

**THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
SPRING 2009
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

Brian Donovan

This class will explore a wide range of sociological problems, issues, and theories. The reading, lecture, and discussion material will center on the “core categories” of sociological inquiry designated by the American Sociological Association, including historical sociology, qualitative sociology, quantitative sociology, gender, sexuality, inequalities, stratification, politics, social change, race, ethnicity, social control, law, crime, deviance, social interaction, work, economy, organizations, sociology of culture, and social theory. Instead of using a textbook, we will read thought provoking examples of sociological research available on Blackboard, including work by Arlie Hochschild, Mitchell Duneier, Eric Klinenberg, Robin Leidner, and Diana Crane.

SOC 110 The American Peoples

Faculty

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

Mehrangiz Najafizadeh

This course uses sociological concepts and theories to provide a more complete understanding of the 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 stages of change, from early hunting and gathering societies to contemporary societies in the age of globalization. Different societies are used as case studies and examples.

SOC 151 Self and Society, Honors

Joey Sprague

Common sense tells us that we have personalities we were born with and that we perceive the world directly. This course explores an alternative approach: that who we are, how we see ourselves and each other, and even our perception to the physical world are profoundly shaped by the society in which we live. In fact, many of the readings will argue that we are constructing and reconstructing ourselves and our social world in every social interaction. We will take a particularly close look at how we are constructed and construct one another as gendered persons.

SOC 160 Social Problems & American Values

Elizabeth Legerski

This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of social problems in the US and provide them with contemporary evidence of their preponderance and consequences. We will focus on identifying the social structural forces that shape the race, class, and gender inequalities that influence social problems, media depictions of these issues, and our public policy responses to them. The purpose of the class is to empower students with knowledge that helps them imagine and develop practical social policy solutions to the most pressing social problems of our time.

SOC 160 Social Problems & American Values**Bruce Carruthers**

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.

SOC 160 Social Problems & American Values**Kelley Massoni**

This class is about social problems and American values, and their relationship to each other. Exploring our lives in an increasingly mediated and globalized society, we will consider the ways that mass media and the economy interact to inform and shape our value systems and our perceptions of life and "how things are." We will focus in particular on mass media representations of the "ideal" and "non-ideal," including portrayals of social class, race, nationality, gender, age, and sexuality, analyzing the ways that these representations reflect, create, and/or perpetuate social problems. The three main objectives of the course are to: 1) introduce the student to the sociological perspective; 2) encourage the student to consider the world around them through a variety of lenses; and 3) hone the student's researching and media literacy skills.

SOC 220 Sociology of Families**Pooya Naderi**

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.

SOC 220 Sociology of Families**Carrie Wendel-Hummell**

How have shifts in the economy reorganized family life? What is the role of the family in reproducing gender roles, and in turn, how do gender expectations impact family life? Does race and ethnicity shape family life? How have patterns of intimacy, sexuality, and marriage changed over time? What roles and functions do we expect a family to fulfill, and what happens when such responsibilities are not met? Does the government have a role in helping families reach these goals? What are some cross-cultural differences concerning family life? Together we will explore these and many more questions as we learn about the connections between families and society in this lecture and discussion based course.

SOC 273 Women in Society**Christy Craig**

A sociological exploration of the image and status of women in society, including family, work, and politics. Socialization, education, and the women's movement are also analyzed. Includes an introduction to feminist theories in sociology.

SOC 304 Principles of Sociology (Edwards Campus)**Eric Hanley**

The study of social life, including how human groups are organized, how they change, and how they influence individuals. Consideration is given to a variety of human organizations and social institutions and how these groups and institutions both determine, and are determined by, human beings.

SOC 310 Introduction to Social Research**Kelley Massoni**

Every day, American news media chronicles the latest research on a myriad of topics: contemporary marriage, family trends, gender role shifts, Generation X, the Sandwich Generation -- the list goes on and on. In this course, you will acquire the tools to critically evaluate such research reports by learning how social scientists gather and analyze information. We will overview the four most common approaches to asking and answering social science questions: experiments, surveys, field research, and examining documents. Because the best way to learn about the research process is to experience it firsthand, small groups of students will design and implement research projects that will culminate in class presentations. By the end of the class, you will have expanded the world of social science knowledge with the addition of your own research findings. Sociology 310 is only open to sociology majors.

SOC 310 Introduction to Social Research**Jessica Vasquez**

In this course we will survey core methods of data collection and analysis including ethnography, interviewing, surveys, comparative-historical research, and basic quantitative analysis. This course is not designed to provide in-depth proficiency in any one area, but rather to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of various research methodologies. Through readings, class discussions, and projects, we will explore the benefits and drawbacks of different types of data and analyses. The class is designed to fulfill three primary objectives: 1) To learn about the methods that social scientists use to gather evidence about social life and how they use evidence to develop theories. 2) To practice the basic skills of research through hands-on data collection and analysis experiences. 3) To provide you the tools you need to evaluate other scholars' research as well as to architect your own research designs in ways that will most effectively answer your research question(s). SOC 310 is only open to Sociology majors.

SOC 332 The United States in Global Context**Tanya Golash-Boza**

From a human rights perspectives, all human beings possess unassailable dignity, and all human beings have immutable rights. Globalization entails the increasing interconnectedness of human beings around the world. Despite growing closer together, the predominant mode of thinking in the US is not in terms of our common humanity, but of our individual differences. In this course, we will compare the human rights perspective with the individual rights perspective, and then use these lenses to consider the impact of globalization on human rights in the US and abroad. In our consideration of globalization, we will examine both globalization from above – transnational institutions and corporations - and globalization from below – immigration and transnational flows of people. The primary goals of this class are to learn about globalization, human rights, and immigration. This class meets with AMS 332.

SOC 332 The United States in Global Context**Eve Clark**

This course explores the role of the United States in the contemporary global system. Our focus will be on defining globalization and the role of the U.S. in this "new" or "revised" global context. As globalization has come to signify numerous changes in both national and international economic, political, and cultural structures, we will explore what this term means and how it is used in numerous disciplines. We will also explore the relationship between globalization and U.S. foreign and domestic policies on trade, consumption, labor, migration, human rights, and welfare.

SOC 340 The Community**Shelley Koch**

This course is designed to approach the study of community in a multiplicity of ways. Through the lens of community of place, students will read current sociological and popular literature in order to discover what characteristics set a community apart from other social groups, how communities form and what they need to survive, and what meaningful community development entails. Particular emphasis is placed on inequality within and among communities, and the affects of architectural design and planning on successful community functioning. Second, students receive the opportunity to experience community in action through participating in a service-learning project. Students are placed in various community organizations and required to perform 20 hours of volunteer service beyond the classroom setting.

SOC 351 Africa Today**Ebenezer Obadare**

Africa's social dynamics. Topics to be considered include: the origins of modern African societies, nations, and states, family structures and values, ethnicity, gender relations and patriarchy, social, political, economic and cultural institutions, African 'exceptionalism', contemporary African social dynamics, transnational migration, HIV/AIDS, political transitions, and Africa's place in the emerging global order. At the end of the class, students will be expected to demonstrate both an understanding of the dynamics of contemporary African societies, and the factors which have continued to shape them. Prerequisites: Soc 104

SOC 352 Sociology of Sex Roles**Sandra Albrecht**

An examination of sex roles, sex stereotypes, and major issues involved in sex-role research. Emphasizes explanations of inequality between American males and females in the family and at work. The course is designed around lectures, panels, workshops, and films.

SOC 360 Sociology of Social Control (Edwards Campus)**Brian Zirkle**

This course examines changing methods of social control in society. Social control can be formal (e.g., law and criminal justice system) or informal (e.g., families, peer groups). This course examines the ways that we, as a society, attempt to respond to matters such as deviance, illness, crime, and poverty. This course will survey the many varieties of formal and informal social control faced by individuals in society, and the ways in which individuals resist and conform to various disciplinary and control regimes. Prerequisite: a principal course in Sociology.

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****Mehrangiz Najafizadeh**

This course provides a comprehensive coverage of the classical theorists such as Comte, Spencer, Marx, Durkheim, Weber, and Simmel, who have been influential in the development of sociological theory. Prerequisite: A principal course in Sociology. Open to Sociology majors only.

SOC 500 Sociological Theory**Robert Antonio**

An introduction to the principal texts in sociological theory and the ideas that made them important. Primary texts are emphasized. The goal of the course is to elaborate three classical theoretical traditions in sociology (Marx, Weber, Durkheim), to explain their historical contexts, and to consider their continued importance. Prerequisite: A principal course in sociology. Open to Sociology majors only.

SOC 510 Elementary Statistics and Data Analysis**ChangHwan Kim**

An introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics in sociological research. Alternative sampling procedures; the use of tables, measures of association, correlation, induction and inferential testing, significance testing and confidence intervals; nonparametric statistics; the logic of elaboration, casual inference, and multi-variate analysis. Introduction to electronic calculators, computer programs for data analysis (SPSS) and to interpretation of computer programs' output. No prior familiarity with statistics, calculators, or computers assumed. Prerequisite: Sociology 310, junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

SOC 522 American Racial and Ethnic Relations: A Service-Learning Course**Tanya Golash-Boza**

Race is one of the most critical, divisive, and defining issues in life in the United States today. In this course, we will read several book-length ethnographies as well several articles and book chapters that provide insight into how race and racism define each of our lives. Substantively, the material in this course focuses primarily on the experiences of African-Americans, with a few comparisons to the experiences of American Indians and Latinos and Latinas in the United States. Nevertheless, the theoretical focus on systemic and structural racism, categorization, ethnic identification, assimilation, pluralism, intersecting oppressions, and racism could be used to understand the experiences of other ethnic and racial groups. To complement the readings in this class, students will participate in service-learning. You will choose your community placement, and will be responsible for completing at least 20 hours of community service over the course of the semester.

SOC 523 Sociology of Aging and Life Course**David Ekerdt**

This course reviews the ways that age and aging are significant features of social life. At the conclusion of the course, students will appreciate:

*How social institutions use age to characterize individuals and sort them as to the use of life time (the life course is socially structured);

*How individuals age through historical time as members of cohorts (the life course is historically contingent);

*How the flow of cohorts through historical time is an engine of social change.

Students will also learn relevant interpretive principles, such as: age differences versus age changes; how age is both meaningful and meaningless; how the life course is both standardized and variable; how long life is both wanted and unwanted.

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 536 Ethnicity in the United States**Jessica Vasquez**

This course analyzes Latin American-origin populations in the U.S. Latinos are one of the fastest growing populations in the U.S., a sizable and significant minority population that is a numerical majority in some cities. We will discuss various ethnic groups, including Mexicans, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, and Dominicans, with specific reference to Kansas, California, Texas, Florida and New York. A sizeable portion of the course will be devoted to the issue of the Mexican-origin population because the size of present-day Mexican immigrant population is unparalleled. The course pays particular attention to the diversity within the Latino population. We focus on two questions throughout the course: a) Are there common experiences or characteristics that justify the categorization of these varied groups under a single race/ethnicity? And b) What racial, class, and gender divisions exist within these groups? Emphasizing the interconnections among social processes that affect these groups, we address how categories such as national origin, race/ethnicity, class, gender, age, sexuality, and immigration status shape the lives of Latinos/as. This class meets with AMS 536.

SOC 600 Sociological Perspectives: Whiteness and Ethnicity**Lynn Davidman**

As immigrants arrived in the U.S in the 1800's the White Anglos Saxons who were already here "racialized" these groups, i.e., attributed to them certain physical, biological features that were believed to go along with particular character traits. During the late 1800s, non-Caucasian groups such as Italians, the Irish and Jews were subjected to extreme racism and even violence, as were immigrants from China. This course will explore the racial stereotypes that made all ethnics "not fully white" in the 19th century and the process of their "whitening" in the early twentieth century, resulting in increasing divisions between "whites" and "blacks."

SOC 617 Women's Health and Health Care (Edwards Campus)**Mary Zimmerman**

A gender analysis of the organization of health care in the U.S., using socio-historical and critical sociological perspectives. Considers the health status of women in relation to cultural aspects of medicine and health care, including the media; the roles of both informal and professional health care providers; the political economy of health care delivery and organization; women's health and globalization; and the relationship between gender and the state. Within this perspective, the course includes in-depth examination of a range of specific illnesses and women's health problems.

SOC 624 Sociology of Health & Medicine (Edwards Campus)**Shirley Hill**

An introduction to medical sociology. Examination of social influences on illness and disease, the seeking of medical help, playing the sick role, and epidemiology; sociological theory and research on medical and health-care occupations, hospitals, medical technologies; and drug treatment, rural health, patient advocacy, and other contemporary issues.

SOC 650 Sociology of Transnational Migration**Ebenezer Obadare**

Although movement of peoples across territorial borders is a fact of human history from the earliest times, it has become axiomatic (Berger, above) to describe the contemporary era as the age of migration. These days, hardly a day goes by without media reports detailing the (usually harrowing) plight of would-be emigrants from Africa in their (often unsuccessful) attempts to 'escape' to the generally richer societies of Europe and North America. What makes large numbers of young African men and women increasingly desperate to leave their countries of birth? While general media reporting tends to paint a broad portrait of a social and cultural 'menace' (the resurgence of the trope of possible genetic contamination in a section of the Western press is a case in point), such reportage is often partial and tends to focus exclusively on the present. In attempting to provide a historically-conscious, sociological exploration of political, cultural and health issues involved in what might be called the migration complex, this course invites the student to situate current transnational migration from Africa within specific historical circumstances, circumstances which have continued to determine social processes both within postcolonial Africa and the postcolonial West. In the light of this, the course will be informed by parallels from the experience of migration in other parts of the world, specifically Asia and Latin America. The aim is to make students come to an understanding and appreciation of both the interconnectedness of the world's peoples and, crucially, of the world's histories. At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to demonstrate an understanding of the origins and sociological ramifications of current global migratory patterns. Prerequisite: Sociology 104.

SOC 662 Corrections**Lewis Mennerick**

This course provides an introduction to the sociology of corrections, including the history of corrections but with primary emphasis on contemporary aspects of corrections, including punishment and rehabilitation.

SOC 698 Individual Undergraduate Research**Faculty****SOC 760 Social Inequality****Shirley Hill**

Social inequality is a graduate seminar which focuses on historic and contemporary patterns of class, race-ethnic, and gender inequality in the United States and internationally. Class meetings will center on discussions of the assigned readings for the week. These readings will enable us to address the key questions in the study of social inequality: 1) How do sociologists define and theorize social inequality? 2) How does class inequality intersect with gender and racial inequality? 3) Is social inequality inevitable? 4) How is inequality related to systems of power, domination, and oppression? 5) What are the social consequences of inequality? 6) What social forces create, perpetuate, and challenge social inequality? Undergrad students must have permission from the instructor.

SOC 780 Advanced Topics: Teaching Sociology**Brian Donovan**

Instructor permission required

SOC 780 Advanced Topics: Globalization (Edwards Campus)**Eric Hanley**

Globalization refers to the crystallization of a comprehensive world society as a result of a changing infrastructure of communication and transportation, increasing international trade and investment, the development of international political and economic organizations, and the movement of peoples. This course will examine the political, economic, and cultural aspects of globalization, focusing on such topics as global governance, human rights and humanistic interventions, environmental issues, the role of the state and international governmental organizations in the global economy, the war on terrorism, and immigration and ethnic conflict. This class meets with INTL 702.

SOC 780 Advanced Topics: Religion and Society**Lynn Davidman**

This course introduces students to key theoretical and empirical works in the sociology of religion. The sociological perspective turns our attention to the human (especially the social) aspects of religious belief and practice. A central theme of this course is the relationship between religion and modernity, a question that concerned the original framers of the discipline of sociology, who saw religion as a way to understand society in general. We begin with a close reading of the classic theorists and move on to study modern theories and several case studies of contemporary religious communities.

SOC 802 Modern 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 pre-modern social orders. Primary texts of the major theorists (e.g., Marx, Durkheim, Nietzsche, Weber, Simmel, and Mead) will be studied in historical and cultural 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 and contemporary social theories will be explored.

SOC 808 Feminist Theory**Joey Sprague**

This course is designed to provide a good background in contemporary feminist social theory explaining the causes of women's (and many men's) oppression and the processes by which it is reproduced and contested. Emphases are on identifying the logic of the arguments, their strengths and blind spots, their implications for scholarship and for political practice. Theories covered include the classical models of liberal psychoanalytic, Marxist, radical, and socialist feminism and more contemporary social constructionist, intersectional, global, and structural theory. Among the specific theorists we will discuss are Acker, Bem, Bordo, Chodorow, Connell, Enloe, Hill Collins, Hooks, Mies, Mohanty, O'Brien, Ortner, Ridgeway, Rubin, Shiva, Smith, and West. Requirements include a commentary on each assigned reading and two take-home exams.

SOC 811 Sociological Research**Joane Nagel**

The goals of this course are to understand the characteristics of sociologically interesting and rigorous research and to design a research proposal that shares those characteristics. The focus of students' proposals will be their M.A. or Ph.D. research projects. We will read several books and articles that represent a variety of research approaches (ethnographies, surveys, interviews, document analyses, historical studies, comparative research, etc.), and we will deconstruct them in order to understand their theoretical and methodological approaches, strengths and weaknesses, breadths and limits. Assignments will include 1) presenting and discussing the assigned books and articles, 2) a written review of another student's research proposal, 3) an oral presentation of that other student's research proposal, 4) a written research proposal for one's own project.

SOC 891 Individual Master's Readings**Faculty**

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

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.

SOC 899 Thesis**Faculty****SOC 991 Individual Doctoral Readings****Faculty**

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

SOC 999 Dissertation**Faculty**

11/25/08

