

SOCIOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SOC 110: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY: PERSPECTIVES AND METHODS (4)

An introduction to the field of sociology and its major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and methods of inquiry. The study of human groups, organizations, and societies and their impact on human behavior. Emphasis on the evolution and diversity of human societies. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

SOC 113: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY: INDIVIDUAL IN SOCIETY (4)

An introduction to sociology that focuses on the individual's experience of society. Topics of interest will include the formation of personal identity, gender issues, inequality, and the relationship between humanity and technology. Open *only* to first-year students. No prerequisite.

SOC 121: SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND PROGRAMS (4)

Examines the societal context in which the American social welfare system exists. Social problems are identified, with focus on merits and shortcomings of current services. Ethical and value issues are considered and a volunteer component is required. Open to first-year students. (SW)

SOC 132: CURRENT SOCIAL PROBLEMS (4)

What are social problems and who gets to identify them? What historical, social, political, or global circumstances cause social problems? How differently are problems and solutions perceived by individuals of different cultures and social or economic groups? Special attention is given to problems related to inequality, poverty, race, gender, and the environment. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

SOC 133: SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE (4)

This course surveys the causes and possible solutions for contemporary and pressing social problems as defined from a sociological perspective. Emphasis is placed on globally based problems, including overpopulation, global inequality and its implications, environmental abuse and destruction, rampant urbanization, ethnic conflict, militarism, and national security. The impact such problems have on individual lives, both now and in the future, is a central consideration. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

SOC 211, 212: SOCIAL WORK FIELD PLACEMENTS (2 or 4)

Introductory internships in agencies providing social services to individuals, families, organizations, and the community. (SW)

SOC 215: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (4)

SOC 215: SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY AND MICROSOCIOLOGY (4)

The study of the individual in relation to the social world. The course will focus on personality development, social influence, and the social psychology of gender. Other topics of special interest include attitude formation and change, and the nature of human memory.

SOC 227: SOCIAL THEORY (4)

Focuses on significant contributions to social theory during the last two centuries. The first section of the course will attend to pre-World War II social theory. The second section will attend to developments since World War II. Open to first-year students. Prerequisite: SOC 110 or SOC 113.

SOC 231: HISTORY OF MODERN SOCIAL THOUGHT (4)

This course offers students a historical overview of the development of social theory. Focus on how great social theorists of the past interpreted their own societies, and how their theories became forces for social change.

Impact of historical theories and theorists on current perspectives of the social order and of human nature. Open to first-year students with permission.

SOC 232: CURRENT SOCIAL PROBLEMS (4)

What are social problems and who gets to identify them? What historical, social, political, or global circumstances cause social problems? How differently are problems and solutions perceived by individuals of different cultures and social or economic groups? Special attention is given to problems related to inequality, poverty, race, gender, and the environment. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

SOC 233: SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE (4)

This course surveys the causes and possible solutions for contemporary and pressing social problems as defined from a sociological perspective. Emphasis is placed on globally based problems, including overpopulation, global inequality and its implications, environmental abuse and destruction, rampant urbanization, ethnic conflict, militarism, and national security. The impact such problems have on individual lives, both now and in the future, is a central consideration. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

SOC 234: SOCIAL PROBLEMS (4)

What are social problems and who gets to identify them? What historical, social, political, or global circumstances cause social problems? How do the perceptions of problems and solutions vary cross-culturally? Both global and U.S. social problems will be considered in this course. A wide range of social problems such as globalization, social inequality, access to health care, systems of education, reproductive rights, the environment, human trafficking, or other issues may be discussed in this course. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

SOC 241: SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION (4)

This course analyzes religion as it relates to a range of social identities. We begin with a discussion of sociological theories of religion through which we will consider trends within religious practice, the purposes and effects of religion, and the intersection of religion and other social structures. The class will then consider these theories in empirical contexts. Also listed as REL 241.

SOC 242: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY OF ADJUSTMENT (4)

A social-psychological analysis of selected theoretical perspectives on personal adjustment. What does personal adjustment actually mean? What role does society play in personal adjustment? Is it more difficult for some individuals than others to achieve good adjustment? Special examination of the impact of race and gender on adjustment.

SOC 246: THE MODERN INDIVIDUAL THROUGH LITERATURE AND FILM - INDIVIDUALISM, IDENTITY, AND ALIENATION (4)

Through the examination of selected literary works and films, we will seek to gain a better understanding of the individual's quest for identity in modern/ postmodern mass society. What forces combine to construct personal identity in a social world where the influence of family and community continue to decline?

SOC 250: SPECIAL TOPIC – ECOFEMINISM (4)

This course examines domination of gender, class, race and the environment as an interconnected, historical and global matrix. Utilizing the theories and activism of feminism, deep ecology and critical race theory, the course highlights both the problems and solutions in the gendered degradation of the natural world. We examine the consequences of this embedded gendered, racial and class system for individuals, communities and the global collective as well as the impact on other species and natural resources. Also listed as GWS 250. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

SOC 250: SPECIAL TOPIC – INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (4)

Employing theories, perspectives and materials from sociology, feminist theory and critical race theory we examine the historical and contemporary structures, laws, ideologies and practices which subject indigenous peoples to a matrix of exploitation and repression, Listening to the voices and strategies of indigenous people in the U.S. and globally, we explore new perspectives, ideologies and solutions to these issues. Also listed as GWS 250.

SOC 250: SPECIAL TOPIC – INDIGENOUS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE (4)

This course explores spiritual tenets and practices of indigenous peoples through both historical and contemporary lenses looking at indigenous peoples from across the globe and examining the role of spiritual practice in the continuity, culture and resistance of indigenous peoples. The course will utilize theories and processes from the sociology of religion. Also listed as REL 250. No prerequisite.

SOC 250: SPECIAL TOPIC – NATIVE FEMINISMS (4)

This course will explore the unique spaces and forms of feminism in indigenous communities. The principles and people who shape and practice feminism in indigenous cultures and with indigenous voices, goals, outcomes and action. In addition to indigenous groups in the United States, our course materials will be written by and about indigenous women in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South and Central America and the Pacific Islands. Also listed as GWS 250.

SOC 250: SPECIAL TOPIC – RACE AND MEDIA (4)

Throughout the course, students will critically analyze the influence of race on popular media, and popular media's influence on race. Topics include: overt and covert racial messaging, uses of nonwhite bodies in mass media, new media and social media as spaces for hate and/or antiracism, the proliferation of race-centered shows, and means for measuring racial effects of media on audiences.

SOC 250: SPECIAL TOPIC – RADICALISM (4)

What is a Radical? Why do people engage in "radical" actions? This course examines radicalism across a range of social issues (e.g. anarchy, white supremacy, anti-AIDS activism). The course will cover radical thought traditions, tactics, and measures of success. Open to first-year students. No prerequisites.

SOC 250: SPECIAL TOPIC – RELIGION, IDENTITY AND SOCIAL LIFE (4)

This course analyzes religion as it relates to a range of social identities. After reviewing sociological theories of religion, the class considers how trends in religious practice intersect with systems of inequality around the globe. Potential topics include: cis-women's empowerment in conservative Jewish and Islamic traditions; religious adaptations and antiracism in the African Diaspora; queer participation in Eastern traditions; and transnational Christian evangelicalism. Also listed as REL 250. Open to first year students. No prerequisite.

SOC 250: SPECIAL TOPIC - RESISTANCE, REVOLUTIONS, AND SOCIAL REFORM (4)

What motivates social groups to push for resistance, revolutions, and social reforms? What are the differences and similarities among these three forms of collective action? Why do social actors agitate for reform in some cases, resistance in others, and revolution in yet other circumstances? This explores collective action in America and in the international arena to answer these questions and more.

SOC 250: SPECIAL TOPIC - SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION (4)

This course will explore the importance of religion in social life and offer an overview of sociological theories and explanations of religion and spirituality. We will explore: the intersection of religion and social inequalities; religious identities, beliefs, ideas, and practices; debates about the declining importance of religion; the dynamics of religious conflict; variations in religious organizational structure; and religious movements in the United States.

SOC 252: ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR (4)

This course examines the dynamics of individuals and groups in organizations and how organizations impact behavior and performance. Topics include attitudes and social perception, teamwork, communication, leadership, organizational structure and design. Also listed as BUS 252.

SOC 253: THE BLACK FAMILY (4)

An examination of the historical origins, development, strength, and diversity of the modern African-American family. Particular attention will be given to social policy issues. (SW)

SOC 254: THE FAMILY (4)

This course offers a cross-cultural overview of types of marriage and family, and the sentiments, economic arrangements, and gender dynamics that are fundamental to these social institutions. It explores such issues as the woman centered family in India; the polygamous family in Africa; the African-American family in urban ghettos, as well as the cultural values and pressures in white American families. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

SOC 255: RESISTANCE, REVOLUTIONS, AND SOCIAL REFORM (4)

What motivates social groups to push for resistance, revolutions, and social reforms? What are the differences and similarities among these forms of collective action? Why do social actors agitate for reform in some circumstances? This course explores collective action in America and in the international arena to answer these questions and more. No prerequisite. Open to first-year students.

SOC 257: AGING IN THE 21ST CENTURY (4)

An examination of the aging process and how it is affected by psychological, historical, political, economic, and cultural factors. Special attention is given to social policy issues arising in rapidly aging societies.

SOC 259: ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY (4)

Current environmental problems are primarily the result of human activity, intentional or otherwise, and any solutions to these problems will necessarily require concerted and cooperative human effort as well. This course investigates the complex interactions between human beings and their natural environment from a sociological point of view with an eye toward averting ecocatastrophe in the not-too-distant future. A rudimentary knowledge of biology and chemistry is a recommended prerequisite. Also listed as ES 259.

SOC 260: RACE, CLASS, AND GENDER - A REFLEXIVE APPROACH (4)

This course addresses central concepts, theories, and empirical findings found in the sociological literature on structured social inequality. Emphasis is on historical and contemporary U.S. society. Considerable attention is devoted to examining the intersections between issues of cultural diversity and individual biographical experience. No prerequisite. Open to first-year students with permission.

SOC 262: RACE AND ETHNICITY IN THE LABOR MARKET (4)

In this course we examine the ways race and ethnicity impact the experiences of minorities in the workforce. We focus on issues of prejudice, discrimination, immigration, and entrepreneurship in order to fully explore how race and ethnicity differentially shape some groups' access to and success in the labor market. No prerequisite. Open to first-year students.

SOC 280: SOCIAL WORK SKILLS - WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES (4)

An introduction to the knowledge, values, ethics, and skills relevant to general social work practice with individuals and families. Students will develop interviewing, assessment, and problem-solving skills. Focus is placed on diversity in socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. Prerequisite: SOC 121 or permission. (SW)

SOC 281: GROUP DYNAMICS (4)

Study of structure and process in small-group relationships; group development and role formation; decision-making processes; power and conflict in group relationships; control of the individual by the group. (SW)

SOC 285: SOCIAL WORK I: INTERACTIVE SKILLS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (4)

An introduction to knowledge, values, ethics, and skills relevant to general social work practice. Students will develop skills in interviewing and problem solving with individuals from a variety of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. Prerequisite: SOC 121 or permission. (SW)

SOC 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)

Independent study conducted below the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration.

SOC 307: WOMEN AND WORK (4)

A critical examination of historical and contemporary patterns of women's employment and the nature of women's work. The impact of gender on labor force participation and women's family and domestic responsibilities also will be considered. Also listed as GWS 307. Prerequisite: SOC 110 or SOC 113 or SOC 132 or permission of instructor.

SOC 311, 312: SOCIAL WORK FIELD PLACEMENTS (2 or 4)

Intermediate-level internships. (SW)

SOC 315: THE COMMUNITY - IN SEARCH OF THE AMERICAN DREAM (4)

An examination of contemporary social, political, cultural, and economic issues and trends impacting communities. This course provides a forum for the analysis of social conditions that produce problems and solutions in communities and organizations in contemporary American society. Prerequisite: SOC 121 or permission. (SW)

SOC 318: DEVIANCE AND CRIME (4)

Deviance as a social product; the nature and explanation of rule making and rule breaking. Social response and control efforts, development of deviant identity and subgroups. Emphasis on interactionist and conflict perspectives; social policy issues of crime control; and major categories of criminal behavior, including white collar crime. Prerequisite: SOC 110 or SOC 113 or SOC 132 or permission of instructor.

SOC 320: SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IN ADULTHOOD (4)

An exploration of social and psychological development after adolescence. An assessment of developmental phases and pathways of adults as viewed in social psychological theory and as depicted in fiction, film, and biography. Comparisons of developmental stages and issues in the lives of women and men. Prerequisites: sophomore standing and SOC 110 or SOC 113 or SOC 132 or permission of instructor.

SOC 325: WOMEN IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES (4)

A critical assessment of the place of women in the development of the social sciences with special emphasis on the social and historical contexts in which women first entered the fields of sociology, psychology, and anthropology in the United States. The careers and contributions of a number of significant early women social scientists will be examined. Prerequisite: SOC 110 or SOC 113 or SOC 132 or permission of instructor.

SOC 327: SOCIOLOGY OF REPRESENTATION: RACE, CLASS, AND GENDER (4)

This course explores the sociological study of race, class, and gender, and asks how the conclusions are represented or challenged in the mass media. Students read and critically examine sociologists' assessments of

race, gender, and class in contemporary society, and address whether media reflect or repudiate these arguments.

SOC 333: BLUES, JAZZ, AND CULTURE (4)

Why did blues and jazz, two distinctive art forms, emerge in the United States in the 20th century? This course examines the historical and social forces giving rise to these musical genres and explores how both developed and spread throughout the century. Emphasis is on multicultural components, major innovators, and the significance of certain cities such as New Orleans, Chicago, Kansas City, and Memphis. Prerequisite: SOC 110 or SOC 113 or SOC 132 or permission of instructor.

SOC 337: COMMUNICATION, SOCIETY, AND INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY (4)

The self as a social construction of dominant societal means of communication. Focus on the manner in which all communication, from interpersonal to mass media, affects individual identity development. Consideration of the specific effect on personal identity of the ascendancy of electronic media. Prerequisites: sophomore standing and SOC 110 or SOC 113 or SOC 132 or permission of instructor.

SOC 341: SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH, ILLNESS, AND MEDICINE (4)

A critical examination of sickness, health, and health care from a sociological perspective. Special attention to sociocultural factors in health and illness; the careers and relationships of patients and health care professionals; and the organization and use of medical care. Prerequisites: sophomore standing and SOC 110 or SOC 113 or SOC 132 or permission of instructor.

SOC 343: CRITICAL RACE THEORY (4)

This course examines racial assumptions embedded in US law and traces the impact of racism on the development of the law and legal institutions. Critical Race Theory (CRT) is a broad theoretical framework created by synthesizing the main themes of scholars who challenge dominant understandings of race and the law. This course surveys the texts that define the CRT framework.

SOC 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – CAPITALISM, MARXISM-HUMANISM, AND THE GOOD SOCIETY (4)

We will first consider the question, what is a good society? In pursuit of an answer we will examine philosophical, psychological, and social perspectives ranging from Plato to Michael Moore. We will then turn to examination of both capitalism and Marxism-humanism in relation to the individual and societal ideals we will have encountered in our earlier investigation. Open to first-year students.

SOC 350: SPECIAL TOPIC - COMPARATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE

No description was available for this class when the catalog went to press. Please check the registrar's Web page for description.

SOC 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY (4)

This course applies theories from sociology, architectural design and science along with field tested market solutions to a range of environmental issues. We examine nature as social construction, the sustainability predicament, consumption and materialism, the ideology of environmental justice relative to theological outlooks, and race, class, gender, and other power dimensions that intersect environmental issues in national and global contexts. Also listed as ES 350.

SOC 350: SPECIAL TOPIC - GENDER AND JUSTICE (4)

A study of the ways that the American system of justice reflects and influences notions of sex and gender. Using historical and empirical sources, as well as fiction and film, the course examines constitutional issues with respect to gender, as well as relationships among gender, crime, and criminological theory. Prerequisites: SOC 110 or SOC 113 or SOC 132 or permission of instructor.

SOC 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – GLOBAL SOCIAL MOVEMENTS (4)

This course examines resistance efforts and activism from locations around the globe applying both social movement theory and social justice paradigms to explore commonalities and distinctions of activism in local and global contexts. We investigate variations of framing, identity, claims, counter resistance and determinations of success and failure on issues such as environmental degradation, violence, women's rights, land and religion. No prerequisite.

SOC 350: SPECIAL TOPIC - INDIVIDUALISM VS. COMMITMENT TO OTHERS (4)

A critical examination of the conflict between individualism and commitment to others as portrayed in fiction, biography, film, and the literature of the social sciences. Special attention will be given to conflicts between a woman's commitment to self, family, and community. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing and SOC 110 or SOC 113 or SOC 132 or permission of instructor.

SOC 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY (4)

This course will center on the acquisition, utilization and maintenance of power by groups including nations, organizations and social movements. We examine the social bases of power; strategies for developing political influence; focus of power in America and globally, relations between citizens and authorities, and problems and methods of achieving and maintaining political legitimacy. Offered Term 2.

SOC 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – RACE AND LAW (4)

This course will center on the historical and contemporary implications causes and consequences of race and the law in the United States. Using sociological, historical and legal methods and theories, the course will uncover the impact of race, and the intersections of race with gender and class, on various groups. The course will examine the social, political and economic effects of structural and legal components on individuals and groups. The student will learn to recognize, analyze and discuss both verbally and in writing the various dimensions of race and law present in aspects of U.S. society. No prerequisite.

SOC 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR (4)

What constitutes a social movement? How, when, and where do they form? Who joins social movements and why? How are social movements organized? What strategies do social movements use? How do social movements interact with major social institutions like the state and the media? Finally, how do social movements impact individuals and society? In addressing these questions, we will look to a wide range of historical and contemporary examples in the United States. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered Term 2.

SOC 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER (4)

This course considers gender in a U.S. context, with particular attendance to its inseparability from race, class, sexuality, ability, age, and citizenship. Using a sociological, constructionist, and feminist framework, we will explore gender as it interacts with major social institutions, like the family, education, religion, and the labor market. Also listed as GWS 350.

SOC 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITIES (4)

This course will explore the social construction of human sexualities. Understanding that the meanings we assign to behaviors, identities, and people cannot be understood without attention to the socio-historical context, we will explore--primarily in a U.S. context--sexual identities and behaviors, power, socialization, romance, sex work, pornography, the body, politics, sexual violence, and popular culture. We will also closely attend to the intersections of sexualities with race, class, gender, ability, and nationality.

SOC 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY (4)

This course will provide an overview of the family from a sociological perspective. The family is considered to be one of the most private and pervasive social institutions in society. During this course, we will explore both

ideological constructions of the family and the diversity of historical and contemporary family arrangements in the United States. Additionally, we will attend to how this institution intersects with other important social institutions. Open to first-year students.

SOC 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – WISDOM, REASON, REVELATION, AND DOUBT (4)

Also listed and described as REL 350.

SOC 350: SPECIAL TOPIC - WOMEN AND VIOLENCE (4)

In this course we examine the societal and interpersonal factors associated with violence against women. We examine theoretical explanations for violence and assess the scope, nature, and impact of this destructive behavior on women, the family, and society. Contemporary programs designed to address the multifaceted social problem are also addressed. Also listed as WS 350.(SW)

SOC 358: METHODS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH (4)

An introduction to methods of social research. Topics include ethical issues in research, the formulation of research questions, research design, concept measurement, sampling, data collection, data processing, and analysis. A foundation for the critical analysis and practice of social research. Prerequisites: sophomore standing and SOC 110 or SOC 113 or SOC 132 ,or permission of instructor.

SOC 385: S W II - CONTEMPORARY FAMILIES IN TRANSITION (4)

Contemporary theoretical orientations for work with women, minority populations, and families from diverse socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. Focus will be on advanced skill development and integration of theoretical approaches. Prerequisite: SOC 285 or permission. (SW)

SOC 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)

Individual project work at the advanced level with a member of the sociology department. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration.

SOC 395: MODERN AND POSTMODERN SOCIAL THEORY (4)

Focus on significant contributions to social theory in the 20th century. Special emphasis given to developments since World War II. Prerequisite: SOC 231 or SOC 325, or permission.

SOC 399: INTERNSHIPS (4)

Application must be made with faculty prior to registration.

SOC 470: THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL RESEARCH (4)

SOC 470: SOCIOLOGY SENIOR SEMINAR (4)

A senior seminar dedicated to the application of scientific principles and methods of social research involving research projects designed and conducted by students. Direct experience in all phases of the social research process including preparation and presentation of a final written report. Prerequisite: SOC 358.

SOC 472: SOCIAL WORK SENIOR PRACTICUM (6-8)

Students have an opportunity to apply the knowledge, values, and skills acquired in their academic course work to clients in a community agency. Students will provide supervised professional services in a community agency for a minimum of 20 hours per week. A seminar on campus designed to help students understand, apply, and evaluate the use of social work methods in field settings and situations supports the field placement. The number of credits depends on the number of hours worked. Prerequisite: SOC 121, SOC 285, SOC 315, or SOC 385, or permission. (SW)

SOC 480: SENIOR THESIS (4)

A senior research paper based on an in-depth inquiry into a specific sociological problem or issue. Prerequisite or corequisite: SOC 395. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration.

SOC 490: SENIOR HONORS THESIS (4, 4)

Senior sociology majors with strong academic records may apply to work for honors recognition by presenting a thesis proposal to the faculty of the department. Work is completed over a full year (Fall, Short, and Spring Terms). Decisions on awards of departmental honor are made at the conclusion of the project. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration.