**SOCIOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**SOC 101 / Intro to Sociology**

Sociology explores the intersection of biography and history. Students learn the basic foundations of sociology, including its development as a field of inquiry, early sociological theory, and methodology. The course also analyzes social organization, addressing culture, structure, socialization, and social control. Students investigate how culture, class, race, sex, family, medicine, business, religion, education, and government affect our lives. Special attention is paid to the impact of society on self.

**SOC 170 / Topics in Sociology**

This is a Topics Course with no prerequisites, open to and appropriate for first-year students.

**SOC 205 / Social Work & Human Service Professions**

Are you drawn to collaborating with others to improve their lives in a meaningful way? This dynamic course is designed especially for students interested in any human services profession, particularly social work, but also fields such as public health, medical social services, counseling & therapy, rehabilitation, educational support, government, and non-profit management. Together we examine the theory and practice of social work and human services within the larger social welfare system in America. Our exploration probes: a) the complex array of problems that challenge the social functioning of individuals, groups, families, organizations, and communities, (b) the various approaches, policies, and interventions employed to enhance or restore social functioning, (c) the unique values, knowledge, and skills required for effective professional practice, and (d) the multiple, varied, and rewarding career opportunities. Critical investigation of America’s structural and systemic social problems is a primary focus, including poverty and socio-economic inequality, health disparities, racism, sexism, and other forms of social injustice. The instructor emphasizes interactive and experiential learning, including small group discussions, career exploration with visiting social work professionals, and completion of a 30-hour, community-based, field experience at a site selected by the student.

**SOC 210 / Social Deviance**

The processes that label and sanction social deviants as related to the use and measure of power and the class structure. The topics of the medicalization of deviance, moral stratification and social control will be analyzed from various sociological perspectives.

**SOC 227 / Political & Historical Sociology**

This course introduces students to classical theories and concepts on power and authority. The following topics are also covered: Comparative and historical analysis of social origins of current political inequality within both Western and non-Western countries and the resulting problems of alienation, poverty and political instability in the world.

**SOC 281 / Sociology of Race in the US (crosslisted with AAS 281)**

A broad sociological study of race in the dynamics of American power, privilege, and oppression. The course argues race, as a concept and social phenomenon, is fluid, malleable, and socially constructed and those characteristics have made it a persistent and useful feature in US historical development. Cross-listed with AAS 281.

**SOC 301 / Development of Socio-Cultural Theory**

**SOC 101 or ANT 110 is a pre-requisite (with a B- or better required of Sociology majors/minor)**

The response of social theorists to the consequences of the industrial revolution and the issues of capitalism, secularism, modern consciousness, and the socio-critical enterprise, as seen through the work of such theorists as Marx, Durkheim, and Weber. Contemporary development of these theories will also be discussed.

**SOC 302 / Quantitative Research Methods**

**SOC 101 (B- or better), & STA 115 (B- or better) or STA 215 (C+ or better) are prerequisites. SOC302 and a required 80-minute lab class are co-requisites.**

The course is designed to familiarize students with quantitative research methodology, methods of quantitative data collection, and analysis of quantitative data used in sociology. In addition, students will learn one of the most widely used statistical software packages in the social sciences (SPSS) and conduct independent research using one of the most widely used sources of quantitative social data, the General Social Survey (GSS). One additional 80-minute lab session is required as a co-component to this course.

**SOC 303 / Gender and Activism in Global Perspective**

**(\*new title and description Fall 2021 – was crosslisted with WGS 378 but course modification was not submitted to R&R for WGS so crosslist should be reexamined)**

Social movements about gender issues and identities are significant sources of social change in societies around the world. This course explores the cultural constructions and implications of gender in different global contexts by analyzing the political demands and experiences of gender-based movements.

**SOC 306 / Qualitative Social Science Research Methods & Ethnography**

This course involves students directly in qualitative research and analysis, primarily interviewing and participant observation. Students will learn techniques of research design, interviewing, participant observation, writing ethnographic field notes, and qualitative data analysis. They will then work directly with the professor to design their own research project, carry it out, and analyze their own data. This course is designed for any student who has interest in the social sciences, human services, or graduate school.

**SOC 310 / Urban Youth Deviance**

This course focuses on the nature of urban youth deviance, deviant behavior, its impact and influence within the context of the urban mind-set and issues of social control. Students will examine their own perceptions of and experiences with urban youth deviance within the context of sociological theories and concepts pertinent to broadening the student's understanding of urban youth deviance and issues of social control.

**SOC 314 / Food, Culture, and Society**

Food is among the most essential elements of daily life, yet it can also be one of the most revealing constituents of social processes and social structure. This course will probe the many dimensions and contexts of food. The primary focus will be on its interactive and relational aspects: its role in establishing our identity, preserving our memories, nurturing and sustaining our social connections, as well as potentially dividing us.

**SOC 315 / Racism, Power, and Privilege**

The social consequences of race, ethnic, and other minority identities as they affect racism, power, and privilege. Racism and ethnic relations are seen as manifestations of stratification and of the competition and conflict that develop over social rewards. Race, power, and privilege are intertwined themes in dominant minority interaction in conjunction with contemporary social issues regarding age, class, and gender. Minority identity as social phenomenon having broad consequences and considered in historical and comparative perspective.

**SOC 317 / Organizations in Modern Society**

Organizations are the fundamental unit of modern society and an important area of contemporary sociology. This course considers various theories of different kinds of organizations, public and private, for-profit and non-profit, voluntary and involuntary, small and large with a specific focus on local not-for-profit organizations. In this class, students will apply their knowledge to organizations in the community and will gain a greater understanding of how modern organizations have an impact on our society and themselves.

**SOC 320 / Community, City and Suburb**

This course examines the sociological concept of community and then applies it in two modern contexts: the city and the suburb. Studies of the city attend to current urban problems, such as de-industrialization, poverty, crime, globalization, migration, and urban environmental problems. The suburbs are addressed in terms of cultural homogenization, isolation, segregation, and sprawl. The study of cities and suburbs emphasizes race and ethnicity as prominent features in shaping culture and landscapes in the United States.

**SOC 330 / Population Dynamics**

How human populations grow and decline, with emphasis on urban areas. Impact of fertility, migration, and death rates are examined.

**SOC 333 / Body Image, Culture, and Society (crosslisted with WGS 333)**

This course is intended to engage students in critical thinking about social responses to the idealized images of women and men around them, as well as the individual decisions they make affecting their own bodies. It is, simultaneously, a case study in the dynamics of social power. Cross-listed with WGS 333.

**SOC 334 / Gender in US Society**

An examination of the significance of gender in different areas of contemporary American life. Covers basic concepts, historical perspectives, and changing patterns in attitudes and behavior, drawing on current trends in scholarship, theory, and activism around prominent social issues. Topics include socialization, mass media, the family, work, and sexuality. Special attention is given to intersectional issues across a range of social systems and institutions.

**SOC 335 / Courtship, Marriage, and Family**

Comparative analysis of familial institutions. Historical development of the Western family; sex/gender roles, intrafamilial interaction; child-rearing patterns.

**SOC 336 / Social and Cultural Change**

The dimensions, demands, and directions of modern societies are juxtaposed against the reality of developing societies. Capitalism, socialism, technological growth, progress, and tradition are examined within a critical framework.

**SOC 340 / Class, Status, and Power**

Class, status, and power inequalities are seen as prevailing conditions of modern societies. Critical, interpretive, and functional analysis are examined within a comparative and historical framework. A hierarchal analysis of life-styles cluster will occur as they relate to each other and the larger society in general.

**SOC 342 / Social Change in Latin America (crosslisted with ANT 340)**

Latin America has been the subject for much debate about development in social theory. This course examines the theoretical debates about development and provides empirical case studies to highlight how social change occurs in Latin America. These themes include: economic globalization, gender, migration, resistance to social change, urbanization, environmental degradation, corruption, social movements, structural adjustment, and race relations.

**SOC 345 / Inequality, Pollution, & Environment**

Environmental sociology applies the sociological imagination to human interactions with the non-human environment. Topics addressed include: social/environmental theory, the social origins of environmental problems (such as ozone depletion, deforestation, and water pollution), environmental inequality, environmental racism/environmental justice, and the social history of land use, both in New Jersey and around the world.

**SOC 350 / Work, Occupation, & Professions**

An analysis of the sociological forces which affect and shape the world of work and the industries in which work occurs. Topics include occupational choice, the rise of the professions, industrial change, technology, and social change.

**SOC 355 / Introduction to Urban Planning**

A general introduction to the theory, issues, problems, and practical realities of city planning in the United States. Also discusses urban planners; the role they play in the urban environment; and how their roles have changed in response to changing political, economic, cultural, and environmental factors.

**SOC 356 / Self and Society**

This course examines the sociological perspective in the understanding of self and its relationships with society. Sociological theories of self will be discussed and applied to understand how individuals construct one's sense of self. The exploration aims to deepen one's understanding of how the sense of self is more fluid and interdependent on one's social environment than one previously realizes.

**SOC 360 / Social Movements & Community Activism**

**SOC 101 or ANT 110 is a prerequisite**

Social movement activism, whether it is on a local, national, or international level, is about people coming together to achieve common goals. Activists face a variety of tasks: recruiting participants, mobilizing resources, assessing the political and social climate and conditions, planning strategies and organizing collective action. To be successful, they must find ways to sustain mobilization during setbacks, address problems of repression and internal disputes, overcome obstacles to mobilization and productively deal with the media. Therefore, the objective of this course is to introduce students to the field of social movements; particular emphasis is placed on the application of theoretical ideas to case studies in order to enhance our knowledge of community organizing and collective mobilization for social change.

**SOC 365 / Poverty and Welfare in the US**

History, nature, extent, levels, causes of poverty. Effect of industrialization, urbanization, and technology. Impact upon major institutions. Ethnic and racial group problems and reactions. Governmental and private organizational programs.

**SOC 370 / Topics in Sociology**

Selected topics which may vary from year to year. Topic to be announced. May be repeated for credit.

**SOC 371 / Culture, Health and Illness (crosslisted with ANT 371)**

Provides a critical perspective in understanding how values, beliefs, conflict, economic and social condition influence how illness is defined, how healthcare is viewed and delivered. Social epidemiology, the sick role, bio-ethics, unequal access to health care, women's health issues and cross-cultural approaches to medicine are discussed.

**SOC 372 / Global Public Health (crosslisted with ANT 372)**

Who is healthy and where in the world do they live? What are the causes of global health inequalities? What factors support successful health interventions, and where can interventions go wrong? This class focuses on the underlying factors shaping global patterns of health. Relying on a combination of social scientific analyses, policy documents, and case studies, this class introduces students to a broad range of issues, resources, and perspectives on global health. Cross-listed with ANT 372.

**SOC 373 / Public Health & Social Policy (crosslisted with ANT 373)**

This speaking intensive course focuses on the structure and practice of U.S. public health and healthcare. Students will assess public health policy within a historical and institutional framework, and deal with major areas of contemporary debate, including health inequalities, the organization of medical insurance, and the social organization of healthcare. Cross-listed with ANT 373

**SOC 374 / Medical Sociology: The Sociology of Health, Illness and Biomedicine in the US**

How does social organization shape our contemporary practices around health and medicine? This course will examine key topics in health, illness, and biomedicine through a sociological lens, with a particular emphasis on the social groups and institutions that most influence contemporary American health and healthcare. Areas of focus include: how institutions transform social inequalities into health disparities, the cultural power of the medical profession(s), patients as advocates and experts, and the relationship between science and medicine. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with core concepts and recent debates within the growing field of medical sociology.

**SOC 375 / Religion and American Culture**

To correctly understand U.S. culture, one must understand the religions that influenced, and continue to influence, its citizens. Religion oriented the entire lives of early colonists, impacting the institutions they created, the interactions they had, and the cultural norms they established. Today, religion is no less influential in American culture. It shapes the personal realms of its citizens, as well as every institution within it. This course will be of value to any interested citizen, and especially to those who seek to better understand the dynamic interplay of religion and American culture in the making of American individuals.

**SOC 377 / Disparities in the US Health System (crosslisted with ANT 377)**

Understanding health disparities matters for improving health policy, clinical practice, and public health in the United States. Health disparities reflect complicated interactions between social factors, such as race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status and gender, and health. Through case studies and analysis of current data, this course explores how these and other social factors impact the health condition an individual may have, their ability to receive care and ultimately the type of care they may (or may not) receive. Cross-listed with ANT 377.

**SOC 380 / Education and American Culture**

Schooling is a primary nexus of American cultural contestation - that is, it is a critical arena in which competing visions of who America is (or should be) clash. Examining education and its related social processes, then, provides much insight into American culture, its cultural processes, and its complex institutional relationships. Issues of opportunity, equality, and mobility must, in particular, receive careful attention. Knowledge gained from this course will be of value to any U.S. resident, but particularly to those who wish to deepen their understanding of the cultural foundations and complexities of U.S. education.

**SOC 381 / Economic & Social Development in China**

This course examines the rapid social change in China triggered by the economic reform initiated by Deng Xiaoping in the late 1970s.The course begins with a brief overview of the pre-reform communist rule in China to provide students with an understanding of the Chinese experience that helped shape people’s response to policies that opened China to the world. The various aspects and impacts of economic reform will be discussed in the context of sociological theories of social change and economic development. Topics including the emergence of middle class, rapid urbanization, mass migration, rising inequality, social unrest and the implication of China’s rise to the world will also be discussed.

**SOC 385 / Intro to Applied Sociology**

An introduction to the substantive areas and ways in which sociological concepts and methods can be applied in non-academic settings, such as business, schools, social work, and consulting.

**SOC 390 / Research Course in Sociology**

**SOC 301 and SOC 302 are prerequisites with a grade of C or better; or by permission of instructor.**

A small group of students work closely with a faculty member on his/her ongoing research. Students will learn to use the data collection and analysis methods used for the project and be offered opportunities to present the findings on campus or at a regional sociology meeting.

**SOC 391 / Independent Study in Sociology**

For advanced students. In-depth study of specific topic in sociology. Formal proposal must be submitted to department and approved before the student can register for independent study.

**SOC 393 / Independent Research in Sociology**

For advanced students undertaking an independent research project in sociology with the guidance of department faculty. Formal proposal must be submitted to the sponsoring faculty for department approval. The project should culminate in a paper to be presented on campus or a regional sociology conference.

**SOC 397 / Learning Assistantship in Sociology**

Learning Assistants learn about the teaching of Sociology. Students gain a deeper understanding of the particular course content area, gain insight into curriculum goals and methods of achieving them, and develop instructional skills in the areas of: providing written feedback, creating and/or delivering learning activities, and constructing learning tools. Specific duties for the Learning Assistant are detailed in a contract that is developed and signed by both the student and faculty sponsor.

**SOC 398 / Sociology Capstone Internship**

Capstone internship constituting a culminating experience for sociology majors. Course draws on skills and knowledge of sociology courses as well as knowledge gained from the liberal arts broadly construed to be applied to reflect deeply and examine experiences and the social world at the internship site. Must be taken as a bundle with SOC 499 Senior Seminar in Sociology (of the same section number) to fulfill the capstone requirements of the sociology major. (0.5 course unit; Corequisite: SOC 499; Prerequisites: SOC 301 and 302)

**SOC 399 / Internship in Sociology**

Applied experience in major field of study. Consult department for details. Only two units of internship may be used toward a degree in sociology.

**SOC 401 / The Washington Center**

The Washington Semester Program affords students the opportunity to pursue internships, course work, and enrichment activities during a semester in the Washington, D.C. area.  Programs are provided by the Washington Center and the Washington Internship Institute but the student earns TCNJ credit for the semester.

**SOC 402 / Tutorial: Survey Research Methods**

**SOC 301 and SOC 302 are prerequisites with a grade of C or better; or by permission of instructor.**

This course builds upon the theoretical and methodological skills acquired in SOC 301 and 302 to design, conduct, and analyze original survey research. It is designed to approximate the workload and timeline of a professional survey project. The survey conducted will be tailored to parameters set by a client (which will vary each time the course is offered), but students will have a great deal of control over the survey instrument and the selection of a sample. Students will also write professional reports based on data collected in the survey.

**SOC 403 / Tutorial: Socio-Spatial Analysis**

**SOC 301 and SOC 302 are prerequisites with a grade of C or better; or by permission of instructor.**

While demography has long been a subspecialty within sociology, the development of geographic information systems (GIS) presents a new medium on which to display demographic information as well as perform spatial analysis. This course teaches sociology students how to use GIS software, how to spatially display demographic information, and how to propose and test hypotheses using GIS.

**SOC 403 / Tutorial: Doing Theory in Sociology**

**SOC 301 and SOC 302 are prerequisites with a grade of C or better; or by permission of instructor.**

Building on the conceptual and methodological understanding from SOC 301 and 302, students examine the work of contemporary socio-cultural theorists. Their views on stability, conflict, exchange processes, change in social and cultural life, social reality, meaning, and the interpretive processes in human interaction are discussed and examined using empirical material.

**SOC 493 / Senior Capstone Research in Sociology**

**SOC 301, SOC 302, and SOC 393 are prerequisites.**

This is the culmination of a two-semester Senior Research project and paper that serves as one of the options for the Capstone experience for the Sociology major. It provides an opportunity for students interested in sociological research to pursue individual or collaborative research projects, with the guidance of the department faculty. Department Consent required.

**SOC 495 / Senior Thesis in Sociology I**

**SOC 301 and SOC 302 are prerequisites; or by permission of Department.**

This is the first semester of a two-semester senior thesis in Sociology and provides an opportunity for exceptional students to pursue individual or collaborative research projects, with the guidance of the department faculty. Followed by SOC 496. Department Consent required.

**SOC 496 / Senior Thesis in Sociology II**

**SOC 495 is a prerequisite.**

This is the second semester of a two-semester senior thesis in Sociology and provides an opportunity for exceptional students to pursue individual or collaborative research projects, with the guidance of the department faculty. Preceded by SOC 495. Department Consent required.

**SOC 499 / Senior Capstone Seminar**

**SOC 301 and SOC 302 are prerequisites with a grade of C or better.**

Senior seminar constituting a culminating experience for sociology majors. Course draws on skills and knowledge of sociology courses as well as knowledge gained from the liberal arts broadly construed. Must be taken as a bundle with SOC 398 Sociology Capstone Internship (of the same section number) to fulfill the capstone requirements of the sociology major. (0.5 course unit; Prerequisites: SOC 301 and 302; Corequisite: SOC 398)