

SOCIOLOGY, USC, COLUMBIA

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FALL 2024

SOCIOLOGY 101.2: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **11:40AM – 12:55PM** *Erin Davenport*

This interactive class will push students to question the society they live in. Things that seem “just the way things are” have underlying structural and societal significance. In SOCY 101 we will peel back those layers and try to make sense of the world around us using lenses of different theoretical perspectives. Curiosity is key to enjoying this class! Participation is emphasized, and this course features small assignments and consistent work across time rather than larger projects or assignments at the end.

SOCIOLOGY 101.3 INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **2:50PM – 4:05PM** *Erin Davenport*

This is an in-person class that relies heavily on in-class discussion and short activities to create an active and engaging learning environment. Although attendance is not required and is not graded as participation, the in-class discussions and activities *are* graded as participation. Lecture notes and PowerPoint slides will not be shared with students. The one exception is when PowerPoint slides contain information not provided in the textbook. There are weekly quizzes (multiple choice, multiple answer, matching, or true/false), and weekly activities online via InQuizitive (provided with the textbook). There are also 3 exams for this class, they are scenario-based, providing students with real world examples with which to apply sociological theories, concepts, and terms. Exams are taken in class during our class time, the only item allowed during the exams is the writing utensil used to complete it. There are no writing assignments, no cumulative exams (covering half or all of the course’s content, such as on a final exam), and no group projects. Extra credit opportunities will be provided.

SOCIOLOGY 101.4: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **MW** **2:20PM – 3:35PM** *Victoria Money*

SOCIOLOGY 101.5: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **11:40AM – 12:55PM** *Professor Joseph Quinn*

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 101.6: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **10:05AM – 11:20AM** *Valerie Barron*

This course will introduce you to the foundations of sociology! Throughout the semester, we will consider some common sociological questions as we learn about the theories that are often used to frame these questions. Using a sociological perspective, we will examine how external social forces affect all aspects of our lives -from our opportunities and failures to our likes and dislikes- and we will discuss how we often are completely unaware of these processes. Just think how your core values and beliefs could be different had you grown up in a different country, or as a different race, or even in a different time period. Sociology provides a unique perspective to examining our social world in many ways. It not only traces how people are shaped by the society that they are in but also how people shape society. This course will help you develop a greater understanding of these processes while introducing some of the most important areas of study within the growing field of sociology

SOCIOLOGY 101.7: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **4:25PM – 5:40PM** *Nicolas Harder*

This course will introduce you to the “sociological imagination”, a concept which is vital for understanding the broader context of one’s life and experiences in relation to larger society. This course will review theories, methodologies, vocabulary, and themes in the field of sociology. It will focus on the social structures that organize society, with emphasis on how these structures influence 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. Course instruction will be divided between lectures, class activities and discussion, and media intended to illustrate course concepts. At the end of this course students will have a basic comprehension of sociological concepts, recognize the influences of social structures on their lives, and be able to apply course concepts to understanding social issues.

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

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 theory and 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 religion are also covered. Student assessment takes the form of three examinations and several film assignments. 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 **100% online 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. We will focus on evidence and facts, and we will learn why sociology is necessary for good policy and good citizenship.

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. Topics include culture, social norms, social networks, trust, crime, inequality, race, gender, marriage and family, research methods, education, and happiness, among others.

The course is divided into 14 Modules. Each Module contains video lectures, readings, and other media. For each Module, you will be assessed with a class participation assignment, homework, and a short, timed, quiz. Although this course will be asynchronous online, you can expect frequent communication and guidance from me, and many opportunities for interaction with your fellow students.

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 301.2: SEX & GENDER TR 4:25PM – 5:40PM *Erin Davenport*

This course offers a sociological lens to develop critical ways of thinking about sex and gender as social processes in everyday lives. Students will explore different theories about sex and gender, as well as think about how they operate as social categories in intuitions like government, media, education etc. Students should take this course if they are looking to explore these ideas in a participation-heavy and application-based manner.

SOCIOLOGY 311.1: ECOLOGY OF HUMAN SOCIAL SYSTEMS TR 10:05AM – 11:20AM *Erin Davenport*

This course focuses on how both individuals and systems control the relationship between humans and the environment. We will investigate why natural disasters do not affect people equally, and why access to green space is stratified. We will explore impacts of colonization on environments. We will evaluate how social position affects access to resources and how governments and corporations manage resources. We will study influential figures in environmental movements and evaluate those figures' ability to produce social change. Overall if you are interested in society and the environment and are willing to contribute to class discussions that challenge you, this would be a good fit.

SOCIOLOGY 320.1: INDIVIDUAL & SOCIETY TR 6:00PM – 7:15PM *Professor Shane Thyne*

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 and the way that humans impact group outcomes. We examine topics such as perception, status structures, decision making, cults, persuasion, aggression, love, conflict, 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.

FORMAT: Lecture and discussion

SOCIOLOGY 355.1: RACE & ETHNIC RELATIONS TR 1:15PM – 2:30PM *Professor Laura Brashears*

Over 200 years since the founding of the United States, race and ethnicity continue to be key characteristics separating Americans from one another. In this course we will critically examine race and ethnicity in the American context. We will begin the course by examining the history of racial and ethnic distinctions in the U.S. and sociological explanations for such distinctions. We will then analyze the lived experiences of different racial and ethnic groups in the United States, with an eye towards understanding similarities and differences in the processes that affect these groups. We will end the course by speculating on the future of racial and ethnic relations as we enter the 21st Century and contemplating what each of us can do in our own lives to challenge the reality of racial and ethnic inequalities.

SOCIOLOGY 368.H01: SOCIETY THROUGH VISUAL MEDIA TR 1:15PM – 2:30PM *Professor Andrea Henderson-Platt*
Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students

In this class, we will view and analyze popular movies and music to help students apply sociological concepts. We will actively discuss the ways in which these various forms of media may uncritically transmit stereotypes, misconceptions and ideologies regarding race, class, gender, sexuality, and other aspects of social life. To help us explore these issues, we will use readings from sociological experts and produce several short assignments. This is not a class on film theory or production or the film industry, but rather the sociological implications of media— using various sources. Expect to have fun because the way you look at media may change after this class.

SOCIOLOGY 391.1: SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS TR 8:30AM- 9:45AM TBA

SOCIOLOGY 392.1: ELEMENTARY STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS TR 10:05AM- 11:20AM *Professor Jun Zhao*

This course covers the various ways in which empirical information is obtained and analyzed in social science. Statistical techniques covered will include ways to describe center and spread, t-tests, linear regression, chi-square, and complex analysis of variance (ANOVA), as well as the use of a common statistical program to analyze data.

This course is designed to introduce you to the logic of statistical analysis, not to test your mathematical abilities. Rudimentary familiarity with basic arithmetic and a few algebraic functions will suffice for the material presented in the course. This means that, even if you are insecure about your math prowess, this class should not intimidate you. More than anything, **success in this course requires diligence**. The material covered in the course is very incremental, with the presentation of new material building on what you have learned in earlier segments of the course. *You will have the greatest chance of success if you attend class regularly, take meticulous notes, keep up on your reading, and make sure to visit office hours to get clarification on issues about which you are unsure.*

SOCIOLOGY 392.2: ELEMENTARY STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS W 10:50AM – 11:40AM *Professor Joseph Quinn*
TR 1:15PM – 2:05PM

This introduction to statistical analysis in social 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 apply and 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.

SOCIOLOGY 393.J11: SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY TBA *Professor Mathieu Deflem*

This course presents an introduction to the major developments in sociological theory. The approach is both chronological and perspective-oriented, including classical as well as modern and contemporary theories. The central focus is on the foundations of sociological theory and its more recent contrasting variations. The course is not only conceptual, but also includes applications to explore the fruitfulness of sociological theory for the empirical analysis of various issues in society, such as law, deviance, culture, family, religion, and politics. The assignments include three tests, six forum posts (short essays), optional discussion opportunities, and one comprehensive final exam. This is a fully online distributed-learning course delivered through Blackboard (100% Web Asynchronous).

SOCIOLOGY 398.1: SOCIOLOGY OF WORK & INEQUALITY TR 10:05AM – 11:20AM *Professor Jennifer Augustine*

In this new class, we will examine how the institution of work shapes class, gender, and racial inequalities. We will focus on structural, social, and cultural dimensions of the U.S labor market, and how such factors contribute to various forms of inequality, including disparities in wages, time, employment, status and prestige, social support, mental and physical health, mobility, parenting opportunities, and opportunities for self-development and personal satisfaction. We will explore these issues through readings that are drawn from an array of sources, including books, journals, and popular press; in-class and at-home activities, and class discussions. This

class will help you think about work as something more than what you will do to earn a living. You will come to see it as a larger social system that stratifies who can access the various benefits that work can potentially confer, and who pays the non-economic costs of work.

SOCIOLOGY 504.1: SOCIAL STRATIFICATION **TR** **10:05AM – 11:20AM** **TBA**

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

This upper-level undergraduate course deals with the sociological study of social control, i.e., the definition of and response to crime and/or deviance. The course primarily discusses the official treatment of crime through formal systems of criminal justice. The specific themes of the course include: an overview of relevant theories; the history of the concept of social control; the perspective of discipline and its relevance for the study of surveillance; the role of police, including international police cooperation; and aspects of the policing of terrorism, both at home and abroad. The assignments include three tests, six forum posts (short essays), optional discussion opportunities, and one comprehensive final exam. This is a fully online distributed-learning course delivered through Blackboard (100% Web Asynchronous).

SOCIOLOGY 515.1: SCIENTIFIC METHODS & SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRY **T** **1:30PM – 4:00PM** *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 561.1: REAL WORLD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE **TR** **11:40AM – 12:55PM** *Professor James Adams*

In this course, we will continue to develop the logic and corresponding toolkits of sociological methods through applied, hands-on research experience. This will entail a combination of research design and data analysis projects, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative approaches. We will collectively identify a course-wide research topic, then subdivide that topic into individual and small-group projects that address specific research questions pertaining to the overarching theme. In turn, we will (1) identify existing data sources, and (2) design then collect original data to examine those questions from triangulated perspectives. Primary outputs of this work will include (a) written research reports and (b) presentation elements. Along the way, class meeting sessions will focus on learning and refining particular skills expected to be used in the conduct of these projects.

SOCIOLOGY 598.1 COVERT SOCIAL NETWORKS **TR** **11:40AM – 12:55PM** *Professor Matthew Brashears*

Social networks are assemblies of entities, such as people, connected to each other with formal and informal relationships. These networks are critical to the function of virtually all social entities, including corporations, governments, and voluntary associations, among others. In this course we consider covert social networks, or social networks that are attempting to remain partially or entirely unobserved by outsiders, including criminal organizations, transnational terrorists, and some types of sexual kink networks, to name a few. We will explore the unique difficulties encountered by covert social networks, as well as their peculiar strengths, and points of commonality with conventional networks. We will begin with a discussion of what is meant by a social network, introduce the problems and opportunities faced by such structures when they attempt to remain covert, and discuss possible methods for finding them. We will consider specific examples, including corporate malfeasance, transnational terrorist networks, as well as domestic terror groups, with a particular focus on modern forms of distributed, asymmetric warfare. Students in the class will also participate in a simulation project where they take the role of intelligence agencies attempting to unravel a simulated terror plot using regularly provided intelligence reports as well as online research. Students will develop skills in researching and analyzing covert groups, improved awareness of national security issues, and build skills valuable to national security and intelligence agencies, as well as cybersecurity and risk mitigation firms.

SOCIOLOGY 730.1: STATISTICAL ANALYSIS IN SOCIOLOGY TR 11:40AM– 12:55PM Professor Jun Zhao

This is the first in a two-course sequence of graduate statistic courses. In this course, we will build a foundation for you to take to SOCY 731 in the Spring. Thus, this course will cover the elementary and intermediate quantitative techniques utilized in sociological investigation. Your goal should be to understand the logic of quantitative social research and the statistical analysis of social data. You should work to develop a solid base of knowledge from which you can critically evaluate the quality of statistical evidence produced by social scientists and the popular press; to appreciate both the relevance, importance, and limitation of statistics.

SOCIOLOGY 732.1 COVERT SOCIAL NETWORKS TR 11:40AM – 12:55PM Professor Matthew Brashears
