

SOCIOLOGY, USC, COLUMBIA

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SPRING 2025

SOCIOLOGY 101.1: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **10:05AM – 11:20AM** *Erin Davenport*

This interactive class will push students to question the society they live in. Things that seem “just the way things are” have underlying structural and societal significance. In SOCY 101 we will peel back those layers and try to make sense of the world around us using lenses of different theoretical perspectives. Curiosity is key to enjoying this class! Participation is emphasized, and this course features small assignments and consistent work across time rather than larger projects or assignments at the end.

SOCIOLOGY 101.2: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **11:40AM – 12:55PM** *Erin Davenport*

This course is a broad introduction to the field of sociology. Throughout the semester, we will practice taking a sociological perspective – assessing the effects of context, social forces, and society on individuals, and the effects of individual behavior on shaping social environments. We will discuss how knowledge accumulates in social science by discussing sociological methods of research. Due to the breadth of the discipline of sociology, this course will take a topical approach – discussing some of the most important lines of inquiry in the field

SOCIOLOGY 101.3 INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **10:05AM – 11:20AM** *Professor Joseph Quinn*

SOCIOLOGY 101.4: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **11:40AM – 12:55PM** *Valerie Barron*

This course will introduce you to the foundations of sociology! Throughout the semester, we will consider some common sociological questions as we learn about the theories that are often used to frame these questions. Using a sociological perspective we will examine how external social forces affect all aspects of our lives -from our opportunities and failures to our likes and dislikes- and we will discuss how we often are completely unaware of these processes. Just think how your core values and beliefs could be different had you grown up in a different country, or as a different race, or even in a different time period. Sociology provides a unique perspective to examining our social world in many ways. It not only traces how people are shaped by the society that they are in but also how people shape society. This course will help you develop a greater understanding of these processes while introducing some of the most important areas of study within the growing field of sociology

SOCIOLOGY 101.5: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **2:50PM – 4:05PM** **Nicolas Harder**

This course will introduce you to the “sociological imagination”, a concept which is vital for understanding the broader context of one’s life and experiences in relation to larger society. This course will review theories, methodologies, vocabulary, and themes in the field of sociology. It will focus on the social structures that organize society, with emphasis on how these structures influence individual understanding, action, and well-being. Basic sociological ideas will be explored, such as culture, socialization, gender, race, and inequality. In addition, we will examine how social institutions, such as religion, family, health, and education, influence everyday life. Course instruction will be divided between lectures, class activities and discussion, and media intended to illustrate course concepts. At the end of this course students will have a basic comprehension of sociological concepts, recognize the influences of social structures on their lives, and be able to apply course concepts to understanding social issues.

SOCIOLOGY 101.6: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **1:15PM – 2:30PM** **Megan Routh**

SOCIOLOGY 101.H01: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **8:30AM – 9:45AM** ***Professor Laura Brashears***
Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students

Each of us has an idea of what is meant by the word “society:” the people we live with, the work we do, and the government agencies that touch our lives. We live in particular places, work at specific businesses, and belong to our own groups. And while we must experience society from our own individual perspectives, none of those individual perspectives can encompass the totality of each of our experiences. Sociologists seek to examine the social world through an objective lens, rising above individual experiences to understand the whole. In other words, sociologists do not take the world before their eyes for granted; rather, we use scientific methods to gain a deeper understanding of how “society is inside of man and man is inside society.”

No social endeavor is off-limits to sociologists; we study religion, education, the family, the self, crime, work, economics, politics, organizations, demographic shifts, gender, race and ethnicity and social movements, among other things. We even study how science itself operates as a social entity.

In this course, I will introduce you to a lot of facts that sociologists have collected within quite a few of these areas. While I think these facts are interesting, and important (or I wouldn’t bother teaching them!), I am much more concerned with teaching you how to step back and examine your world from an “outsider’s” perspective. In other words, you will learn to use the “sociological imagination”, a faculty that allows us to see the way the world is, and to imagine how it might have been, or might become, different. Once you do so, you will be able to develop a deeper understanding of how social factors have influenced you in the past and will continue to influence you in the future.

SOCIOLOGY 101.H02: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **10:05AM – 11:20AM** ***Professor Laura Brashears***
Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students

SOCIOLOGY 101.H03: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **TR** **4:25PM – 5:40PM** ***Professor Shane Thye***
Restricted to South Carolina Honors College Students

CONTENT: This survey course covers many aspects of modern sociology. The course begins with an overview of the origins of sociology. Then the course covers a survey of sociological research methods and the role of theory and science in sociology. Theoretical perspectives on social life are covered along with sociological treatments of societal institutions. Theories of socialization, deviance, family, group dynamics and religion are also covered. Student assessment takes the form of three examinations and several film assignments. Students should gain a grasp of the role of social structures on individual lives and an understanding of the role of sociology in the modern world.

SOCIOLOGY 101.J10: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **ONLINE** **TBA** ***Hanne Van Der Iest***

This **100% online Carolina Core** course will give you a broad introduction to the field of sociology. Throughout the semester, we will practice taking a sociological perspective – assessing the effects of context, social forces, and society on individuals, and the effects of individual behavior on shaping social environments. We will focus on evidence and facts, and we will learn why sociology is necessary for good policy and good citizenship.

Due to the breadth of the discipline of sociology, we will take a topical approach – discussing some of the most important lines of inquiry in the field. Topics include culture, social norms, social networks, trust, crime, inequality, race, gender, marriage and family, research methods, education, and happiness, among others.

The course is divided into 14 Modules. Each Module contains video lectures, readings, and other media. For each Module, you will be assessed with a class participation assignment, homework, and a short, timed, quiz. Although this course will be asynchronous online, you can expect frequent communication and guidance from me, and many opportunities for interaction with your fellow students.

SOCIOLOGY 101.J12: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **ONLINE** **TBA** ***Hanne Van Der Iest***

SOCIOLOGY 101.J13: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **ONLINE** **TBA** *Hanne Van Der Iest*

SOCIOLOGY 101.J14: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY **ONLINE** **TBA** *Hanne Van Der Iest*

SOCIOLOGY 301.1: SEX & GENDER **TR** **2:50PM – 4:05PM** *Erin Davenport*

This course offers a sociological lens to develop critical ways of thinking about sex and gender as social processes in everyday lives. Students will explore different theories about sex and gender, as well as think about how they operate as social categories in institutions like government, media, education etc. Students should take this course if they are looking to explore these ideas in a participation-heavy and application-based manner.

SOCIOLOGY 351.1: URBAN SOCIOLOGY **TR** **1:15PM – 2:30PM** *Professor Brian Levy*

This course focuses on cities, urban social life, and their evolution over time in the United States. Topics include neighborhoods, segregation, gentrification, housing, community organization, local institutions, political economy, crime, policing, environmental hazards, and more. Major theoretical and methodological perspectives of urban sociology will be covered.

SOCIOLOGY 360.1: SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICINE & HEALTH **TR** **11:40AM – 12:55PM** *Professor Andrea Henderson-Platt*

In this class, we dive into topics like what health and illness mean in different cultures, how things like race, class, gender and sexuality impact health, and how different health care systems work and how they affect patients. By the end, you'll get a clearer picture of the social factors that play a huge role in shaping health and illness.

SOCIOLOGY 370.1: SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT **TR** **4:25PM – 5:40PM** *Erin Davenport*

In this course we will approach the topic of sports with a sociological edge- looking for patterns of unity and difference. How can sports bring people together? How do our differences (race, class) lead us to play different sports, on average? What are the ways that sports serves as a mirror of our larger society? We will explore these issues through an interactive and discussion-based course. I encourage people interested in sports and wanting to improve their critical thinking and public speaking skills to join.

SOCIOLOGY 391.1: SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS **MW** **2:20PM- 3:35PM** *Professor Allison Dunatchik*

This course is designed to provide you with a basic understanding of research in sociology and the social sciences and to enable you to think like a social scientist. Through this course students will learn both the logic of sociological inquiry and the nuts and bolts of doing empirical research. We will focus on such issues as the relationship between theory and research, the logic of research design, issues of conceptualization and measurement, basic methods of data collection, and what social scientists do with data once they have collected them. Over the course of the semester students will gain hands-on research experience by conducting their own mixed-methods research project on a topic of their choosing.

SOCIOLOGY 392.1: ELEMENTARY STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS **TR** **10:05AM- 11:20AM** *Professor Jun Zhao*

This course covers the various ways in which empirical information is obtained and analyzed in social science. Statistical techniques covered will include ways to describe center and spread, t-tests, linear regression, chi-square, and complex analysis of variance (ANOVA), as well as the use of a common statistical program to analyze data.

This course is designed to introduce you to the logic of statistical analysis, not to test your mathematical abilities. Rudimentary familiarity with basic arithmetic and a few algebraic functions will suffice for the material presented in the course. This means that, even if you are insecure about your math prowess, this class should not intimidate you. More than anything, **success in this course requires diligence**. The material covered in the course is very incremental, with the presentation of new material building on what you have learned in earlier segments of the course. *You will have the greatest chance of success if you attend class regularly, take meticulous notes, keep up on your reading, and make sure to visit office hours to get clarification on issues about which you are unsure.*

SOCIOLOGY 393.J10: SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY **TBA** ***Professor Mathieu Deflem***

This course presents an introduction to the major developments in sociological theory. The approach is both chronological and perspective-oriented, including classical as well as modern and contemporary theories. The central focus is on the foundations of sociological theory and its more recent contrasting variations. The course is not only conceptual, but also includes applications to explore the fruitfulness of sociological theory for the empirical analysis of various issues in society, such as law, deviance, culture, family, religion, and politics. The assignments include three tests, six forum posts (short essays), optional discussion opportunities, and one comprehensive final exam. This is a fully online distributed-learning course delivered through Blackboard (100% Web Asynchronous).

SOCIOLOGY 398.1: WORK IN THE NEW ECONOMY **TR** **10:05AM – 11:20AM** ***Professor Jennifer Augustine***

In this new class, we will examine how the institution of work shapes class, gender, and racial inequalities. We will focus on structural, social, and cultural dimensions of the U.S labor market, and how such factors contribute to various forms of inequality, including disparities in wages, time, employment, status and prestige, social support, mental and physical health, mobility, parenting opportunities, and opportunities for self-development and personal satisfaction. We will explore these issues through readings that are drawn from an array of sources, including books, journals, and popular press; in-class and at-home activities, and class discussions. This class will help you think about work as something more than what you will do to earn a living. You will come to see it as a larger social system that stratifies who can access the various benefits that work can potentially confer, and who pays the non-economic costs of work.

SOCIOLOGY 503.1: FAMILY & SOCIAL STRATIFICATION **TR** **11:40AM – 12:55PM** ***Professor Jennifer Augustine***

This is a face-to-face course that examines the roles that families and their socioeconomic circumstances play in stratifying the opportunities and mobility of their children. We will take an intergenerational perspective organized by a life course framework in which we explore the connections between family background and stratification outcomes at various stages of children's lives, starting with birth into adulthood. In this process, we will learn various sociological theories of how social class is transmitted and develop a multifaceted understanding of how children's futures are in so many ways strongly linked to their family background

SOCIOLOGY 504.1: SOCIAL STRATIFICATION **TR** **2:50PM – 4:05PM** ***Professor Brian Levy***

Why are resources unequally distributed in society? Who ends up at the top and bottom of hierarchies? These questions of social stratification are at the heart of sociology. We will identify and examine structures of social inequality in the United States, with particular emphasis on stratification by race, class, gender, and sexuality. We will study frameworks used to define and understand social hierarchies, as well as how inequality is reproduced through institutions, culture, and public policy. We will attend to stratification in the labor market, criminal justice system, education system, family, neighborhood, and more.

SOCIOLOGY 525.1: SELVES AND SOCIAL TRANSACTION **TR** **1:15PM – 2:30PM** ***Professor Laura Brashears***

Who are you? How do you know who you are? How do you and your actions affect the world around you? The answers to these questions seem highly individual on the surface (e.g., *you* are an introvert, a USC student, a member of Generation Z), but all require a deeper connection to others. In part, you know who you are because you are constantly interacting with other individuals, with groups, and even with larger social ideas.

In this seminar course, you will examine how sociology views the processes by which individuals come to have a self, including how we think and feel about ourselves. You will examine how social identities (e.g., race, ethnicity, sex, gender, age, social class) influence experiences within various social institutions: family, work, education, and religion. And you will investigate the impact of changing cultural values and social structures (e.g., social media use, generational change) on our perceptions of the world and our sense of who we are as individuals.

SOCIOLOGY 540.J11: SOCIOLOGY OF LAW ONLINE *Professor Mathieu Deflem*

This course reviews the most important developments in the sociological study of law, including both theoretical perspectives and empirical themes. Successive sections of the course specifically focus on classical contributions in the sociology of law; chapters in modern sociology of law; and a selection of empirical themes of law and law-related processes and structures, including law and economy; law, democracy, and politics; law and culture; social structure and law; legality and legitimacy; the legal profession; law and social control; and the globalization of law. The approach of the course is rooted in sociological theory. This is an online distributed-learning course delivered through Blackboard (100% Web Asynchronous).

SOCIOLOGY 561.1: REAL WORLD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE TR 11:40AM – 12:55PM *Professor James Adams*

In this course, we will continue to develop the logic and corresponding toolkits of sociological methods through applied, hands-on research experience. This will entail a combination of research design and data analysis projects, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative approaches. We will collectively identify a course-wide research topic, then subdivide that topic into individual and small-group projects that address specific research questions pertaining to the overarching theme. In turn, we will (1) identify existing data sources, and (2) design then collect original data to examine those questions from triangulated perspectives. Primary outputs of this work will include (a) written research reports and (b) presentation elements. Along the way, class meeting sessions will focus on learning and refining particular skills expected to be used in the conduct of these projects.

SOCIOLOGY 561.2: REAL WORLD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE TR 1:15PM – 2:30PM *Professor Joseph Quinn*

SOCIOLOGY 562.1: ADVANCED SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS TR 6:00PM – 7:15PM *Professor Shane Thye*

SOCIOLOGY 720.1: SURVEY OF RESEARCH METHODS TR 6:00PM– 7:15PM *Professor Shane Thye*

SOCIOLOGY 731.1 QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF SOCIOLOGICAL DATA TR 11:40AM – 12:55PM *Professor Matthew Brashears*

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to more exotic versions of linear models allowing the analysis of data that do not conform to the assumptions of OLS regression. OLS is a powerful technique but makes a number of assumptions that are difficult or impossible to substantiate in many real-world applications. As a consequence, its versatility is more apparent than real. We will explore a variety of alternative “flavors” of regression, as well as one non-regression-based technique, allowing the researcher to address questions in these alternative cases. We will not have time to cover all possible models but will instead explore a selection of models based on their utility in conducting social research and/or their conceptual usefulness in introducing classes of models. We will also learn about implementations of these techniques in Stata.

By the completion of class (i.e., our course objectives) students should be familiar with multiple non-OLS approaches to data analysis, be capable of using these techniques to analyze unfamiliar data and should have continued to develop their skills with appropriate statistical software.

SOCIOLOGY 732.1 INFERENCEAL NETWORK ANALYSIS THURSDAY 2:50PM – 5:35PM Professor James Adams

SOCIOLOGY 749.1: POPULATION PERSPECTIVES OF GENDER, SEXUALITY & REPRODUCTION MW 2:20PM – 3:35PM
Professor Rebekah Broussard

In this course, we will analyze population data on gender, sexuality, and health in a global context. Students will critically analyze theoretical frameworks and demographic tools of measurement used to create and inform population-level statistics. We will consider the impact of population health data on individual and community health and well-being.

SOCIOLOGY 775.1: MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY TR 1:15PM – 2:30PM Professor Andrea Henderson-Platt

SOCIOLOGY 780.1: PROSEMINAR TBA Professor Andrea Henderson-Platt

SOCIOLOGY 790.1: GENDER & RACE IN THE WORKPLACE TBA Professor Jun Zhao

SOCIOLOGY 790.2: REPUTATION MANAGEMENT IN EXCHANGE SYSTEMS TBA Professor Shane Thye
