

SOCIOLOGY, USC, COLUMBIA

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SPRING 2022

SOCIOLOGY 101.1: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **2:50PM – 4:05PM** *Professor Andrea Henderson-Platt*

This course offers students 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, students will examine how social institutions, such as religion, family, health, and education, influence everyday life chances. The purpose of the course is to instill a “sociological imagination,” which can be used to decipher current social issues. The knowledge gained in this course will aid students in future studies in a variety of fields and careers and encourage the development of critical thinking about important social issues.

SOCIOLOGY 101.2: 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.

SOCIOLOGY 101.3: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **11:40AM – 12:55PM** *Patricia Lewis*

SOCIOLOGY 101.4: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **1:15PM – 2:30PM** *Patricia Lewis*

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

SOCIOLOGY 101.8: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **2:50PM – 4:05PM** *Megan Routh*

“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** **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.H03: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **1:15PM – 2:30PM** ***Professor Laura Brashears***
Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students

SOCIOLOGY 101.H04: 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.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** ***Hanne Van Der Iest***

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

SOCIOLOGY 101.J14: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **ONLINE** **TBA** *Hanne Van Der Iest*

SOCIOLOGY 301.1: SEX & GENDER **MW** **8:05AM – 9:20AM** **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.

SOCIOLOGY 304.J10: RACE, CLASS, GENDER & SEXUALITY **ONLINE** **TBA** *Professor Jaclyn Wong*

In this course students will learn to think critically about race, social class, gender, and sexual identity from a sociological perspective. Students will engage with classic and contemporary theoretical and empirical scholarly readings as well as materials from popular culture and current events to explore how race, class, gender, and sexuality structure our daily lives. This course emphasizes the social processes producing inequality and stratification, and will discuss racism, patriarchy, capitalism, and heteronormativity. Students will be graded on short quizzes, intermediate assignments building up to the final essays, and four final essays.

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

In this course we will examine major inequalities between social class, gender, race/ethnicity, and other social groups. We focus on how these inequalities work, where they come from, and how they change or stay the same over time. We will especially consider how large-scale inequalities are reflected in small-scale social interaction, and vice versa. We will examine issues of fairness: when are inequalities seen as fair? What do we mean by 'merit'? How are opportunities unequal? We will also cover methods for describing and analyzing inequality, with an emphasis on conceptual fluency and interpretation.

SOCIOLOGY 320.1: INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY **TR** **6:00PM – 7:15PM** *Professor Shane Thye*

SOCIOLOGY 326.1: SOCIOLOGY OF ADOLESCENCE **TR** **1:15PM – 2:30PM** *Professor Caroline Hartnett*

The Life Course Perspective argues that we make active choices to construct our biographies, that things affect us differently depending on when in the life course they happen, that we are shaped by our historical context, that the various domains of our lives (work, family, etc.) are intertwined, and that our biographies are linked to others'. We will use this framework to better understand how social inequalities (particularly related to health, family and fertility patterns, education, and work) emerge and evolve during childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood. This is a reading intensive course in which students are expected to participate in class discussions.

SOCIOLOGY 355.1: RACE AND ETHNIC RELATIONS **TR** **10:05AM – 11:20AM** *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.

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.

SOCIOLOGY 391.1: 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 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.

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

SOCIOLOGY 393.J10: 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.

SOCIOLOGY 525.1: SELVES AND SOCIAL TRANSACTIONS TR 10:05AM – 11:20AM 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

ONLINE

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

4:25PM – 5:40PM

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 Powerpoint presentation based on their projects for a virtual research symposium. Grades are based on intermediate assignments building up to the final written research projects, the two final research reports, and the Powerpoint presentation.

SOCIOLOGY 598.1: SELECTED TOPICS

TR

11:40AM– 12:55PM

Professor Matthew Brashears

SOCIOLOGY 732.1: TOPICS IN THE ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL NETWORKS

TR

11:40AM– 12:55PM

Professor Matthew Brashears
