

SOCIOLOGY, USC, COLUMBIA

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Spring 2021

SOCIOLOGY 101.1: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

Online

TBA

Mia Brantley

This course offers you an introduction to the theories, methodologies, vocabulary, and themes in the field of sociology. It will focus on the organization and function 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 family, health, and education, influence everyday life chances. The purpose of the course is to instill in you the ability to apply a sociological lens 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, as well as encourage the development of critically thinking about important social issues.

SOCIOLOGY 101.2: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

Online

TBA

Zackery Butler

TEXT: You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist, 6th Edition by Dalton Conley CONTENT: In this course you will be introduced to the discipline of sociology. By learning about sociological theories, terms, and methods, you can develop your own "Sociological Imagination." A way of looking at our social world that allows us to go beyond our everyday understanding to reveal the complexity of social processes. REQUIREMENTS: 3 Online Exams (27% of course grade) Online Blackboard Quizzes (47% of course grade) Kahoot! (13% of course grade) Discussion Boards-- (13% of course grade) FORMAT: Online Asynchronous

SOCIOLOGY 101.3: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

Online

TBA

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 101.4: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

Online

TBA

Patricia Lewis

SOCIOLOGY 101.5: 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 101.8: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY Online TBA 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 101.9: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY Online TBA Patricia Lewis

SOCIOLOGY 101.10: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY Online TBA Patricia Lewis

SOCIOLOGY 101.H02: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY Online Thursday 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 Online Thursday 10:05am-11:20am Professor Laura Brashears
Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students

SOCIOLOGY 101.H04: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY Tuesday & Thursday 2:50pm-4:05pm Professor Jason Cummings
Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students

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.

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 220.1: ELEMENTARY STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS **Online** **Tuesday & Thursday** **1:15pm-2:30pm**
Nicholas Heiserman

The goal of this course is to improve statistical literacy and provide the skills necessary to conduct and interpret statistical analyses in sociological research. We will focus on conceptual foundations, such as statistical distributions and hypothesis testing, as well as their applications to specific analysis techniques. We will emphasize understanding when different analyses are appropriate and when their use is limited, and apply these skills to examples of statistical analyses using sociological data. The course requires basic mathematical skills, but the course is oriented more towards conceptual literacy than formulas or rote memorization.

SOCIOLOGY 220.2: ELEMENTARY STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS **Online** **TBA** **Nicholas Heiserman**

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 Online Tuesday & Thursday 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 315.1: GLOBAL POPULATION ISSUES Tuesday & Thursday 4:25pm-5:40pm Zackery Butler

SOCIOLOGY 326.1: SOCIOLOGY OF ADOLESCENCE Online Tuesday & Thursday 4pm-5:15pm *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 360.1: SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICINE & HEALTH Online Monday & Friday 10:50am-12:05pm
*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 360.J10: SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICINE & HEALTH

Online

TBA

Nicole Lampe

The sociology of medicine and health is a broad field examining the social construction and production of health, wellness, illness and mortality. To understand health and illness, we must look beyond biology and medical knowledge, and consider the social, political, economic, and cultural forces which produce health. We will survey the central topics in the field, with emphasis on the following themes: the structural and cultural dimensions of health; health inequalities; the profession of medicine; the experience of illness; and attempts to reform healthcare. Throughout the course, we will apply sociological theory and recent scholarship from across the social sciences to make sense of contemporary issues in health and medicine. Although the course focuses on the United States, we will try whenever possible to place issues in a global context

SOCIOLOGY 368.1: SOCIOLOGY THROUGH VISUAL MEDIA

Online

TBA

Professor Andrea Henderson-Platt

This class is an opportunity for students to develop their sociological imaginations through viewing, discussing, and analyzing various forms of media, including film, photography and music. We will evaluate these various forms of media for the ways in which they uncritically transmit stereotypes, misconceptions and ideologies regarding race, class, gender, and sexuality. It is not a class on film theory or production or the film industry, but rather the sociological implications of media— using various mediums as a sociological data source. Expect to be challenged, but also have fun, because the way you look at media may change after this class.

SOCIOLOGY 540.J10: SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

Online

TBA

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 557.1: SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION & INEQUALITY

Online

Tuesday

1:15pm-2:30pm

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: INTEGRATIVE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Online

TBA

Professor Jaclyn Wong

In this course students will conduct one quantitative and one qualitative research project. For the first project, students will download, clean, describe, and run bivariate and regression analyses of General Social Survey (GSS) data. 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. At the end of the semester, students will choose one of their projects to present during a class research symposium.

SOCIOLOGY 598.1: SELECTED TOPICS: INTERVIEW METHODS Online TBA *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. The class will conclude with a research symposium in which students present their findings. 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 project and Powerpoint presentation.

SOCIOLOGY 729.1: SELECTED SOCIOLOGICAL TOPICS: INTERVIEW METHODS Online *Professor Jaclyn Wong*

**SOCIOLOGY 731.1: TOPICS IN QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF SOCIOLOGICAL DATA Online Tuesday 11:40am-12:55pm
*Professor Matthew Brashears***

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to more exotic versions of linear models allowing the analysis of data that do not conform to the assumptions of OLS regression. OLS is a powerful technique, but makes a number of assumptions that are difficult or impossible to substantiate in many real-world applications. As a consequence, its versatility is more apparent than real. We will explore a variety of alternative “flavors” of regression, as well as one non-regression based technique, allowing the researcher to address questions in these alternative cases. We will not have time to cover all possible models, but will instead explore a selection of models based on their utility in conducting social research and/or their conceptual usefulness in introducing classes of models. We will also learn about implementations of these techniques in Stata.

By the completion of class (i.e., our course objectives) students should be familiar with multiple non-OLS approaches to data analysis, be capable of using these techniques to analyze unfamiliar data, and should have continued to develop their skills with appropriate statistical software.

SOCIOLOGY 732.1: TOPICS IN THE ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL NETWORKS Online Tuesday 4:25pm-7:10pm *Professor Diego Leal Castro*

This is a course on inferential network analysis. This is the second class of a one-year sequence on social network analysis that started in the Fall of 2020 with SOCY 500 (Social Networks). In social network analysis, inferential methods are typically used to test hypothesis about the emergence and evolution of a network, and to derive probabilistic models that describe a network. In this class we will study models that can be parametrized to represent complex network processes, including the role of exogenous covariates (e.g., ERGMs); models that can be used to account for network dependencies without parametrizing complex network processes (e.g., MR-QAP, Latent Space Models); and models for longitudinal networks (e.g., TERGMs, SABMs). We will study each model, discuss published papers that use these methods, and practice how to implement these models using R.

SOCIOLOGY 746.1: SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY Online Monday 8:30am-11:15am *Professor Jennifer Augustine*

This is a graduate level course that aims to engage in contemporary sociological debates through a feminist lens about the state of modern families, with a focus on U.S. families and sociological research produced by U.S. family scholars and five particular questions.

- 1) How and why do men and women arrange themselves into different familial arrangements and how have these arrangements, as well as the processes that precede and characterize them, changed over the past several decades?

- 2) How does gender constrain and structure men and women's family lives, particularly in terms of their caregiving behaviors and the ability to negotiate work-family conflicts?
 - 3) How do race, class, and sexuality shape various dimensions of family life, including parenting, the division of labor, the provision of emotional support, and access to resources needed to support family members?
 - 4) How have policies responded—or not responded—to these issues, and what potential policy solutions might exist to address some of them?
 - 5) How have scholars and public rhetoric framed discussions on the state of today's families, and how would you characterize both these discussions, as well as your own view on the state of today's families?
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SOCIOLOGY 759.1: SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION & INEQUALITY Online Tuesday 1:15pm-2:30pm Professor Laura Brashears
