

SOCIOLOGY, USC, COLUMBIA

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Summer I, II & III 2021

SUMMER I 2021

SOCIOLOGY 101.J10: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **ONLINE** **TBA** *Professor Andrea Henderson-Platt*
May 10-May 28

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 309.J10: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL INEQUALITY **ONLINE** **TBA** *Professor Jennifer Augustine*
May 10 -May 28

This is a class on social inequality, with a general focus on economic inequality, and particular focus on poverty in the United States. As an initial step in the course, we will discuss formal and informal definitions of poverty, as well as approaches to quantitatively measuring it. As part of this ‘big picture’ introduction to the class, we will also discuss trends in poverty in the U.S., both across recent history and across various demographic groups. Building on this knowledge, we will delve into literatures that explore the experience of poverty; for example, how families financially ‘make ends meet,’ its implications for housing and air quality, its connection to neighborhood quality, exposure to stressful environments, access to good schools, and risk of crime victimization. We will then discuss theoretical and substantive perspectives for the causes of poverty, including (a) class reproduction, (b) family structure, (c) education, work and labor markets, and (d) culture. Following that, we will learn about the consequences of poverty in terms of its implications for physical and psychological health, processes of human development, and access to opportunity structures. We will conclude with a discussion of current and proposed future U.S. policy approaches to remediating issues of poverty.

SUMMER II 2021

SOCIOLOGY 101.J11 INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **ONLINE** **TBA** *Hanne Van Der Iest*
June 1 – June 18

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 301.J10 SEX & GENDER ONLINE TBA *Professor Carla Pfeffer*
June 21 – July 9

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 301.J11 SEX & GENDER ONLINE TBA *Atticus Wolfe*
June 21 – July 31

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 302.J10: SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY ONLINE TBA *Professor Mathieu Deflem*
June 21 – July 9

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 507.J10: SOCIOLOGY OF SOCIAL CONTROL ONLINE TBA *Professor Mathieu Deflem*
June 21 – July 9

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
