

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
FALL 2017 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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

Ebenezer Obadare

This course uses sociological concepts and theories to provide a more complete understanding of the transition of sociocultural systems of the world. The course begins by applying major theoretical perspectives in sociology to an analysis of culture and its various components. The course then focuses in greater detail on various institutions and examines the transition of societies through different stages of change. Specific emphasis is placed on social institutions such as economy, polity, family, religion, and education. Social stratification based on race, ethnicity, and gender also is examined in various sociocultural systems. Different societies are used as case studies and examples.

SOC 131 Comparative Societies, Honors

Lisa-Marie Wright

Description and analysis of the culture, structure, and development of societies that are historically unrelated to the traditions of Western Civilization. Open only to students enrolled in the University Honors program or by consent of instructor. May not be taken by students who have credit in SOC 130.

SOC 150 Self and Society**Nathan Collins**

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**Sarah Colegrove**

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to some of the key social problems facing society such as: poverty; race, ethnic, age, and gender inequality; educational access and achievement; alcohol and drug abuse; and crime. These problems will be analyzed through a sociological perspective. That is, the social problems discussed in class and in the readings will be analyzed by applying different theoretical perspectives to them and assessing the usefulness of these perspectives in understanding social problems and developing potential approaches to addressing them. Satisfies: Goal 1, Learning Outcome 1; Goal 4, Learning Outcome 1; Goal 5, Learning Outcome 1.

SOC 161 Social Problems and American Values, Honors**James Ordner**

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 230 Social Inequality**Brittany Slatton**

An analysis of social inequality at the intersection of race, class, and gender. This course will address the varying/competing theoretical and methodological approaches to understanding and studying inequality. Specific areas of focus will include inequality of: the labor market, wealth and income, the criminal justice system, dating/marriage, education, and health.

SOC 304 Principles of Sociology (*Edwards*)**Kevin McCannon**

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. Satisfies: Goal 1, Learning Outcome 1; Goal 3 Social Sciences; Goal 4, Learning Outcome 1.

SOC 308 Principles of Family Sociology (*Edwards*)**Kevin McCannon**

This course focuses on how gender, race, and social class affect intimate relationships, marriages, and families, mostly in the United States but with some focus on global transitions in families. The course begins with an overview of sociological theories and research methods, especially as they pertain to families, and a historical overview of the development of families. Then, it focuses on specific marriage and family issues, such as parenthood, childrearing, family violence, and divorce. Course work includes quizzes, four exams, a family history project, and a group project. The course is NOT AVAILABLE to students who have taken SOC 220 or its equivalent.

SOC 310 Introduction to Social Research**James Ordner**

An introduction to the nature and methods of social research. 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 Sociology 104, with a minimum 2.3 GPA in all SOC courses. LEC

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 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 335 American Society, Honors

Bob 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 385 Environmental Sociology

Paul Stock

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 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 425 Sociology of Global Health (Online)

Victor Agadjanian

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.

SOC 450 Gender and Society

Brittany Slatton

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 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****Lynn Davidman**

An introduction to the principal texts in sociological theory and the ideas that made them important. Primary materials are emphasized, ranging from the origins of the discipline after the revolutions of the 1700's and up to the present, 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 as well as recent theoretical developments. Prerequisite: A principal course in sociology.

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**ChangHwan Kim**

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 521 Wealth, Power, and Inequality**ChangHwan Kim**

This class focuses on economic inequality and the political and social forces that create and sustain it in the United States and internationally. The variables of race, ethnicity, status, and gender are analyzed as they relate to the differences in the distribution of wealth and power, and attention is paid to how these multiple variables shape opportunities.

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 534 Global Ethnic & Racial Relations (Online)**Pam Rooks**

An examination of constructions of race and ethnicity around the world. Emphasis is on the social, political, historical, cultural and economic factors that lead to the creation of ethnic and racial identities, ethnic conflict and accommodation, ethnic movements, and ethnic political organization. Racial and ethnic relations in the U.S. are compared with other countries. Major focus is placed on ethnicity in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and/or the Middle East. (Same as AAAS 510 and AMS 534.)

SOC 563 Sociology of Surveillance (Online)**William Staples**

An overview of social science theory and research on the practices for keeping close watch on people. Surveillance strategies are adopted in the interests of security, governance, and commerce, but also for personal care, empowerment, resistance, and even play. We consider a host of social, political, ethical, and legal questions related to long-standing notions of privacy, civil liberties, and personal autonomy.

Prerequisites: A sociology course at the 100 or 200-level. (*Offered last 8 weeks of semester 10/23-12/15/2017. Enrolment Reserve camp for online BGS students.*)

SOC 573 Sociology of Violence**Brian Donovan**

Why do people act violently? What social forces shape violence? This class will engage with different theories and histories of violence with the hope that course participants will come to a richer understanding of the problems facing collective human existence in the 21st century. This class applies a sociological perspective to the various forms of violence that beset modern society. We will consider a range of behavior and practices commonly considered violent, including suicide, harassment, sexual assault, street crime, rampage shootings, terrorism, and genocide. We will address the extent, impact, and sociological significance of these forms of violence. We will also consider the failures and successes of various organizational, institutional, and legal solutions to violence. By the end of this course, students will be able to: understand the extent and causes of violence; identify the historical, institutional, organizational, and legal dimensions of violence; apply sociological concepts and theories to explain examples of violence. Prerequisite: A principal course in sociology.

SOC 698 Individual Undergraduate Research**Faculty****SOC 722 Sociology of Gender****Kelly H. 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 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**David Ekerdt**

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**Lisa-Marie Wright**

Required for SOC 104 GTAs. *Permission of Instructor Required.*

SOC 780 Advanced Topics: Racial and Ethnic Relations**Brittany Slatton**

An analysis of social inequality at the intersection of race, class, and gender. This course will address the varying/competing theoretical and methodological approaches to understanding and studying inequality. Specific areas of focus will include inequality of: the labor market, wealth and income, the criminal justice system, dating/marriage, education, and health.

Course Requirement Satisfied: Substantive Seminar

ASD Areas: Race & Ethnicity

SOC 780 Advanced Topics: Sociology of Utopias**Paul Stock**

The idea of utopia - that perfect or ideal place or society - is a common theme in the history of ideas. Recently, we have seen a resurgence in critical approaches to society using utopia - as a critique of the existing society, but also as a blueprint of something potentially better. This course will explore the history of this idea in literature

and social theory as well as the value of utopian thinking in the face of dramatic current challenges like climate change, global financial crises, food insecurity, and rising inequity.

Course Requirement Satisfied: Substantive Seminar

ASD Areas: Environment Sociology, Political Sociology, Social Inequality & Stratification

SOC 780 Advanced Topics: International Politics of Natural Resources

Ebenezer Obadare

This course examines the complex social dynamics produced by the processes of extraction, purification, and use of natural resources by various state regimes. It explores how values are placed on resources, and how such values and the regimes of valuation and commodification and the social formations that are (re)produced by these regimes lead to cooperation and conflict in the contemporary international system. To this end, the course presents a comparative overview of the politics of resources in different world regions, with especial attention to such resources as oil, diamond, water, cobalt, gold, iron ore, bauxite ore, land, etc. It examines how the extractive process and practices (and the industries pertaining to each) in Africa, Latin America, North America, the Middle East, Asia, and Europe, have been the source of both conflict and cooperation. In considering the implications for the nature of the state and ensuing social processes, specific regional cases are examined against the backdrop of relevant theoretical insights and current empirical data.

Course Requirement Satisfied: Substantive Seminar

ASD Areas: Globalization, Environmental Sociology

SOC 811 Sociological Research

Brian Donovan

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. Course may be repeated for credit toward graduate degree. Prerequisite: SOC 810.

Course Requirement Satisfied: Required for 3rd Semester MA Students

SOC 824 Health and Social Behavior

Tracey LaPierre

This course would provide an introduction to central topics in the sociology of medicine, health, and illness. Topics would include health disparities and the embodiment of inequalities, the contribution of social factors to health and illness (e.g. SES, family structure, social support, neighborhood, and religion), the social construction of health and illness and the medicalization of everyday life. Some attention will also be given to the medical division of labor and health care organizations and institutions. The intersection of medicine/health with race, class, gender, and sexuality will be a central focus within these topics.

Course Requirement Satisfied: Substantive Seminar

ASD Areas: Medicine/Health

SOC 891 Individual Master's Readings

Faculty

Variable credit hours (1-6)

SOC 892 Teaching Seminar

Sandra Albrecht

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. (Fall Meeting Dates: 8/23 9:00-10:00; 9/20 9:00-10:50; 10/18 9:00-10:00).

SOC 899 Thesis

Faculty

Variable credit hours (1-8)

SOC 900 Special Topics in Theory: Critical Theory

David Smith

CRITICAL THEORY was born in the 1930s, in the shadow of war, fascism, and depression. The aim of the early critical theorists was to find antidotes for these evils -- to probe deeply enough beneath the surface of events to grasp (and change) the increasingly alarming course of events. Key figures from several intellectual traditions -- most famously the "Frankfurt School" gave this effort a particular impetus. They offered penetrating critical insights into a wide range of entwined phenomena, from politics and psychology to philosophy. We focus in this seminar on the central insights of Critical Theory and the central figures who propounded them: Adorno,

Horkheimer, Pollock and Fromm, among others. And we give particular attention to the contemporary relevance of these ideas.

Course Requirement Satisfied: Theory

SOC 910 Special Topics in Methods: Qualitative Sociology

Lynn Davidman

This course introduces students to the theory and methods of narrative sociology. We begin with analyzing the distinction between the analysis of interview data and narrative analysis. The narrative approach has its roots in literary theory and narratology but since the 1990s it has been firmly established in the social sciences. In fact, there is now a dedicated journal titled *Narrative Inquiry*. Narrative analysis shows the importance of language in the social construction of reality. It also provides a powerful tool for analyzing how stories are always situated in social contexts, which they reflect and also shape. In our study of narratives we will explore approaches that emphasize form, and those that highlight content, and ways of combining the two approaches.

Course Requirement Satisfied: Methods

SOC 991 Individual Doctoral Readings

Faculty

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

Variable credit hours (1-6)

SOC 999 Dissertation

Faculty

Variable credit hours (1-12)