
Sociology (SOC)

(Behavioral Sciences Department)

SOC 101—Introduction to Sociology

3 cr. (Fall/Spring/Summer)

This course explores those forces in our culture and social structure that lie beyond the individual's control or direct awareness, but which shape what we are, how we behave, and what we think. Basic sociological concepts are used to develop insights and understanding. Topics such as culture, social structure, socialization, social control, groups, stratification, research methods and statistical analysis are discussed. Fulfills Category C. (GE 3)

SOC 120—Social Problems

3 cr. (Fall/Spring/Summer)

Using primarily a scientifically and statistically based sociological perspective, a variety of American social problems are examined. Included are the increasing levels of interpersonal violence and other types of deviant behavior, racism and sexism, threat of war, poverty and the welfare system, and the consequences of economic inequality. Analysis of these problems includes description, causative relationships, individual and societal dimensions, and alternative social policy responses. Fulfills Category C.

SOC 202—Social Inequality

3 cr. (Fall/Spring/Summer)

This sociology course examines the tensions and conflicts generated by the struggle for power and between the defenders of tradition and the forces of change, research evidence and statistical analysis are used to see how race, class, and gender are used as fundamental reference points for understanding how power and resources are distributed in American Society. While a cross-cultural perspective is sometimes used for comparative purposes, the primary focus is on the surging changes that have swept through American institutions since World War II. The American family, schools, economy, political life, military, sports world and religious life will be studied. Fulfills Category C. (GE 3)

SOC 220—Race, Ethnicity and Society

3 cr. (Fall/Spring)

This course will explore the basic dynamics and processes of race and ethnic relations from a sociological perspective. Such topics as dominant-minority relations, prejudice, discrimination, assimilation, racism and antisemitism will be explored. The primary focus will be upon American society but examples from other societies will be explored as well; i.e., Brazil, Canada and Eastern Europe. Prerequisite: SOC 101

SOC 231—The Family

3 cr. (Spring)

Using a sociological perspective, the institution of the family is analyzed in terms of its relationship to the changing society in which it exists. Of special interest is how these changes affect individuals within families. Topics such as mate selection, sex roles, romance and love, sexuality, communication, conflict violence, divorce and remarriage are discussed. Fulfills Category C. (GE 3) Prerequisite: One course in sociology

SOC 242—Sociology of Religion

3 cr.

This course is an introduction to the sociological study of religion, exploring religious beliefs, practices, and institutions in different societies through the lens of sociological theories that examine religion as a social phenomenon. This entails attending to society's impact on religion as well as religion's effect on society. Examining the social dynamics of religion in other societies will help us better understand the nature and function of religion in American society. Fulfills Category C. (GE 3)

Prerequisite: 3 Credits in Sociology or Anthropology