

The University of Kansas
Department of Sociology
Spring 2021 Course Descriptions

SOC 104 Elements of Sociology, Lisa-Marie Wright/Eric Hanley

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

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, David Roediger

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 130 Comparative Societies, Mehrangiz Najafizadeh/Erin Adamson

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, Elyse Neumann

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, Jarron Saint Onge

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 220 Sociology of Families, Jennifer Dueñas

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. May not be taken by anyone who has already taken SOC 308 or its equivalent.

SOC 280 Introduction to Social Research, Megan Brooker/Matt Erickson

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, Eric Hanley

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 305 Principles of Self and Society, Gerald McCannon

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. This course provides a more intensive coverage of the subject matter than that provided in SOC 150. May not be taken by anyone who has already taken SOC 150 or its equivalent.

SOC 306 Principles of Social Problems, Gerald McCannon

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. This course provides a more intensive coverage of the subject matter than that provided in SOC 160. May not be taken by anyone who has already completed SOC 160 or its equivalent.

SOC 332 United States in a Global Context, Kim/Cadena/Price/Chappell

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 380 Elementary Statistics and Data Analysis, Tracey LaPierre/Yurong Zhang

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

Meets with WGSS 396. This course provides an overview of sex and sexuality in contemporary society. We will examine the social meanings of sex and sexuality, the social contexts that shape sexual activities and orientations, the social controls that have been used to regulate sexual behavior and identities, and the social change that has redefined our understandings of sex and sexuality over time.

SOC 400 Sociology Special Topics: Sociology of Popular Culture, Brian Donovan

This class explores the role of popular cultural forms (music, movies, celebrity, fashion, and art) in everyday life. Throughout the semester, we will critically engage with core topics in cultural sociology, including, how culture reflects the social order, the role of culture in reproducing race, gender, and class inequality, the processes by which cultural forms are socially created and received, and the relationship between culture and historical change.

SOC 400 Social Protest in the USA, Megan Brooker

Protest is a pervasive feature of society. Through collective action, people seek to promote (or halt) social and political change. These “social movements,” as they are commonly referred to in sociology, have sometimes brought about substantial changes in law, politics, and culture. In this course, we will examine why people protest, what strategies and tactics are used by social movements, and the conditions under which protest succeeds or fails. We will focus primarily on contemporary social movements in the United States.

SOC 400 Sociology of Global Food, Paul Stock

Meets with EVRN 420. This course 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.

SOC 410 Sociology of Death and Dying, Gerald McCannon

The primary purpose of this course is to provide an understanding of the ways in which the experiences of death and dying are shaped by social structures. This course will also acquaint the student with the social implications of death and dying and to examine death-related behaviors, both individual and collective, through which these aspects of life are experienced. 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 427 School and Society, Fithawee Tzeggai

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, Robert Antonio

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 522: American Racial and Ethnic Relations, Fithawee Tzeggai

Analysis of the basic sociological concepts that apply to majority/minority relations; with special emphasis on racial and ethnic interaction in the United States. (Same as AMS 522.) Prerequisite: A principal course in sociology.

SOC 524 Sociology of the Economy, ChangHwan Kim

An analysis of the social organization of production with attention being given to such topics as: world economic crises and their social bases, capitalist and socialist economies, primitive and advanced economic systems, multinational corporations, the nature of housework, and the transformation of economic systems. Prerequisite: A principal course in sociology.

SOC 529 Globalization, Eric Hanley

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 is on recent (later 20th century to the present) global restructuring in the context of historical shifts in capitalist development. (Same as GIST 529.) Prerequisite: SOC 104 or GIST 220.

SOC 650 Transnational Migration, Ebenezer Obadare

A historically-conscious, sociological exploration of political, cultural and health issues involved in transnational migration, this course invites the student to situate current transnational migration within specific historical social processes within both postcolonial Africa and the postcolonial West. The course examines parallels from the experience of migration in other parts of the world, specifically Asia and Latin America. The aim is an understanding and appreciation of both the interconnectedness of the world's peoples and, crucially, of the world's histories. Prerequisite: SOC 104.

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 780 Liberalism: Classical/American, Ebenezer Obadare**SOC 780 Gender in the Global Context, Mehrangiz Najafizadeh****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 802 Classical Social Theory, Robert Antonio

This seminar will focus on the later 19th and early 20th century "theories of society," addressing the origins and developmental tendencies of Western modernity and their relation to premodern social orders. Primary texts of the major theorists (e.g. Marx, Durkheim, Nietzsche, Weber, Simmel, and Mead) will be studied in historical context. The tradition's analytical and critical resources and problematic features will also be explored. Finally, the connections between this tradition and contemporary sociological

approaches will be explored.

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 900 Seminar on Special Topics, Theory: Critical Theory, David Smith

Individual study of special topics or problems by students working on a master's degree. Each seminar will explore problems of theory in sociology. Topic, instructor, and hours of credit will be announced in the Schedule of Classes. Seminars will be offered by different instructors on different topics, and a student may take more than one topic.

SOC 910 Seminar on Special Topics, Methods: Advanced Statistics, ChangHwan Kim

Each seminar will explore problems of methods in sociology. Topic, instructor, and hours of credit will be announced in the Schedule of Classes. Seminars will be offered by different instructors on different topics, and a student may take more than one topic.

SOC 920 Seminar on Special Topics, Social Organization: Sociology of Educational Organizations, Argun Saatcioglu

Individual study of special topics or problems by students working on a master's degree. Each seminar will explore problems of theory in sociology. Topic, instructor, and hours of credit will be announced in the Schedule of Classes. Seminars will be offered by different instructors on different topics, and a student may take more than one topic.

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.

