

SOCIOLOGY, USC, COLUMBIA

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Spring 2020

SOCIOLOGY 101.1: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **MWF** **8:30AM – 9:20AM** ***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.

SOCIOLOGY 101.2: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **MWF** **9:40AM – 10:30AM** ***Patricia Lewis***

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SOCIOLOGY 101.5: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **MW** **2:20PM – 3:35PM** ***Kelsey Griffin***

Sociology is the scientific discipline that studies society. It examines human interactions as well as cultural and social phenomena by utilizing the sociological imagination. Throughout this semester, students will be trained as novice sociologists to use instances in their personal experiences for drawing connections to larger societal issues. This course addresses 1) the historical origins of sociology and major theoretical orientations, 2) a wide range of basic sociological principles and methods, and 3) exploration of substantive topics of research in the discipline.

SOCIOLOGY 101.8: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **8:30AM – 9:45AM** ***Patricia Lewis***

SOCIOLOGY 101.9: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **10:05AM – 11:20AM** ***Patricia Lewis***

SOCIOLOGY 101.10: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **11:40AM – 12:55PM** ***Professor Andrea Henderson-Platt***

This course offers you an introduction to the theories, methodologies, vocabulary, and themes in the field of sociology. It will focus on the function and organization 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 religion, family, health, and education, influence everyday life chances. The purpose of the course is to instill in you a “sociological imagination,” 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, and encourage the development of critical thinking about important social issues.

SOCIOLOGY 101.H02: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY TR 4:25PM – 5:40PM *Professor Shane Thyne*
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.

SOCIOLOGY 101.H03: 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.

SOCIOLOGY 101.H04: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY TR 10:05AM – 11:20AM *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.”

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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.

SOCIOLOGY 101.J12: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY	ONLINE	TBA	<i>Hanne Van Der Iest</i>
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SOCIOLOGY 101.J13: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY	ONLINE	TBA	<i>Hanne Van Der Iest</i>
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SOCIOLOGY 101.J14: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY	ONLINE	TBA	<i>Hanne Van Der Iest</i>
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SOCIOLOGY 101.J15: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY	ONLINE	TBA	<i>Professor Barry Markovsky</i>
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People create societies, but in many ways societies also create people. How we see and define ourselves varies tremendously, not only across societies, but also across sub-cultures that co-exist within any one society. In this course you will learn about society by looking at "the big picture"—our systems of education, government, economy, race relations, religion. You will also learn about how you fit into that big picture by looking at how individuals are impacted by social ties and group memberships. Sociology provides a unique scientific perspective on human behavior by tracing how social processes shape individuals and, in turn, how social processes are created and maintained by the actions and interactions of people. This course will help students to develop a critical understanding of these processes and phenomena.

REQUIREMENTS: Weekly quizzes (45%), three exams (35%), group project (20%), available extra credit (5%)

SOCIOLOGY 220.1: ELEMENTARY STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS	MW 2:20PM – 3:35PM	<i>Professor Diego Leal Castro</i>
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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.

SOCIOLOGY 220.2: ELEMENTARY STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS	MW 5:30PM – 6:45PM	<i>Professor Diego Leal Castro</i>
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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.

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.).

SOCIOLOGY 302.J10: SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY **ONLINE** **TBA** *Professor Mathieu Deflem*

This is a fully online 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.

SOCIOLOGY 303.1: SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS **TR** **8:30AM – 9:45AM** *Professor Jennifer Augustine*

You are always observing the world around you. If you're paying attention, you have questions about why things are the way they are. Why do the rich live longer than the poor? Why do children of single mothers have lower test scores than children who grow up with two parents? Why are women in the United States paid less than men? These are important questions, but how do we answer them? The aim of this course is to teach you how to investigate such sociological questions by providing you a range of tools for studying the world around you. These tools will encompass the various research methods and skills used by sociologists. Such knowledge and skills will allow you to identify important research questions, design a study that you will carry out, and critically evaluate the research of others.

SOCIOLOGY 305.H01: SOCIOLOGY OF FAMILIES **TR** **10:05AM – 11:20AM** *Professor Jennifer Augustine*
Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students

CONTENT: This course focuses on families in the contemporary U.S. from a sociological perspective. We will do so by examining theories and empirical research on the family as a social institution. We begin the course by discussing the U.S. family in historical context, then fast forward to exploring changes in the family over the past several decades and the reasons underlying these changes. Lecture and discussions will address topics such as demographic changes in marital patterns, women's fertility behaviors, the role of women's paid employment and its connection to domestic work and caregiving, the social roles of mothers and fathers, the relationship between parents and their children, and the emergence and significance of "new" family forms, including interracial, same-sex, cohabiting unions, and transnational families. More broadly, we will also examine differences in family life along dimensions of social class, race and ethnic background, and gender, and debate questions about whether recent changes in family life are "good" or "bad." We will conclude with a debate on the future of the family.

SOCIOLOGY 309.1: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL INEQUALITY **MWF** **1:10PM – 2:00PM** *Patricia Lewis*

In this course, we will examine different types of inequality, such as those connected to race, ethnicity, gender, and social class. Importantly, we will also examine the intersections of those factors, and how disadvantage can be experienced in more than one category. Intersectionality shows us that it is nearly impossible to examine one social status (such as wealth) in isolation from other

statuses. Social inequality, or stratification, leads to differences in access to wealth, power, and prestige, and thus different life chances and experiences. We will explore these topics through in class discussions and activities.

SOCIOLOGY 310.1: SOCIAL DEMOGRAPHY **TR** **11:40aM – 12:55PM** *Zackery Butler*

Content: In this course you will be introduced to the sociological study of population. We will cover the theories, methods and statistics used by demographers in three major areas of study—mortality, fertility, and migration. The course begins with an overview of human population history, and quickly transitions to the exploration of current population issues from global, regional, and local perspectives. Topics include demographic trends and the social/environmental impacts of population behaviors.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of the course students should have a/an/the

- 1) Understanding of human population history
- 2) Ability to apply general demographic theories and interpret common demographic measures
- 3) Working knowledge of current population issues/policies
- 4) Capability to critically evaluate news coverage of population issues/policies
- 5) Capacity to compose basic reports on demographic phenomena, construct demographic profiles of various geographic areas, and collaborate with peers on policy proposals/critiques

Format: Lectures, class discussions, classroom activities, and online activities

SOCIOLOGY 330.J10: SOCIOLOGY OF THE PARANORMAL **ONLINE** **TBA** *Professor Barry Markovsky*

Many kinds of “paranormal phenomena” and “pseudo-sciences” are accepted as real and legitimate by large segments of American society and throughout the world. These include ESP, alien visitors, ghosts, astrology, near-death experiences, faith healing, UFOs, and many more. This course takes a two-pronged approach to understanding widespread belief in these phenomena, asking (1) how do physiological, psychological and sociological factors lead people to accept paranormal claims without good evidence, and (2) how can we evaluate these claims? Our approach is scientific, which means we approach unorthodox claims with a skeptical eye, but remain open to alternative possibilities as the evidence dictates.

REQUIREMENTS: Weekly & cumulative quizzes (55%), discussion participation (15%), project (10%), group project (10%), final exam (10%).

SOCIOLOGY 355.1: RACE AND ETHNIC RELATIONS **MW** **2:20PM- 3:35PM** *Professor Jason Cummings*

Race continues to be at the center of American life and shapes life chances and social interactions. This course examines the major theoretical and empirical approaches regarding race/ethnicity and the current state of race relations in America. We will explore the main assumptions that construct individuals’ perceptions of what race is and how race matters. Using various sociological theories, social psychological theories, and subcultural approaches, this course will give students a historical and present day frame with which to view race and ethnic relations. We will highlight how race/ethnicity continues to act as a boundary that forms meaningful social groupings and divisions. We will regularly discuss assigned readings, which consist of sociological articles and books as well as popular magazine articles, while integrating aspects of mainstream media (movies, songs, and television programs) to add context to our discussions.

SOCIOLOGY 525.1: SELVES AND SOCIAL TRANSACTION **TR** **1:15PM – 2:30PM** *Professor Laura Brashears*

As individuals, we are both impacted by our positions within society, and have the ability, through our membership in groups, to impact society. The study of selves and social transaction (or social structure and personality) examines this reciprocal relationship between individuals and their societies. The primary purpose of this course is to facilitate understanding and intellectual excitement about how these relationships shape everyday life. In order to achieve this goal, I encourage you to think critically about the topics we will be covering this semester. I also invite and require each one of you to apply what you learn inside the classroom to events in the real world, including your own lives.

The course is structured in three units. In the first unit of the course you will examine how sociology views the processes by which individuals come to have a self, how we think about ourselves, and how we feel about ourselves. The second unit will expose you to literature that documents how an individual’s location along various dimensions in the social structure (for example, race and ethnicity,

gender, age, or social class) interacts with their participation in various social institutions: family, work, education, and religion. And during the third unit you will investigate the impact of changing cultural values and social structures on our perceptions of the world and our sense of who we are as individuals. During this unit we will also examine how individuals can have a direct impact on society.

SOCIOLOGY 540.J10: SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

TBA

Professor Mathieu Deflem

This is a fully online distributed-learning course delivered through Blackboard. This course reviews the most important developments, both theoretical and empirical, in the sociology of law. Successive sections of this course focus on: classical contributions in the sociology of law; selected chapters in modern sociology of law; and a selection of empirical themes of law and law-related processes and structures, including: law and economy; law, democracy, and politics; law and culture; social structure and law; legality and legitimacy; the legal profession; law and social control; and the globalization of law. The course is rooted in sociological theory.

SOCIOLOGY 561.1: INTEGRATIVE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

TR

2:50PM – 4:05PM

Professor Jaclyn Wong

In this course students will conduct one quantitative and one qualitative research project. For the first project, students will download, clean, describe, and run bivariate and regression analyses of General Social Survey (GSS) data. 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. At the end of the semester, students will choose one of their projects to present during a class research symposium.

SOCIOLOGY 562.1: ADVANCED SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS

TBA

Professor Shane Thye

CONTENT: This course focuses on the range of methodological approaches adopted by social scientists. Special attention is paid to the role of sociological theory in the design of research.

Students who take this course are expected to have knowledge of introductory statistics and an interest in conducting original empirical research. This class is comprised of numerous components. We first consider basic research concepts, theory, and fundamentals. We then examine and consider with a more critical focus, the primary methods that sociologists traditionally used to acquire data; surveys, in-depth interviews, ethnographic methods, experiments, and archival methods, as well as the mixing of methods

SOCIOLOGY 720.1: SURVEY OF RESEARCH METHODS

TBA

Professor Shane Thye

CONTENT: This course focuses on the range of methodological approaches adopted by social scientists. Special attention is paid to the role of sociological theory in the design of research.

Students who take this course are expected to have knowledge of introductory statistics and an interest in conducting original empirical research. This class is comprised of numerous components. We first consider basic research concepts, theory, and fundamentals. We then examine and consider with a more critical focus, the primary methods that sociologists traditionally used to acquire data; surveys, in-depth interviews, ethnographic methods, experiments, and archival methods, as well as the mixing of methods

SOCIOLOGY 769.1: SELECTED TOPICS IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

TR

1:15PM – 2:30PM

Professor Laura Brashears

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The course is structured in three units. In the first unit of the course you will examine how sociology views the processes by which individuals come to have a self, how we think about ourselves, and how we feel about ourselves. The second unit will expose you to literature that documents how an individual's location along various dimensions in the social structure (for example, race and ethnicity, gender, age, or social class) interacts with their participation in various social institutions: family, work, education, and religion. And

during the third unit you will investigate the impact of changing cultural values and social structures on our perceptions of the world and our sense of who we are as individuals. During this unit we will also examine how individuals can have a direct impact on society.
