBA**      ***Hanne Van Der Iest***

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.T01: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **TR**      **1:15PM – 2:30PM**      ***Professor Brent Simpson***

**TEXT:** *A Sociology Experiment* (available for one dollar per chapter here: [www.sociologyexperiment.com](http://www.sociologyexperiment.com)).

**CONTENT:** This course is a selective survey of sociology designed specifically for TRIO students. One of the many great things about sociology is its breadth. But that also makes it impossible to cover all the issues that deserve attention in a survey course. Thus, our coverage will be selective. We will focus primarily on questions related to how social order exists (and why it sometimes breaks down); the powerful roles that gender, race, and social class play in your life, how you view the world, and how others view you; and some of the many ways that social networks and other social forces powerfully impact your life (for better or worse), including whether you'll be happy and whether (and whom) you will marry. The overall goal will be to help you understand how to think like a sociologist and how sociology can be used to make the world better and more interesting.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Grades are based on four exams. Each exam counts 25% toward your final grade.

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**SOCIOLOGY 301.1: SEX & GENDER**      **TR**      **8:30AM – 9:45AM**      ***Atticus Wolfe***

This course offers a sociological lens to develop critical ways of thinking about sex and gender as social processes in everyday lives. The course considers how sex and gender shape and affect the experiences of people across a wide range of social institutions (family, work, education, politics, etc.) and social identities (race, ethnicity, ability, etc.). Prerequisite: SOCY 101.

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**SOCIOLOGY 301.J10: SEX & GENDER**      **ONLINE**      **TBA**      ***Professor Carla Pfeffer***

This is an asynchronous, fully online, distributed learning course. Sociology is a social science seeking to better understand how individuals, groups, social systems/structures and cultures shape (and are shaped by) one another. In this course, we will use a sociological lens to focus on the topics of sex and gender. While our focus will be on sex and gender, we will also study how other identities influence and affect gendered identities and experiences. A primary goal of this course is to introduce you to the perspectives and empirical findings on sex and gender in sociology, as well as to apply this empirical evidence to real-world experiences. Of critical importance is the goal of cultivating your skills for analyzing the social situations and events that you encounter in your everyday lives. Throughout this course, emphasis will be placed on developing critical and integrative ways of thinking about sex and gender as social processes in our everyday lives. This is not a course exclusively about women and women's experiences. In this course, we will consider how sex and gender shape and affect the experiences of women, men, girls, boys, and individuals who live in the spaces in-between these categories (e.g., those who are intersex, transgender, transsexual, etc.).

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**SOCIOLOGY 304.J10: RACE, CLASS, GENDER & SEXUALITY**      **ONLINE**      **TBA**      **Nicole Lampe**

In this course, we will seek to better understand the historical trends and contemporary challenges concerning race, social class, gender, and sexualities in the Southern United States (US). Drawing on sociological scholarship and social movement activism (including arts-based research and independent films) from diverse Southern scholars, we will examine the lived experiences of low-income/working-class communities and racial, ethnic, gender, and sexual minority communities throughout the US South.

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**SOCIOLOGY 309.1: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL INEQUALITY**      **MWF**      **9:40AM – 10:30AM**      **Nicholas Heiserman**

**SOCIOLOGY 310.1: SOCIAL DEMOGRAPHY**      **TR**      **10:05AM – 11:20AM**      **Professor Caroline Hartnett**

One of the most interesting stories of the last few centuries is our changing demography. During this time our life expectancy has increased dramatically and the number of children we have has declined. Our family structures have changed, as has our relationship with the environment. This course is an introduction to the major topics in the study of demography – specifically: mortality, fertility, and migration – and their implications for society and public policy. We will cover population change in both developed and developing countries, focusing on trends and driving factors. Throughout the course we will highlight policy-relevant issues such as global “overpopulation,” migration streams, urbanization, fertility policy, population aging, and the global burden of disease.

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**SOCIOLOGY 340.1: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PROBLEMS**      **TR**      **2:50PM – 4:05PM**      **Professor Andrea Henderson Platt**

This course provides students with the opportunity to examine a myriad of contemporary social problems confronting the United States. We will employ sociological concepts and perspectives to examine the most pressing social issues facing this country. This course will force us to confront some ugly and painful dimensions of social life and history. But by engaging directly with these issues, we can imagine what a just and equal social world should look like and how we might contribute to making it a reality.

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**SOCIOLOGY 355.1: RACE AND ETHNIC RELATIONS**      **TR**      **11:40AM – 12:55PM**      **Samantha Moser**

This course will introduce students to critical theories of race and racism. Historical and sociological investigations on racial formations maintain that race is not a “biological” reality but a socio-historical construction with profound impacts on people and society. Thus, it is important to examine what kind of social construction race is and how it creates a particular system of stratification that intersects with other spheres of domination associated with gender, class, ethnicity, and nationality. In this course, we will explore race as a modern and colonial category aimed to legitimate practices of stratification, exploitation, domination, segregation, stigmatization, and physical violence against negatively racialized subjects.

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**SOCIOLOGY 360.H01: SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICINE & HEALTH**      **TR**      **1:15PM – 2:30PM**      **Professor Andrea Henderson-Platt**  
**Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students**

This course offers an introduction to a conceptual and topical overview of the Sociology of Medicine and Health (aka Medical Sociology or Sociology of Health and Illness). This sub-discipline of sociology starts from the assumption that we cannot understand the topics of health and illness simply by looking at biological and medical knowledge, instead we must also consider a variety of social, political, economic, and cultural forces. Specific topics to be addressed in this course include: (a) the social and cultural meanings and experiences of health and illness; (d) the social determinants of health and health disparities, including the connections between race, class, gender and sexuality; (c) the organization of health care delivery systems and associated patient outcomes; and (d) providers and patients and the impact of culture, roles, and relationships. In sum, this course will explore each of these issues and help improve your understanding of the many ways that society and culture affects health and illness.

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**SOCIOLOGY 360.J10: SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICINE & HEALTH**      **Online**      **TBA**      **Professor Caroline Hartnett**

The determinants of health – both for individuals and for populations – are not just medical or biological, but are shaped in large part by our social environments. The likelihood that we achieve good health and maintain it over the life course varies depending on our socioeconomic status, gender, race-ethnicity, and other factors. We will describe how health status is influenced by these factors and why, discussing both theoretical perspectives and empirical research findings. We will also discuss how researchers approach studying the social determinants of health, including how health is conceptualized and measured, at both the individual and group level. Finally, we will discuss sociological perspectives on the field of medicine, particularly how power and status operate within this area.

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**SOCIOLOGY 391.1: SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS    TR    11:40AM – 12:55AM    *Professor Matthew Brashears***

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the methods of social research. Social research is a complicated and often difficult field that requires considerable effort to master. At the same time, however, the products of social research efforts are routinely cited in newspapers, magazines, and books. These results are similarly used to justify new laws, new policies, and even to sell new products. As such, understanding the fundamentals of research methodology is not merely necessary for scientists, but is necessary for any empowered citizen of a modern democracy. By the end of this course you should be familiar with the issues that come along with scientific research and the philosophy of science generally. You should also be able to critically evaluate research reports in the popular and academic press, and discuss the advantages, as well as drawbacks, of the particular methods used. Finally, and most importantly, you should be able to use this information to judge the likely value of particular research products.

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**SOCIOLOGY 392.1: ELEMENTARY STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS    TR    1:15PM – 2:30PM    *Professor Diego Leal Castro***

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the practical use of descriptive and inferential statistics in Sociology. The course introduces students to the creation and analysis of databases, the logic of research design, the use of statistical software, and the interpretation of results. Some of the topics covered in class are: bivariate associations and correlation, the normal distribution, point estimates and confidence intervals, and OLS regression.

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**SOCIOLOGY 392.2: ELEMENTARY STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS    TR    2:50PM – 4:05PM    *Professor Diego Leal Castro***

**SOCIOLOGY 393.J11: SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY    ONLINE    TBA    *Professor Mathieu Deflem***

This is a fully online (asynchronous) distributed-learning course delivered through Blackboard. The course presents an introduction to selected developments in sociological theory. The course’s approach is both chronological and perspective-oriented, including classical as well as modern and contemporary theories. The selection of theories is focused on the foundations of sociological theory and its contrasting variations. Special attention will be paid to exploring the fruitfulness of the introduced theoretical ideas for the empirical analysis of various substantive matters of society. Applications and research examples will pertain to such social issues as law, deviance, culture, family, religion, and politics.

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**SOCIOLOGY 460.1: SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH    TR    10:05AM – 11:20AM    *Professor Laura Brashears***

Note: SOCY 460 satisfies the 500 Level Sociology course requirements.

This course is designed to give you an overview of the ways a sociological perspective informs our understanding of mental health and illness. While sociologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, and others all deal with issues of mental illness, they often approach the topic in very different ways. In general, a sociological perspective tends to focus on aspects of the social environment that we often ignore, neglect, or take for granted. It calls attention to how society or groups are organized, who benefits or is hurt by the way things are organized, and what beliefs shape our behaviors. In viewing mental illness, sociologists have primarily challenged dominant views of mental illness, examined how social relationships play a role in mental illness, questioned the goals and implications of mental health policy and researched how mental health services are organized and provided.

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**SOCIOLOGY 460.H10: SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH**    **TR**    **10:05AM – 11:20AM**    ***Professor Laura Brashears***  
***Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students***

This course is designed to give you an overview of the ways a sociological perspective informs our understanding of mental health and illness. While sociologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, and others all deal with issues of mental illness, they often approach the topic in very different ways. In general, a sociological perspective tends to focus on aspects of the social environment that we often ignore, neglect, or take for granted. It calls attention to how society or groups are organized, who benefits or is hurt by the way things are organized, and what beliefs shape our behaviors. In viewing mental illness, sociologists have primarily challenged dominant views of mental illness, examined how social relationships play a role in mental illness, questioned the goals and implications of mental health policy and researched how mental health services are organized and provided.

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**SOCIOLOGY 507.J10: SOCIOLOGY OF SOCIAL CONTROL**    **ONLINE**    ***Professor Mathieu Deflem***

This is a fully online (asynchronous) distributed-learning course delivered through Blackboard. The objectives of this upper-level undergraduate course are to engage students in the sociological study of social control, i.e., the definition of and response to crime and/or deviance. The course primarily deals with the official treatment of crime through a formal system of criminal justice. The specific themes of this course include an overview of relevant sociological theories and traces the history of the concept of social control in American sociology. We also discuss the perspective of discipline and its relevance for the study of social control. Additional attention goes to contemporary forms of surveillance and the role of police, including international police cooperation. And, finally, we will analyze in some detail various aspects of the policing of terrorism, both at home and abroad.

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**SOCIOLOGY 561.1: INTEGRATIVE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**    **MW**    **2:20PM – 3:35PM**    ***Professor Jaclyn Wong***

In this course students will apply their knowledge of sociological research methods to conduct one quantitative and one qualitative research project. For the first project, students will download, clean, describe, and run bivariate and OLS/logistic regression analyses of General Social Survey (GSS) data. Graduate students may analyze a dataset of their choosing. For the second project, students will design an interview guide, conduct face-to-face interviews, code transcripts, and produce an analysis of themes on a topic of their choice. Both projects require students to write up a scholarly report of their findings. Graduate students will produce reports in the structure of an academic journal article. At the end of the semester, students will make a Power point presentation based on their projects for a research symposium. Grades are based on intermediate assignments building up to the final written research projects, the two final research reports, and the Power point presentation.

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**SOCIOLOGY 720.1: SURVEY OF RESEARCH METHODS**    **R**    **6:00 PM– 8:45PM**    ***Professor Shane Thye***

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**SOCIOLOGY 779.1: SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH**    **TR**    **10:05AM – 11:20AM**    ***Professor Laura Brashears***

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