

**THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**  
**SPRING 2010**  
**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 130 Comparative Societies**

**Lisa-Marie Wright**

**SOC 160 Social Problems & American Values**

**Kelley Massoni**

This class is about social problems, American values, and their relationship to each other. Exploring our lives in an increasingly mediated society, we will consider the ways that mass media and capitalism interact to inform and shape our value systems and our perceptions of “how things are.” We will examine media representations of the “ideal” and the “non-ideal,” including portrayals of social class, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and sexuality, analyzing the ways that these representations reflect, create and/or perpetuate social inequalities. 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 media literacy skills.

**SOC 220 Sociology of Families****Shirley Hill**

Love, sexuality, marriage, commitment, children - in this class we talk and theorize about how we negotiate and manage these vital aspects of our lives. How do the social norms, ideologies, and economies of society affect the decisions and behaviors of individuals and, conversely, how do individuals conform to and/or challenge the existing social order? Why are some relationships successful and satisfying, while others result in violence and divorce? How and why are the roles of men and women changing, and how are these changes impacting relationships? How are love and family life shaped by race-ethnicity, social class, and sexual orientation? This class draws on social theory and research to examine and answer these questions, but also expects students to be active participants and involved in the construction of social knowledge.

**SOC 220 Sociology of Families****Nicole Perry**

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? How can larger society, such as the government, assist families in meeting their responsibilities? 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 220 Sociology of Families****Melissa Freiburger**

This course uses service learning to explore how race, class, gender, and sexual orientation shape family experiences and how family as a social institution is impacted by economic, cultural and political forces. We will address such questions as: What family forms are supported at the societal level? Which are penalized? How do men and women balance the demands of work and family? How does the U.S. compare to other nations in regards to family policies? Other topics include sexuality and love, marriage, divorce, parenthood and domestic violence. Students are required to complete 20 hours of service learning.

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

The media bombard us with new research findings on a daily basis. In this course you will learn to critically evaluate such research by studying how social scientists gather and analyze information. We will overview the four most common approaches to asking and answering social science questions: examining documents and social artifacts, observing social interactions, asking questions, and conducting experiments. Because the best way to learn about the research process is to experience it firsthand, a significant amount of class time will be devoted to designing and implementing collaborative research projects using the method of content analysis. These projects will culminate in presentations to the entire class.

**SOC 310 Introduction to Social Research****Elif Andac**

This course is an introduction to social research methods used in sociology. It is primarily designed for sociology majors and minors, but will be useful for anybody interested in social research. Its main goal is to make students informed, sophisticated, critical readers of social research, and introduce them to actually doing research. Students in this course will start by learning how to recognize and pose researchable sociological questions and explore the relationship between theory and research; learn how to critically evaluate and apply different research designs that may be used to answer those questions; see a variety of examples of social research as it occurs in real-world settings; learn how to do some basic analysis in SPSS; and develop a research proposal. Prerequisite: Sociology 104.

**SOC 340 The Community****Shelley Koch**

This course is designed to provide an overview to sociology of the community through the lens of sustainability. Students will explore the processes by which communities promote sustainable environmental practices, local and regional economic systems and create just and equitable social organizations. In order to fully understand the concept of community, experiential and service learning are used to explore what KU and Lawrence communities are doing to promote sustainability and social justice. A commitment of 20 hours outside the class is necessary to complete the service learning requirement.

**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 385 Environmental Sociology****Shelley Koch**

The primary goal of this online course is to familiarize students with the field of environmental sociology and discover how the study of sociology illuminates environmental issues. The course will make use of sociological analysis to examine environmental problems and their impacts on people and populations. Some of the topics include the environment and its links to public health, access to food, water, and other resources, migration and urbanization, technology, biodiversity, education, economic development and consumption, and population growth.

(Same as EVRN 385).

**SOC 410 Death and Dying****Tracey LaPierre**

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 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****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 distribution course in sociology.

**SOC 500 Sociological Theory****Lynn Davidman**

An introduction to the principal texts in sociological theory and the ideas that made them important. Primary materials are emphasized, ranging from the origins of the discipline after the revolutions of the 1700's and up to the present. to the current age. The goal of the course is to show continuity and change in the theoretical tradition of sociology, and to demonstrate the continued importance of classical ideas as well as recent theoretical developments. Prerequisite: A principal course in sociology.

**SOC 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 510 Elementary Statistics and Data Analysis****Meredith Kleykamp**

This course provides an introduction to statistics and quantitative data analysis. In this course students will learn the fundamental concepts and logic used for describing data and testing hypotheses. Through assignments and computer lab sessions, students will also gain hands-on experience creating and manipulating data files, analyzing data, interpreting analysis output, and writing up their findings.

**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****Robert Antonio**

This course addresses sociological aspects of the growth of transnational economic, cultural, institutional, and political interconnections, the freer and faster movement of goods, images, ideas, people, and institutional forms across national borders, and the consequences and problems of these processes. The focus will be recent (later 20th century to the present) global restructuring in the context of historical shifts in capitalist development. Students read primary texts, take long essay exams, and write one paper. Prerequisite: SOC 104.

**SOC 536 Ethnicity in the United States: Contemporary Asian American Experience****Kelly Chong**

This course provides a critical examination of the multifaceted experiences of people of Asian and Pacific Island descent in the United States. Our goal is to arrive at an understanding of the historical, cultural, sociological, and racial dynamics behind the evolution of the Asian American community and identity, and of the complexities involved in immigrant adaptation. In addressing both the differences and commonalities among different Asian-American ethnic groups, we will explore a range of contemporary issues including those of immigration, family/gender, work, religion, race relations, cultural representation, identity development, and political activism. Some of the major themes explored will include: 1) the historical and contemporary manifestations of the social and political category of the "Asian American;" 2) how the changing interplay of ethnic culture, race, and politics of American society have shaped Asian Americans' attempts create and negotiate an identity; 3) how Asian Americans themselves experience challenges and claim accomplishments in the face of social barriers, and resist social and political inequality.

**SOC 624 Sociology of Health & Medicine****Mary Zimmerman**

This course examines how societies interpret and respond to disease, illness and health through 1) systems of meanings and the cultural patterns of behavior related to them and 2) social structural arrangements such as policy frameworks, institutions and a range of health care occupations and professions. We consider how these health-related mechanisms serve as institutions of social control as well as sources of care and cure. As part of the understandings developed in this course, current health care arrangements are considered from two distinct perspectives: as a set of market commodities (part of the economy) and as elements of human welfare (part of a system of basic social services, much like public education). Students will be exposed to a perspective of health and healthcare that is both comparative and critical, conceptualizing medicine as a social as well as a biomedical science.

**SOC 626 Religion & Society****Kelly Chong**

The purpose of this course is twofold: to offer an introduction to the study of religion from a sociological perspective, and to investigate the place of religion in contemporary societies. Analyzing religion as a belief system, subjective experience, a set of practices, and a fundamental social institution, we will explore the influence and function of religion in societies today, and the ways people organize their communities around religion to seek meaning, and cope with, or bring about, social change. Particular attention will be given to the role religion plays in maintaining or challenging social structure; is religion conservative or revolutionary? Does religion serve as a source of oppression or protest? We will conclude with a look at the future of religion in modern society. Although we will be examining a variety of religious traditions, our empirical focus will be on the U.S.

**SOC 698 Individual Undergraduate Research****Faculty****SOC 780 Advanced Topics: Political Sociology****Elif Andac**

The purpose of this course is to offer graduate students an overview of some 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, social movements, political organization and civic participation, political culture, voting behavior, comparative political systems, warfare, democracy and economic development, citizenship, nationalism, revolutions, and globalization.

Meets with SOC 980.

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

Permission of Instructor Required.

**SOC 780 Narrative Analysis****Lynn Davidman****SOC 780 Advanced Topics: Gender in the Global Context****Mehrangiz Najafizadeh****SOC 804 Sociology of Knowledge****Joey Sprague**

Sociology of Knowledge examines how social forces, particularly social relations of inequality, shape the contours of knowledge and the privileging of some kinds of knowledge over others. Several paradigms within sociology have addressed this problematic but, particularly in recent decades, the most fruitful work has been done by feminist scholars. In this course we will read some of the “classics” in sociology of knowledge, feminist critiques of mainstream knowledge, and feminist perspectives on knowing and the known. Finally we will take a critical look at the social institutions organizing the production of knowledge in western sociology: the discipline and the academy.

**SOC 810 Sociological Inquiry****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 812 Analytic Methods****David Ekerdt**

This course addresses the multivariate analysis of quantitative data at the intermediate level. At the conclusion of the course, students will: understand the use and interpretation of statistical routines that are organized by the general linear model, and their application to research problems in the social sciences; appreciate the importance of collaborative work and mutual problem-solving in social research; gain facility with an omnibus statistical package; be able to generalize experience with one data set to the use of other data resources. The course will emphasize skills and knowledge that are crucial and practical for participation in the community of sociological researchers and for meeting professional obligations as sociologists.

**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 900 Special Topics: Critical Theory****David Smith**

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

**SOC 920 Special Topics on Social Organization: Sociology of Education Organizations****Argun Saatcioglu**

A synthesis of current theoretical and empirical developments in formal organizations. These are evaluated for applicability to administering educational organizations. Meets with ELPS 954.

**SOC 980 Advanced Topics: Political Sociology****Elif Andac**

The purpose of this course is to offer graduate students an overview of some 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, social movements, political organization and civic participation, political culture, voting behavior, comparative political systems, warfare, democracy and economic development, citizenship, nationalism, revolutions, and globalization. Meets with SOC 780.

**SOC 980 Advanced Topics: Gender in the Global Context****Mehrangiz Najafizadeh**

Meets with Soc 780.

**SOC 991 Individual Doctoral Readings****Faculty**

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

**SOC 999 Dissertation****Faculty**