

The University of Kansas
Department of Sociology
Fall 2020 Course Descriptions

SOC 104 Elements of Sociology, Lisa-Marie Wright

This course offers an overview of sociology comprised of six topic-centered learning units: Discovering Society, Social Inequality, Gender & Sexuality, Culture, This course offers an overview of sociology with six topic-centered learning units: Discovering Society, Social Inequality, Gender & Sexuality, Culture, Microsociology, and Deviance & Crime. Course participants read in-depth sociological studies about the power of social networks, the gender division of housework, cutting and self-harm, homelessness, and drug addiction. This course has three primary learning goals:

- 1) To cultivate a greater understanding of the social processes that shape our individual lives,
- 2) To develop critical lenses through which to view information in 21st century American society,
- 3) To build an understanding of core sociological concepts, including social structure, gender, race, and social class.

SOC 105 Elements of Sociology, Honors, David Smith/Eric Hanley

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. Open only to students on dean's honor roll or enrolled in Honors Program, or consent of instructor. May not be taken by those who also have credit for SOC 304.

SOC 110 American Identities, Benjamin Chappell

An interdisciplinary introduction to individual and group identities over time. Students explore theories and methods relating to identity from various perspectives, such as race, class, gender, sexuality, age, religion, and region. Not open to students who have taken AMS 112 or SOC 112. (Same as AMS 110.)

SOC 112 American Identities, Honors, Randal Jelks

An interdisciplinary introduction to individual and group identities over time. Students explore theories and methods relating to identity from various perspectives, such as race, class, gender, sexuality, age, religion, and region. Not open to students who have taken AMS 110 or SOC 110. (Same as AMS 112.) Prerequisite: Membership in the University Honors Program or approval by the American Studies Program.

SOC 130 Comparative Societies, Mehrangiz Najafizadeh/Ebenezer Obadare

This course uses sociological concepts and theories to provide a more complete understanding of the historical 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 historical stages of change, from early hunting and gathering societies/cultures to contemporary societies in the age of globalization. As such, the course provides the opportunity for students to learn how structural components of cultures/societies, including institutions such as economy and polity, and social structures such as gender, class, and race/ethnicity, shape people's lives and behavior. Various societies/cultures will be used as case studies and examples.

SOC 150 Self and Society, TBD

Discusses the way our identities, values, and behavior have been and continue to be shaped by social and situational factors. Attention is paid to the influence of factors like language, culture, social roles, specific social institutions, 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 & American Values, TBD

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 161 Social Problems and American Values, TBD

Explores competing explanations for the causes of, and cures for, the enduring problems of American society. Critically analyzes dominant definitions of social problems, the political and economic roots of these problems, and the public policies aimed at reducing them. This course may not be taken for credit by those who have taken SOC 160 or SOC 306. Open only to students admitted to the University Honors Program or by consent of instructor.

SOC 200 Sociological Introduction, Topic: American Racial and Ethnic Relations, TBD

A sociological introduction to selected topics of current interest in Sociology. Please refer to the schedule of classes for current topics offered. Check the Sociology Department website for course descriptions of current special topics course offerings. May be repeated for credit as topics vary.

SOC 260 America's Latinos/Latinas, TBD

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)

SOC 280 Introduction to Social Research, Megan Brooker

An introduction to the nature and methods of social research, including both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Topics may include: hypothesis formulation and testing; how to design a research project, collect and analyze data; elementary statistical procedures; and ethical issues. Prerequisite: Six hours of Sociology credit, including SOC 104/SOC 105/SOC 304. A minimum GPA of 2.3 in all Sociology courses is strongly recommended for students planning to enroll in this course.

SOC 304 Principles of Sociology, Gerald McCannon

An introduction to sociological concepts, methods, and substantive findings more intensive than that provided in SOC 104. Students may take this course in lieu of SOC 104 to satisfy requirements for the major and the minor. This course may not be taken for credit by those who have taken SOC 104.

SOC 308 Principles of Family Sociology, Gerald McCannon

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. This course provides a more intensive coverage of the subject matter than that provided in SOC 220. May not be taken by anyone who has already taken SOC 220 or its equivalent.

SOC 330 American Society, Megan Brooker

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 principal course in sociology.

SOC 332 United States in a Global Context, Tucker/Kim/Pence

Examines the influence abroad of US culture, policies and practices and the impact of other countries on US culture, society, and politics. Among the topics that may be examined are race, ethnicity, colonialism, imperialism, migration, technology, communications and media, popular culture, language, health, domestic and transnational organizations, as well as economic, political, religious, military and educational institutions. (Same as AMS 332).

SOC 335 American Society, Honors, Robert Antonio

This course will focus primarily on the social institutions and culture of the post-World War II U.S. racial, ethnic, class, gender, and religious divisions will be analyzed as well as the emergent forms of community that cut across these categories. Moreover, we will address the period's major social movements, conflicts, and patterns of socio-cultural change. A central theme throughout the course will be the tensions between democratic ideas and the modes of distribution, consumption, organization, mass communication, and individualization. The primary aim will be to get you to think critically about the

meaning and nature of American Democracy. Although the instructor will occasionally lecture, the course will have a seminar format. Students will read and discuss primary texts on the topics mentioned above. They will be required to write three take home exams and several short papers.

SOC 380 Elementary Statistics and Data Analysis, Tracey LaPierre

An introduction to social scientific data analysis, with an emphasis on descriptive and inferential statistics. Specific topics include sampling, measures of association and correlation, significance testing, the logic of causal inference, the use of computer programs for data analysis, multivariate analysis, and the critical evaluation of social science research findings. Prerequisite: SOC 280 and MATH 101, or instructor permission.

SOC 385 Environmental Sociology, Paul Stock

This course invites students to study society and its impact on the environment. Environmental problems are social problems. This course will address such items as social paradigms, theories, inequalities, movements, and research. (Same as EVRN 385.)

SOC 400 Sociology Special Topics: Sociology of Sexuality, Megan Brooker

The study of selected topics of current interest in Sociology. Check the notes section in the schedule of classes for the description of this course. May be repeated for credit as topics vary.

SOC 424 Sociology of Health and Medicine, Jarron Saint Onge

This introductory course in medical sociology examines how social factors influence health and the organization of medical services. Students explore the distribution and experiences of illnesses across key social categories (e.g., gender, social class, etc.) The course also addresses contemporary issues in health and medicine, such as how health care systems vary cross-nationally, the training of health care workers, patient-physician relationships, and the use of medical technologies.

SOC 425 Sociology of Global Health, Gerald McCannon

The course explores social dimensions of health throughout the world. It examines how infectious and degenerative diseases have reflected and affected the demographics, social structure, economy, and culture of societies, and how societies have mobilized their political, economic, social and cultural resources to deal with health challenges. It focuses in particular on the role of socioeconomic inequality-both within and across countries-in shaping the emergence, spread, prevention, and treatment of disease. Prerequisite: A sociology course at the 100 or 200-level.

SOC 427 School and Society, TBD

This course examines education as a social institution and the reciprocal relationship between schools and society. It focuses particularly on the relationship between education and inequality and on education in the U.S., but also includes international comparisons. Prerequisite: Junior or Senior standing or permission of instructor.

SOC 450 Gender and Society, Lisa-Marie Wright

An overview of sociological theory and research on the social practices constructing men and women as "opposites" and creating systematic inequality between them in class-, race-, and nation-specific ways. We consider arguments and evidence that gender is something we are, something we do, a part of every social institution, and a major aspect of how we are organized as a society.

SOC 480 Sociological Theory, Mehrangiz Najafizadeh

An introduction to the principal texts in sociological theory and the ideas that made them important. Primary materials are emphasized, ranging from medieval to the current age. 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: SOC 104 or SOC 105 or SOC 304 or permission of instructor.

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 a faculty mentor and the departmental Undergraduate Studies Committee. For additional information go to the Sociology department website. Prerequisite: 21 credits in sociology with a 3.0 GPA and permission of the instructor.

SOC 499 Thesis, Honors, Faculty

Intensive study and research under faculty direction including the writing of a thesis. Enrollment may be split between two semesters, but no grade will be given until completion of the thesis. Admission to honors candidacy is open only to majors who have shown a marked capability for independent study and have completed either SOC 280 or SOC 480.

SOC 529: Globalization, Bob 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.

SOC 573 Sociology of Violence, Brian Donovan

This course will examine violence in social and political life. The causes and consequences of various types of violence will be examined in a variety of social settings. Examples include violence in the family, schools, the workplace, violence in cities, and violence as a part of the political process: assassination, revolution, coups, terrorism, and government repression. Prerequisite: A principal course in sociology.

SOC 621 Cross-Cultural Sociology, David Smith

A systematic introduction to cross-cultural issues from the standpoint of sociology,

designed to acquaint students with the full range of substantive and methodological issues that arise in comparative sociological inquiry, with a primary focus on non-western societies. Specific topics to be addressed may include war and peace, stratification and inequality, race and ethnicity, and political authority and power, all viewed in the light of cross-cultural research and theory. Prerequisite: A previous Sociology course or consent of instructor.

SOC 698 Individual Undergraduate Research, Faculty

Library or field research either as part of an ongoing project or as an independent study project. One to twelve hours. May be taken from one or more faculty during one or more semesters, the total hours not to exceed 12. No more than 3 credits may be applied to satisfy requirements for the sociology major. Prerequisite: Two courses in sociology and consent of instructor.

SOC 722 Sociology of Gender, Kelly Chong

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 politics, health and aging, and work.

SOC 760 Social Inequality, ChangHwan Kim

A comprehensive review of the major theoretical and empirical approaches used in the study of institutionalized social inequality. Reference to the origins, forms, cultural and structural variations and their changes over time, consequences and ideologies of social inequality. Prerequisite: A distribution course in sociology.

SOC 780 Gender and Environmental Change, Joane Nagel

SOC 780 Civil Society and the State, Ebenezer Obadare

Topics will vary from semester to semester and instructor to instructor to allow flexibility for in-depth analysis of particular topics.

SOC 812 Analytic Methods in Sociology, Tracey LaPierre

Consideration of quantitative methods of analysis including both parametric and non-parametric techniques. Prerequisite: A course in statistics.

SOC 820 Political Sociology, Eric Hanley

This course offers an overview of the different perspectives and key arguments comprising the field of political sociology, including both classical and contemporary readings. The issues studied in this field include the nature of power and the nature of the state, relations between state and society, and social movements, political organization and civic participation, political culture, voting behavior, comparative political systems, warfare, democracy and economic development, citizenship, nationalism, revolutions, and globalization.

SOC 891 Individual Master's Readings, Faculty

Individual study of special topics or problems by students working on a master's degree.

SOC 893 Leading Discussions in Sociology, Lisa-Marie Wright

This course covers matters relating to the teaching of discussion sections in sociology. Topics covered will include the current week's reading assignments, material that will be

covered in the lecture, upcoming exams or other assignments, and potential activities for discussion sections. This course does not count toward completion of 54 hours of graduate credit hours required for the PhD program in sociology. Graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. Prerequisite: A current GTA appointment to lead discussion sections in sociology.

SOC 899 Thesis, Faculty

Thesis hours. Graded on a satisfactory progress/limited progress/no progress basis.

SOC 991 Individual Doctoral Readings, Faculty

Individual study of special topics or problems by students working on a doctorate.

SOC 999 Dissertation, Faculty

Dissertation hours. Graded on a satisfactory progress/limited progress/no progress basis.