

SOCIOLOGY, USC, COLUMBIA

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Fall 2019

SOCIOLOGY 101.1: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **MWF** **9:40AM – 10:30AM** **Hanne Van Der Iest**

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 101.2: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **MWF** **10:50AM – 11:40AM** ***Mostafa Mobli***

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 your thoughts, and gain insight into how you shape society and how society shapes you.

SOCIOLOGY 101.3: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **10:05AM – 11:20AM** ***Calley Fisk***

SOCIOLOGY 101.4: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **11:40AM – 12:55PM** ***Mia Brantley***

CONTENT: This course will introduce you to the sociological perspective! Broadly speaking, sociology is the study of society. According to the American Sociological Association, "Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior..." We will examine many of the questions that sociologists ask, the theories that frame these questions and the methods that answer them. We will address several questions such as why is there inequality? Why do some people commit crimes and others don't? Why are there so many problems with the U.S. health care system? Throughout the course of the semester I hope to enhance your ability to think critically, develop your ability to express your thoughts and give your insight on how you shape society and how society shapes you.

REQUIREMENTS: Exams, Quizzes

FORMAT: Lecture, Discussion, Media

SOCIOLOGY 101.5: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **1:15PM – 2:30PM** ***Professor Jason Cummings***

This survey course will explore the way in which social interaction and social structures influence the lives of individuals. The course will begin with an overview of the origins of sociology and will cover a broad sampling of sociological research methods and perspectives. Both the role of science and activist trends in the discipline will be discussed and students will become familiar with the major explanatory paradigms used by sociologists to research and explain social life. Topics such as socialization, stratification, deviance, and social institutions will be addressed. Sociology provides a unique view and explanatory framework for understanding human behavior by addressing the reciprocal influences of individual and social behaviors on social structures and the effects of social structures on

individual thoughts and behaviors. Students taking this course will begin to think critically about social processes and the research of social phenomena and complete the course with a firm foundation in sociology and how the discipline might serve them during their academic career and beyond.

SOCIOLOGY 101.7: 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.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.

SOCIOLOGY 101.H02: 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.H03: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY TR 2:50PM – 4:05PM *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 *Professor Barry Markovsky*

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 101.J11: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY ONLINE TBA *Adrienne Dues*

This course will introduce you to the foundations of sociology! We will examine many of the questions that sociologists ask and the theories that frame these questions. We will address several questions such as why is there inequality? What role does race play in our society? How is our society changing? The course will specifically look at culture, social class and inequality, race ethnicity and gender, health, social deviance, social movements, and social institutions. Using media and film, the course will also include sociological examples occurring in present day society. Throughout the course of the semester I hope to enhance your ability to think critically, develop your ability to express your thoughts, and give your insight on sociological perspectives.

REQUIREMENTS: Exams, Quizzes, Participation

FORMAT: Lecture, Discussion, Media & Film

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

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

SOCIOLOGY 101.J15: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY ONLINE TBA *Hanne Van Der Iest*

SOCIOLOGY 220.1: ELEMENTARY STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS TR 10:05AM – 11:20AM Professor Douglas Anderton

CONTENT: The goal of this course is to improve statistical literacy and provide the skills necessary to conduct basic statistical analysis in the course of sociological research. The course provides a standard introduction to descriptive, inferential and explanatory statistical methods. However, emphasis is also placed on practical applications in the form of spreadsheet and statistical software exercises working from the early stage of data entry through to completed statistical analyses using sociological data. Understanding key concepts will require basic math and benefit from having completed your ARP requirements. However, the emphasis of the course is on statistical concepts and applications rather than a narrowly formulaic mathematical approach to statistics.

REQUIREMENTS: Weekly labs will count for one third of the grade, tests will count for another third of the grade and a final statistical analysis assignment will comprise the remainder of the grade. Standard USC attendance policies will be enforced.

FORMAT: Weekly Lecture, Weekly Lab/Computer Session with Assignment, Three exams. Final written analysis assignment.

SOCIOLOGY 220.2: ELEMENTARY STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS MW 5:30PM – 6:45PM 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 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 MW 2:20PM – 3:35PM 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.

SOCIOLOGY 304.1: RACE, CLASS, GENDER & SEXUALITY **TR** **4:25PM – 5:40PM** *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 inequality and stratification, and will discuss racism, sexism, classism, and heterosexism, as well as possibilities for social change. Students will be graded on Blackboard posts, class presentations and participation, and four response papers.

SOCIOLOGY 305.1: SOCIOLOGY OF FAMILIES **TR** **8:30AM – 9:45AM** *Professor Jennifer Augustine*

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 **MW** **3:55PM – 5:10PM** *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 315.1: GLOBAL POPULATION ISSUES **TR** **2:50PM – 4:05PM** *Zackery Butler*

Content: In this course you will be introduced to population theories, population history, and 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 an/the

- 1) Understanding of human population history
- 2) Ability to apply general demographic theories
- 3) Understanding of current population issues/policies
- 4) Ability to critically evaluate population issues/policies (Existing/Proposed)

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

SOCIOLOGY 320.1: INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY **TR** **4:25PM – 5:40PM** *Professor Shane Thye*

CONTENT: This course is a broad introduction to social psychology. Particular emphasis is placed on the way groups have an effect on human thought and behavior. We examine topics such as perception, status structures, decision making, cults, persuasion, aggression, love, conflict, resolution, and many more.

REQUIREMENTS: There are three in-class exams, each of the same relative weight. While there will be no cumulative final exam you will find that the concepts in this course will necessarily cumulate. Pop quizzes are given in class and a number of short papers are assigned.

FORMAT: Lecture and discussion.

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 360.H01: SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICINE & HEALTH **TR** **11:40AM – 12:55PM** ***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.

SOCIOLOGY 398.1: AFRICAN -AMERICAN & WOMEN’S HEALTH ISSUES **TR** **2:50PM-4:05PM** ***Professor Jason Cummings***

This course critically examines health disparities in the U.S. population across gender, race and ethnicity. Primary attention will be focused on the nature of Black/White and male/female disparities in health and well-being and the patterned ways in which the health of these groups is embedded in the social, cultural, political and economic contexts of their lives. Topics covered include the meaning and measurement of race, persistence and change in U.S. racial and gender health disparities, the ways in which racism and sexism affect health, and an examination of the specific health problems that disproportionately affect women and racial/ethnic minority populations. This course concludes with a discussion of potential challenges and solutions to overcoming and eliminating U.S. health disparities across gender and race.

SOCIOLOGY 460.1: SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH **TR** **1:15PM – 2:30PM** ***Professor Laura Brashears***

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.

SOCIOLOGY 504.1: SOCIAL STRATIFICATION **TR** **11:40AM – 12:55PM** ***Professor Jaclyn Wong***

In this course students will learn to think critically about how valuable resources such as education, income, wealth, and health are unequally distributed across class, gender, race, and sexual identity in American society. Students will engage with contemporary theoretical and empirical scholarly readings as well as materials from popular culture and current events to explore issues related to stratification and inequality. Students will be graded on Blackboard posts, class presentations and participation, and four response papers.

SOCIOLOGY 560.1: ADVANCED SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

TBA

Professor Mathieu Deflem

Instructor permission is required for undergraduates. This course introduces students to selected developments in the foundations of sociological theory. It especially discusses theoretical contributions in the foundational era of sociology, roughly defined as the period that coincided with the rise of classical sociology and the institutionalization of sociology as a social science. Besides the classics, the course also includes some relatively neglected contributions and modern scholars that have made significant theoretical contributions lasting until this day. The introduced variety should also enable students to explore additional theoretical developments independently.

SOCIOLOGY 730.1 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS IN SOCIOLOGY

TBA

Professor Diego Leal Castro

This course is the first building block of the graduate statistics sequence in the Department of Sociology. It is designed to accomplish two tasks. First, the course aims to introduce the student to statistical reasoning and computer programming. Second, the course seeks to introduce students to the use and logic of statistical analysis. The focus of this course will be on hands-on data analysis and the application of basic statistical methods. By the end of the course, students will be able to understand, assess, and criticize the use of basic statistical methods in the social sciences.

SOCIOLOGY 755.1: SOCIAL STRUCTURES & INEQUALITY

TR

11:40AM – 12:55PM

Professor Jaclyn Wong

In this course students will learn to think critically about how valuable resources such as education, income, wealth, and health are unequally distributed across class, gender, race, and sexual identity in American society. Students will engage with contemporary theoretical and empirical scholarly readings as well as materials from popular culture and current events to explore issues related to stratification and inequality. Students will be graded on Blackboard posts, class presentations and participation, and four response papers.

SOCIOLOGY 769.1: SELECTED TOPICS IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

TR

1:15PM – 2:30PM

Professor Laura Brashears

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.
