SOC 104 Elements of Sociology  
Sandra Albrecht

The main objective of this course is to give you an overview of the social science discipline of sociology. The course is divided into three main parts. In Part I, The Foundations of Sociology, we will begin with the sociological perspective, introduce some of our major historical and contemporary theorists, and cover the methodologies that sociologists use to understand the social world. In addition, we will explore the meanings of culture and take an historical look at the concept of society. In Part II, The Individual and Society, we will look at the influence of socialization, the complexities of everyday human interactions and social deviance. In Part III, Social Inequality and Social Change, we will focus on class, race, gender, and aging and how these influence our lives.

SOC 104 Elements of Sociology  
Lisa-Marie Wright

This class is an introduction to sociology, with a major emphasis on non-Western cultures and on historical time-periods that may be unfamiliar to you. Themes to be covered include: sociology as a discipline, inequality, social control, principles of social structure, conflict, authority, prejudice, genocide, family structure, gender, personality, change, childrearing, cross-cultural study, and global society.

SOC 105 Elements of Sociology, Honors  
Eric Hanley

The goal of this course is to provide a foundational understanding of sociology as a discipline, including its core ideas and concepts. We will pay particular attention to social issues related to capitalism as a system, and to social class, ethnicity, gender, age and sexual orientation as structuring agents within that system. We will explore a world that is increasingly mass-mediated, considering the ways that media inform and shape our identities and our perceptions of "life." Throughout the course, we will apply a sociological lens to our own everyday lives as we critically examine various aspects of our society and culture that often go unnoticed or unquestioned. Open only to students on the dean's honor roll or enrolled in the Honors Program, or consent of instructor.

SOC 110 American Identities  
AMS Staff

An introduction to the backgrounds, cultures, and institutions of diverse groups in American society. Analysis of American diversity through the study of factors such as ethnicity, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, region and age. Not open to students who have taken SOC 112 or AMS 112, (Same as AMS 110)

SOC 130 Comparative Societies  
Mehrangiz Najafizadeh

This course uses sociological concepts and theories to provide a more complete understanding of the transition of various social structures and sociocultural systems of the world. The course begins by applying major theoretical perspectives in sociology to a general analysis of culture and its various components. The course then focuses in greater detail on economic and political institutions and comparatively examines the transition of societies through different stages of change, from early hunting and gathering societies to contemporary societies in the age of globalization. Different societies are used as case studies and examples.

SOC 132 American Societies, Honors  
Robert Antonio

This course will engage the social institutions, social movements, and culture of the late 20th and early 21st century U.S. It will address major social divisions (e.g. race, class, gender, ethnicity), contested social and political issues, and primary forms of community. A central focus will be on the tensions between American democratic ideals and American society's primary modes of consumption, distribution, mass communication, individualization, and participation. These issues will be considered in light of the U.S.' place in a more globalized world facing serious economic, geopolitical, and ecological problems. The instructor will occasionally lecture, but the course will have a seminar format. Students will read and discuss primary texts on the topics mentioned above and will write short and long response papers about the texts.
SOC 150 Self and Society  
Nate Freiburger  
Discusses the way our identities, values, and behavior have been and are shaped by social and situational factors. Attention is paid to the influence of factors like bodies, cognition, social roles, culture, and broad structures of inequality and power on how we see ourselves and others. May not be taken by anyone who has completed SOC 305 or its equivalent.

SOC 160 Social Problems and American Values  
Staff  
This course is designed to explore competing explanations for the causes of, and cures for, the enduring problems of American society. The course critically analyzes dominant definitions of social problems, the political and economic roots of these problems, and the public policies aimed at reducing them. May not be taken by anyone who has already completed SOC 306 or its equivalent.

SOC 177 First Year Seminar: What Gender is Your Jayhawk?  
Joey Sprague  
Are college men all that different from college women? Do they think differently, speak differently, have different values and skills? In cases where we seem to see different behaviors and different outcomes, what explains them? Most people assume that boys and girls are different creatures from birth or, at least, become different through socialization very early in life. Is that the case? Or, if we look carefully, can we actually see gender differences being actively created and re-created on campus? In their research, sociologists have identified several ways social groups create the impression that gender differences are natural. They have studied the messages conveyed through cultural artifacts and found they teach us to think in gendered terms without our necessarily knowing it. They have shown how often we decide how to behave in a social situation by taking into account how we anticipate others will react to our choices and anticipating the consequences. They have analyzed how what seem to be neutral methods of designing organizations and evaluating performances are actually, and typically unintentionally, creating gender differences in outcomes—that is, inequality.

We will read some of this research and then use it as a foothold from which to design ways to ask and answer the same questions on our campus and in our town. Sociologists find clues to what is happening in a lot of different places. We will be involved in finding and analyzing the messages in documents and visual images, in observing interactions in different social spaces. We might end up interviewing other students and teachers. We might even go to a football game.

SOC 177 First Year Seminar: Everyday Surveillance  
William Staples  
In this First Year seminar we will explore the changing ways in which the personal details of our lives are collected, stored, and used to influence and manage us. Surveillance practices raise a host of social, political, and economic questions that can be addressed from a number of vantage points. We will trace the historical development of contemporary practices of surveillance and we will discuss some of the key conceptual and political issues framing surveillance debates. Of special concern will be current techniques and technologies, such as closed circuit video cameras, surveillance online, cellular networks, and genetic and biometric identifiers, as well as the development of an ethical and political response to surveillance practices.

SOC 220 Sociology of Families  
Staff  
Analysis of the family as a social institution primarily in the U.S. context. Topics considered are: current and historical changes in how the family is constituted, contrasting sociological theories of family relationships, sexuality in relation to family life, the coexistence of love and hate in families, family dissolution and reformation, and the care of children. A key theme is diversity; social class, gender, race/ethnicity, and age.

SOC 260 America’s Latinos/Latinas  
AMS Staff  
An introduction to the Latino/a population (Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cuban-Americans, Dominican-Americans, and Central and South Americans) in the US. Students discuss how US and Latin American societies have shaped Latino incorporation into the United States. We also discuss contemporary political, cultural and social issues that pertain to Latinos/as in the US. (Same as AMS 260) LEC
SOC 304 Principles of Sociology (Edwards Campus)  Staff
The study of social life, including how human groups are organized, how they change, and how they influence individuals. Consideration is given to a variety of human organizations and social institutions and how these groups and institutions both determine, and are determined by, human beings.

SOC 310 Introduction to Social Research  Nate Freiburger
This course is an introduction to social research methods used in sociology. It is designed for sociology majors and minors. Its main goal is to make students informed, sophisticated, critical readers of social research. Students in this course will start by exploring the relationship between theory and research and by learning how to recognize and pose researchable sociological questions; learn how to critically evaluate and apply different research designs that may be used to answer those questions; and propose, design, and implement an actual “pilot” research project. Prerequisite: Sociology 104.

SOC 310 Introduction to Social Research  William Staples
This course is an introduction to social research methods used in sociology. It is designed for sociology majors and minors. Its main goal is to make students informed, sophisticated, critical readers of social research. Students in this course will start by exploring the relationship between theory and research and by learning how to recognize and pose researchable sociological questions; learn how to critically evaluate and apply different research designs that may be used to answer those questions; and propose, design, and implement an actual “pilot” research project. Prerequisite: Sociology 104.

SOC 330 American Society  Sandra Albrecht
An exploration of both contemporary and historical dimensions of class, race, and gender in American society. In Part I, Class, Economy, and the Labor Movement, we will look at the current period and what is now being called the Great Recession and its impact on workers, concluding with a look at the American Labor Movement. In Part II, we will focus on race, with our primary attention focused on the Civil Rights Movement and its significance to the contemporary period. And, in Part III, we will focus on gender and U.S. women’s movements.

SOC 330 American Society  Staff
The social structure and organization of American society with special reference to long-term and recent social changes. (Same as AMS 330). Not open to students with credit for SOC 132. Prerequisite a principle course in Sociology.

SOC 332 The United States in Global Context  AMS Staff
An examination of the historical, social, cultural, economic, religious, and political context of the development of the United States and its role as a global power. The primary focus will be on the dynamic role of the United States in a global context—in other words, on assessing the impact of broad external forces on the United States and the global impact of American policies and practices. Among the issues the course will examine are the role of race, ethnicity, migration, technology, communications and media, popular culture, language, domestic and transnational organizations, as well as economic, political, religious, and educational institutions. (Same as AMS 332.)

SOC 385 Environmental Sociology  Staff
The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students with the field of environmental sociology and discover how the study of sociology illuminates environmental issues. The course will make use of sociological analysis to examine environmental problems and their impacts on people and populations. Some of the topics include the environment and its links to public health, access to food, water, and other resources, migration and urbanization, technology, biodiversity, education, economic development and consumption, and population growth.
SOC 410 Death and Dying  Tracey LaPierre
This course covers theoretical, practical, cross-cultural and historical aspects of death and dying. Social, psychological, biomedical, economic and legal issues surrounding death and dying are explored. Students examine their own ideas, feelings and attitudes towards death and dying, and reflect on the origins and significance of those beliefs. Prerequisite: Junior or Senior standing.

SOC 424 Sociology of Health and Medicine  Jarron M. Saint Onge
This course in medical sociology explores how culture, power arrangements, and economic systems shape important aspects of health, illness, medical care, and health policies. Medical sociology looks at the link between the social environment and health and how demographic factors such as gender, race-ethnicity, and class affect the distribution of sickness and the illness experience. More fundamentally, however, it challenges the biomedical model of medicine that assumes health and illness can be objectively defined, measured, and treated. Using a sociological lens, we will explore issues such as how sickness and health are socially defined, how inequalities affect health, how health care professionals are selected and trained, how the organization of and access to health care are influenced by politics and economics, and medical ethics.

SOC 454 Women & Work  Sandra Albrecht
Sociological investigation of women’s changing relationship to paid and unpaid labor in the economy and the family. Several theories compared in these contexts: characteristics of employed women, including occupational distribution and pay; women’s experiences in “traditional” and “nontraditional” occupations, including professions and management; socialization and education for employment; integration of marriage, housework, and childcare; anti-discriminatory laws and policies.

SOC 490 Internship in Sociology  Faculty
The purpose of this course is to encourage students to think sociologically about social issues by working as volunteer interns for non-profit community or campus organizations. Enrollment must be approved by the Sociology Department’s Undergraduate Studies Committee.

SOC 499 Honors in Sociology  Faculty

SOC 500 Sociological Theory  Mehrangiz Najafizadeh
This course provides a comprehensive coverage of the classical theorists such as Comte, Spencer, Marx, Durkheim, Weber, and Simmel, who have been influential in the development of sociological theory. Prerequisite: A principal course in Sociology. Open to Sociology majors only.

SOC 500 Sociological Theory  Kelly H. Chong
An introduction to the principal texts in sociological theory and the ideas that made them important. Primary materials are emphasized, and the course will cover classical material as well as contemporary sociological theory. The goal of the course is to show continuity and change in the theoretical tradition of sociology, and to demonstrate the continued importance of classical ideas. Prerequisite: A principal course in sociology.

SOC 510 Elementary Statistics and Data Analysis  Tracey LaPierre
This course provides an introduction to quantitative data analysis. In this course students will learn the fundamental concepts and logic used for describing data and testing hypotheses. Through assignments and computer lab sessions, students will also gain hands-on experience analyzing data, interpreting analysis output, and writing up their findings.

SOC 519 Sociology of Global Food  Paul Stock
The Sociology of Global Food offers a critical examination of the global food system since the Industrial Revolution. Topics include the industrialization of agriculture, sustainable agriculture, and the role of food and agriculture in organizing society. This course discusses the emergence of current debates around food and agriculture including food activism, technological developments, human/environment relationships, and labor issues. There is a lab component to this course. (Same as EVRN 519.) Prerequisite: Junior standing
SOC 521 Wealth, Power, and Inequality (online)  Shirley Hill
This course on social inequality looks at the ranking and evaluating of people, groups, and nations on the basis of power, prestige, and economic position. We focus on historic and contemporary patterns of stratification that are based on caste, class, race, gender, and international standing, and on theories of social inequality. The central questions addressed are how and why relationships of inequality are created and maintained and how they affect work, relationships, opportunities, and life chances. (Offered first 8 weeks of semester: 8/24/15--10/16/15).

SOC 529 Globalization  Robert Antonio
This course addresses sociological aspects of the growth of transnational economic, cultural, institutional, and political interconnections, the freer and faster movement of goods, images, ideas, people, and institutional forms across national borders, and the consequences and problems of these processes. The focus will be recent (later 20th century to the present) global restructuring in the context of historical shifts in capitalist development. Students read primary texts, take long essay exams, and write one paper. Prerequisite: SOC 104.

SOC 600 Sociological Perspectives: Contemporary East Asia  Ayako Mizumura
This course explores rapidly changing societies in contemporary East Asia, particularly China, Japan, and Korea. The course provides a critical overview of East Asia and its diversity and complexity using cross-cultural perspectives and interdisciplinary social science approaches, and situates East Asian societies in the context of globalization. Meets with EALC 590/790.

SOC 630 Latin American Society  Nate Freiburger
This course uses the three topics of resources, ecologies, and technologies to explore some of the major themes in the interdisciplinary field of Latin American Studies. These three topical areas constitute the three units of the course.

*Resources* unit: we will focus on themes of the historical legacy of extractivism and its current forms in Latin America, economic dependency and dependency theory, resource governance and policy, national and global political economy, resources and cultural and political identities, state formation and current extractive and post-extractive projects, as well as alternative resource ontologies in Latin America.

*Ecologies* unit: we will focus on the historical shaping of human/environment relations and their current forms, as well as discuss ecologies and ecological problems and disputes as complex entanglements of both human and non-human agency as well as the relation of these entanglements to modes of knowledge production.

*Technologies* unit: we will focus on the context specific meaning and form of technologies, often originating in the global north, whose functioning is often claimed to be context independent. We will look at the circulation and use of specific technologies in changing cultural and political identities, as well as the role of expertise in the shaping of the social, economic, political, and cultural environments through specific case studies in Latin America.

This course explores the intersection of postcolonial studies, science and technology studies, and sociological/anthropological ethnographic approaches. The course poses questions about the things such as “universal” reason and expert modes of knowledge production, as well as exploring alternative modernities and alternatives to modernity. The course does this through an examination of the complex linkages of resources, ecologies, and technologies in Latin America.

SOC 650 Sociology of Transnational Migration  Ebenezer Obadare
Although movement of peoples across territorial borders is a fact of human history from the earliest times, it has become axiomatic (Berger, above) to describe the contemporary era as the age of migration. These days, hardly a day goes by without media reports detailing the (usually harrowing) plight of would-be emigrants from Africa in their (often unsuccessful) attempts to ‘escape’ to the generally richer societies of Europe and North America. What makes large numbers of young African men and women increasingly desperate to leave their countries of birth? While general media reporting tends to paint a broad portrait of a social and cultural ‘menace’ (the resurgence of the trope of possible genetic contamination in a section of the Western press is a case in point),
such reportage is often partial and tends to focus exclusively on the present. In attempting to provide a historically-conscious, sociological exploration of political, cultural and health issues involved in what might be called the migration complex, this course invites the student to situate current transnational migration from Africa within specific historical circumstances, circumstances which have continued to determine social processes both within postcolonial Africa and the postcolonial West. In the light of this, the course will be informed by parallels from the experience of migration in other parts of the world, specifically Asia and Latin America. The aim is to make students come to an understanding and appreciation of both the interconnectedness of the world’s peoples and, crucially, of the world’s histories. At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to demonstrate an understanding of the origins and sociological ramifications of current global migratory patterns. Prerequisite: Sociology 104.

SOC 698 Individual Undergraduate Research

SOC 722 Sociology of Gender
This course will offer a range of sociological perspectives on the role of gender in society. The particular substantive focus will vary each semester to allow flexibility for in-depth analysis of gender relationships in such areas as family, work, popular culture, economy, and religion. In this class, special attention will be paid to the intersectionality of gender with other axes of social organization and inequality, including race/ethnicity, class, and nation.

Course Requirement Satisfied: Substantive Seminar
ASD Areas: Gender

SOC 767 Gerontology Proseminar
The course will introduce students to the wide range of theories, research directions, and disciplinary interests in gerontology, with a particular emphasis on the behavioral and social sciences. The proseminar surveys basic and applied research, service programs, policy issues, and the professional organization of the field.

Course Requirement Satisfied: Substantive Seminar
ASD Areas: Life Course & Aging

SOC 780 Advanced Topics: Teaching Sociology
Permission of Instructor Required.

SOC 780 Advanced Topics: Sociology of Culture
This seminar surveys the major themes and debates in the sociology of culture. Our discussions will explore basic issues and frameworks used for understanding cultural life broadly conceived. Throughout the semester, we will critically engage with core topic areas in the field: how culture reflects the social order; the role of culture in reproducing race, gender, and class inequality; the status of meaning, agency, and structure in sociological analysis; the relationship between power, domination and resistance; the processes by which cultural forms are socially created and received; the relationship between culture and historical change; and methodological issues that shape sociological studies of culture.

Course Requirement Satisfied: Substantive Seminar
ASD Areas: Culture

SOC 780 Advanced Topics: Religion & Politics in the Global Context
No course description on file.

Course Requirement Satisfied: Substantive Seminar
ASD Areas: Religion, Political Sociology

SOC 811 Sociological Research
The use of the scientific method to study social phenomena including: the formulation and testing of hypotheses; techniques for collecting data; measuring social variables; interpreting research findings; the relationship of theory and facts. Prerequisite: SOC 810

Course Requirement Satisfied: Required for 3rd semester MA students
SOC 873 International Political Economy
Course Requirement Satisfied: Substantive Seminar

SOC 891 Individual Master’s Readings

SOC 892 Teaching Seminar
Seminar on Sociology course design and development. Topics covered include syllabus design, exam strategies and design, course design, content of and approaches to teaching introductory and other sociology courses, student grading and evaluation. Required of all teaching assistants assigned to courses in sociology.

SOC 899 Thesis

SOC 900 Special Topics in Theory: Capitalism
At the start of the 20th century, capitalism was dynamic but limited in geographic and structural scope. Now, capitalism is now truly global -- and its effects are encompassing. The aim of this course is to explore the rhyme and reason of capitalism as a social, economic, and cultural system. We will explore not only the core themes of classical sociological critique (which addresses the structure and spirit of capitalism) but also the many ways in which capitalism pervades daily life and culture.
Course Requirement Satisfied: Theory

SOC 930 Seminar on Special Topics in Comparative Studies: The Global City
A readings-oriented course which explores themes in two or more geographic and/or chronological fields of history. The benefits and disadvantages of comparative methodologies will be analyzed. Topics will vary each term but may include the examination of such subjects as the history of urbanization, labor, colonialism, immigration, the family, political thought, or industrialization. Prerequisite: Varies with area of subtopic.

SOC 991 Individual Doctoral Readings
Individual study of special topics or problems by students working on a doctoral degree.

SOC 999 Dissertation