

SOCIOLOGY, USC, COLUMBIA

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Fall 2022

SOCIOLOGY 101.2: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **11:40AM – 12:55PM** *Samantha Moser*

SOCIOLOGY 101.3: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **1:15PM – 2:30PM** *Professor Brent Simpson*

SOCIOLOGY 101.4: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **MW** **2:20PM – 3:35PM** *Professor Laura Brashears*

SOCIOLOGY 101.6: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **10:05AM – 11:20AM** **Samantha Moser**

This course will offer students an introduction to sociological concepts, theories, methodologies, and topics. The focus of this course will be to help students learn about the function and organization of society from a sociological perspective while also understanding how social circumstances impact individual understanding, action, and life outcomes. Throughout the semester, this course will explore sociological ideas of gender, race, socialization, culture, and inequality. Alongside these topics, this course will also cover how social institutions like religion, health, education, and family influence everyday life experiences and chances. The goal of this course is to help students develop a “sociological imagination,” which can be used in everyday life to think critically about social issues. The information shared in this course will aid students in future studies in a variety of fields and careers while also encouraging the development of critical thinking of the social world.

SOCIOLOGY 101.7: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **6:00PM – 7:15PM** *Professor Shane Thye*

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** **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.

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. Each Module, you will be assessed with two class participation assignments (untimed), homework (untimed), and a timed test.

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

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 101.SL1: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY TR 11:40AM – 12:55PM Samantha Moser

SOCIOLOGY 101.T01: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY TR 6:00PM – 7:15PM TBA

SOCIOLOGY 304.1: RACE, CLASS, GENDER & SEXUALITY TR 8:30AM – 9:45AM Atticus Wolfe

This course offers a sociological approach to understanding the intersection of a variety of sociodemographic characteristics including race, ethnicity, class, gender, sex, sexuality, ability status, and age.

SOCIOLOGY 309.1: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL INEQUALITY TR 10:05AM – 11:20AM Nicholas Heiserman

SOCIOLOGY 330.1: SOCIOLOGY OF THE PARANORMAL TR 11:40AM – 12:55PM Megan Routh

“Using theories and frameworks from sociological social psychology as well as sociology of culture, race, and gender, this course will examine why people believe in and interact with paranormal and horror content, who is most likely to do so, and how the sharing of paranormal information is relevant to current discourse about present-day events. We will also examine how paranormal stories and practices can reinforce or repair social inequities.”

SOCIOLOGY 391.1: SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS TR 1:15PM – 2:30PM *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 11:40AM- 12:30PM *Professor Joseph Quinn*
R 2:50PM – 3:40PM

This introduction to statistical analysis in sociological research will provide students with a set of skills necessary interpret, evaluate, and produce quantitative empirical evidence about topics that sociologists study. Students will explore topics in basic probability that underpin the logic of quantitative research design and learn how to interpret a set of common statistical methods for describing and making inferences about patterns in social data. The course will emphasize applying these methods: students will learn how to use statistical software to analyze data from surveys and experiments about real-world social science research questions.

REQUIREMENTS: Because each class session builds on the last, attendance is required and is 10% of each students' grade. While the course has no prerequisites, it is strongly recommended that students complete USC's ARP requirement prior to taking this course.

FORMAT: Classes will convene three times a week – twice for lecture, and once for a weekly lab component. Assignments include weekly problem sets (40%), lecture quizzes (10%), and a midterm and final exam (20% each).

SOCIOLOGY 392.2: ELEMENTARY STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS TR 11:40AM – 12:30PM *Professor Joseph Quinn*
F 10:50AM – 11:40AM

SOCIOLOGY 393.J11: 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 398.1: REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS TR 2:50PM – 4:05PM *Professor Kathleen Broussard*

Reproductive health and rights in a global context. Students will examine how people's reproductive behaviors and experiences are governed by larger social and structural forces that contribute to inequality. Assignments include weekly readings, short essays, and a final independent research project.

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

This is a fully online 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.

SOCIOLOGY 515.1: SCIENTIFIC METHODS & SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRY TR 2:50PM – 4:05PM *Professor Brent Simpson*

This course examines the nature of sociological theory, with special emphasis on its development and application to sociological questions. We focus on learning how to ask interesting and important sociological questions and developing clear, testable, arguments to answer those questions. Early in the course, students will gain experience and skills in developing, analyzing and testing theories. Thereafter, we will look at theory development and testing "in practice" using contemporary sociological research. Finally, students will develop their research projects.

SOCIOLOGY 557.1: SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION & INEQUALITY TR 10:05AM – 11:20AM *Professor Laura Brashears*

Are schools the great equalizer in the United States? We will tackle this "big question" in Sociology of Education and Inequality this semester. To tackle this question, we will first need to think about what we believe education is. We have all had experiences at school, and have developed beliefs about how schools work, why some people achieve more at school, why certain groups have systematically different educational outcomes, and how we might change or improve our education system.

In this class, we will challenge and expand our preexisting beliefs of these issues, by critically engaging with literature in sociology and elsewhere. I encourage you to use our conversations to broaden your understanding of how education works as we think about the role

of school structure, families, cultural and social capital, and social networks in creating and reproducing inequality, and then turn our attention to imagining workable solutions to such inequality.

SOCIOLOGY 561.1: REAL WORLD 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 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.

Prerequisites for undergraduates: SOCY 101 Introductory Sociology; SOCY 391 Sociological Research Methods; SOCY 392 Elementary Statistics for Sociologists

SOCIOLOGY 729.1: INTERVIEW METHODS MW 3:55PM– 5:10PM *Professor Jaclyn Wong*

In this course students will design and conduct a research project using qualitative interview methods. First, students will learn how to pose appropriate research questions that can be answered with in-depth interview data. Then, students will select an appropriate interview sample and design an interview guide. Next, students will practice virtual and in-person face-to-face interviewing techniques. Finally, students will learn qualitative coding skills, produce an analysis, and write up findings in a format appropriate for a scholarly journal. Throughout the course students will also read exemplary research highlighting class topics, ethics, and reflexivity. Grades are based on intermediate assignments building up to the final written research paper

SOCIOLOGY 730.1: STATISTICAL ANALYSIS IN SOCIOLOGY TR 11:40AM– 12:55PM *Professor Matthew Brashears*
