

# SOCIOLOGY, USC, COLUMBIA

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### SPRING 2023

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.1: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **TR**      **8:30AM – 9:45AM**      *Atticus Wolfe*

“This course offers an introduction to the principles, frameworks, theories, and perspectives of sociology as a scientific study of sociocultural structures and how individuals engage within them.”

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.2: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **TR**      **1:15PM – 2:30PM**      *Megan Routh*

“This course offers you 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, we will examine how social institutions, such as religion, family, health, and education, influence everyday life chances. The purpose of the course is to instill in you a “sociological imagination,” 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 and encourage the development of critical thinking about important social issues.”

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.3: 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.

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.4: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **TR**      **11:40AM – 12:55PM**      *Nicholas Heiserman*

This course is a selective survey of sociology. One of the many great things about sociology is its breadth. But that also makes it impossible to cover all the issues that deserve attention in a survey course. Thus, our coverage will be selective. We will focus primarily on questions related to how social order exists (and why it sometimes breaks down); the powerful roles that gender, race, and social class play in your life, how you view the world, and how others view you; and some of the many ways that social networks and other social forces powerfully impact your life (for better or worse), including whether you’ll be happy and whether (and whom) you will marry. The overall goal will be to help you understand how to think like a sociologist and how sociology can be used to make the world better and more interesting.

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.5: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **MWF**      **10:50AM – 11:40AM**      *Valerie Barron*

“This course will broadly introduce students to the field of sociology. Here we will learn how to use the sociological perspective to identify sociological facts and principles in our analysis of group-making processes and products.”

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.9: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **MW**      **8:05AM – 9:20AM**      **TBA**

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.10: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **MW**      **3:55PM – 5:10PM**      **TBA**

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.H02: 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.

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**SOCIOLOGY 101.H03: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **TR**      **1:15PM – 2:30PM**      ***Professor Laura Brashears***  
***Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students***

**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 a class participation assignment, homework, and a timed test.

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

**SOCIOLOGY 101.J14: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **ONLINE**      **TBA**      ***Hanne Van Der Iest***

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**SOCIOLOGY 301.1: SEX & GENDER**      **MWF**      **9:40AM – 10:30AM**      *Erin Davenport*

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.). Active learning and discussion will be used to create an engaged learning community.

Prerequisite: SOCY 101.

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**SOCIOLOGY 304.1: RACE, CLASS, GENDER & SEXUALITY**      **MWF**      **1:10PM – 2:00PM**      *Erin Davenport*

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 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 the social processes producing inequality and stratification, and will discuss racism, patriarchy, capitalism, and heteronormativity. Active learning and discussion will be used to create an engaged learning community.

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**SOCIOLOGY 305.J10: SOCIOLOGY OF FAMILIES**      **TR**      **11:40AM – 12:55PM**      *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.

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**SOCIOLOGY 307.1: SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION**      **TR**      **10:05AM – 11:20AM**      *Professor Andrea Henderson-Platt*

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**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

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**SOCIOLOGY 368.1: SOCIOLOGY THROUGH VISUAL MEDIA**      **TR**      **11:40AM – 12:55PM**      *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.

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**SOCIOLOGY 391.1: SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS** TR 1:15PM – 2:30PM *Professor Kathleen Broussard*

Introduction to the methods of social science research, including both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

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**SOCIOLOGY 392.1: ELEMENTARY STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS** TR 2:50PM- 4:05PM *Professor Joseph Quinn*  
W 2:20PM – 3:10PM

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).

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**SOCIOLOGY 392.2: ELEMENTARY STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS** TR 2:50PM – 4:05PM *Professor Joseph Quinn*  
R 1:15PM – 2:05PM

**SOCIOLOGY 398.H01: REPRODUCTIVE GOVERNANCE & RESISTANCE** TR 2:50PM – 4:05PM *Professor Kathleen Broussard*  
*Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students*

Reproductive governance and resistance in a global context. Students will gain foundational knowledge of common reproductive health events and learn about the social forces that contribute to reproductive (in)justice.

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**SOCIOLOGY 500.1: SOCIAL NETWORKS** TR 4:25PM – 5:40PM *Professor Joseph Quinn*

This course will introduce students to the principles and history of social network analysis. Topics will include the social and theoretical foundations of modern network analysis methods, strategies for collecting and managing network data, and analysis with visual and statistical tools. The course will also include a survey of current applications of social network analysis within the social sciences. Prerequisites: SOCY 392 or an equivalent elementary statistics course involving the use of a programming language.

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**SOCIOLOGY 504.1: SOCIAL STRATIFICATION** MW 2:20PM – 3:35PM *Professor Jaclyn Wong*

In this course students will learn about the social structures and processes that unequally distribute valuable resources such as education, income, wealth, and health across social class, gender, race, and sexual identity in the United States. 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 participation in class discussion/activities and four response papers detailing what is necessary for justice in these arenas of social life (4-5 pages each). Graduate students will write one research paper (10-20 pages) in lieu of the four response papers.

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**SOCIOLOGY 511.1: SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH** TR 10:05AM – 11:20AM *Professor Laura Brashears*

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**SOCIOLOGY 511.H10: SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH** TR 10:05AM – 11:20AM *Professor Laura Brashears*  
*Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students*

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**SOCIOLOGY 561.J56: REAL WORLD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE** MW 3:55PM – 5:10PM *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.

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**SOCIOLOGY 562.1: ADVANCED SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS** T 1:30PM– 4:15PM *Professor Shane Thye*

This course focuses on the range of methodological approaches adopted by social scientists. Special attention is paid to the role of sociological theory in the design of research.

Students who take this course are expected to have knowledge of introductory statistics and an interest in conducting original empirical research. This class is comprised of numerous components. We first consider basic research concepts, theory, and fundamentals. We then examine and consider with a more critical focus, the primary methods that sociologists traditionally used to acquire data; surveys, in-depth interviews, ethnographic methods, experiments, and archival methods, as well as the mixing of methods

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**SOCIOLOGY 731.1: QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF SOCIOLOGICAL DATA** TR 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.

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