Sociology

Courses

SOC 1010 Introduction to Sociology (MOTR SOCI 101): 3 semester hours
An introduction to sociological approaches to human behavior including
types of social organizations, patterns of social interaction, and social
influences on individual conduct.

SOC 1040 Social Problems: 3 semester hours
Conditions defined by society as social problems, as well as potential
solutions, are examined from various sociological perspectives. Emphasis
is given to problem issues prevalent in metropolitan settings. Analyses
focus on victims and beneficiaries of both problem conditions and
alternative solutions.

SOC 1051 Sport, Culture, and Society: 3 semester hours
Same as ANTHRO 1051. What is the relationship between sport, culture,
and society? This course takes a critical and analytical approach to the
relationship between sport and socio-cultural issues and institutions:
values, education, socialization, deviance, violence, inequality, the mass
media, and economics. Students will investigate the functions of sport in
various cultures and societies, analyze the relationship between sport and
social problems, and develop policy recommendations that address these
issues.

SOC 1091 Introductory Topics in Sociology: 3 semester hours
This course features special and current topics at the introductory level
in the field of sociology. Examines the basic concepts and provides an
understanding of the development of new trends and areas of study. May
be repeated provided topic is different.

SOC 1241 Globalization and Social Change: 3 semester hours
Introduces sociological approaches to globalization. Covers sociological
concepts such as modernization, Westernization, global capitalism,
and the information society. Themes include global governance and
transnational society, the global diffusion of American popular culture and
consumer culture, and the role of new media. Also discusses the anti-
globalization movement and forms of social resistance.

SOC 1899 The City: 3 semester hours
This course explores the central role of cities in the modern world.
Covers processes of urbanization such as immigration, segregation and
ghettoization, suburbanization, and sprawl. Explores the consequences
of urban inequality and issues related to race and ethnicity, class, and
gender in an urban context. Also covers urban landscapes, demographics,
and lifestyles; and cities as centers of music and other forms of popular
culture.

SOC 2003 Careers in Health and Medicine: 1 semester hour
Same as ANTHRO 2003, GERN 2003, INTDSC 2003. In this course,
students will learn about occupations in such fields as medicine, the allied
health professions, health non-profit organizations, and global healthcare
delivery. Students will understand the education and skills necessary
for various careers and for application to medical, professional, and
graduate schools, and will become familiar with majors, certificates and
minors that are available at UMSL. They will learn about employment
opportunities in the healthcare industry in the St. Louis metropolitan
area, and will be introduced to members of the local community who give
guest lectures. Students will gain practical experience by shadowing a
healthcare professional in their job.

SOC 2102 Introduction to Gender Studies: 3 semester hours
Same as GS 2102, SOC 2102, POL SCI 2102, and HIST 2102. This
core class is required for all Gender Studies Certificate earners. This class
introduces students to cultural, political and historical issues that shape
gender. Through a variety of disciplinary perspectives in the humanities,
social sciences, and natural sciences, the course familiarizes students with
diverse female and male experiences and gendered power relationships.

SOC 2103 Gender Roles in Society: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: SOC 1010. The study of social processes through which
gender roles are developed and acquired; the impact of gender roles on
personal identity and social conduct; the relationship between gender roles
and social inequality; and individual and social consequences of changing
gender roles in contemporary society.

SOC 2160 Social Psychology: 3 semester hours
Same as PSYCH 2160. Prerequisite: PSYCH 1003 or SOC 1010. This
course examines the behavior, thoughts, and feelings of individuals in their
social environments. The content focuses not only on how people relate
to one another, but also on the processes affecting their interactions with
others. Specific topics include the self, social judgments, attitudes and
persuasion, helping behavior, prejudice, aggression, attraction, conformity
and obedience, and group processes. All Psychology majors taking this
course instead of PSYCH 2270 must complete it with a grade of C- or
higher.

SOC 2170 Aging in America: Concepts & Controversies: 3 semester
hours
Same as GERON 2170. This course examines the major theoretical and
service issues connected to the study of older adults and their families,
using multidisciplinary perspectives. Students are provided with an
introduction to the field of aging through an examination of current social
issues and controversies. This course emphasizes student involvement
through class discussion and applied activities, and is appropriate for
students in the arts and sciences, business, communication, education,
and nursing.

SOC 2180 Alcohol, Drugs and Society: 3 semester hours
Same as CRIMIN 2180. Prerequisite: SOC 1010 or PSYCH 1003. This
course examines the medical, legal and social aspects of alcohol and drug
use. Medical aspects considered include treatment approaches and the
role of physicians in controlling such behavior. In the legal realm, past and
present alcohol and drug laws are explored. Cultural and social influences
on alcohol and drug use are discussed.

SOC 2192 Special Topics in Sociology: 3 semester hours
This course focuses on a specific society or group of societies utilizing
sociological approaches. Examines environmental, economic, social,
political, ethnic, religious, linguistic and/or cultural domains. Students are
exposed to basic sociological concepts for understanding diverse societies
in their historical and/or contemporary contexts. May be repeated provided
topic is different.

SOC 2200 Languages and World View: 3 semester hours
Same as FGN LANG 2100 and ANTHRO 2100. Prerequisites: Completion of
two semesters of one foreign language at the college level. This
course investigates the extent to which peoples’ linguistic and cultural
background informs their understanding of the world. Experts on a variety
of major Western and non-Western languages will introduce students to
differences in ideas about time, space, human relationships, and other
issues based on language. The course will also analyze common cultural
misunderstandings among native speakers of English and speakers of
other languages.
SOC 2201 Deviance and Society: 3 semester hours
The study of traits and behaviors that violate social norms and elicit negative reactions. Explores the establishment of categories of deviance; the motivations behind deviant behavior; the identification of individuals and groups as deviant; the effects of institutionalization and social control upon the deviant; and the efforts of deviants to eradicate the label society has placed upon them.

SOC 2202 Urban Sociology: 3 semester hours
Covers classical works and contemporary theories in urban sociology from the nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries. Examines urbanism and community, forms and functions of cities, inequality and social difference, gender and sexuality, globalization and urban change, immigration and its impact on cities, and urban exclusion/social resistance. Includes reading well-known ethnographic works on such topics as sex work, homelessness, drug users and crackhouses, life in corner bars, gang members, and other alternative subcultures.

SOC 2224 Marriage and The Family: 3 semester hours
Same as GS 3224. The study of patterns of close relationships, and how these relationships are influenced by larger social forces. Topics include love, dating, mate selection, cohabitation, alternative lifestyles, working families, parenting, single mothers, families in crisis, domestic violence, and divorce. Universal and variable aspects of family organization, family role systems, and changes in family social structure are considered.

SOC 2280 Technology and Society: 3 semester hours
Examines the role of technology in the development of today's industrial and post-industrial societies. Topics include the social and cultural origins of technological innovation; the connection between technology and urbanization; and the impact of technological change on beliefs and values. Outlines the transition from industrial society to the post-industrial “information society,” and the role of technology in globalization.

SOC 2300 Social and Community Services for an Aging Population: 3 semester hours
Same as GERON 2300. This service-learning course is designed for students interested in working with and for the benefit of older adults in various settings. Students attend classes on campus and participate in defined volunteer placements with local agencies (e.g., St. Louis County Older Residents Program). The course introduces the range of social and community services available to seniors and their families today, while also exploring trends and technologies for the future. Public, for-profit and not-for-profit service models are examined, including common organizational, management, and staffing approaches. The important roles of volunteers – including peer to peer supports – are discussed. Attention is also given to how limited resources are allocated and the importance of program evaluation to ensure service quality and efficacy.

SOC 2316 Power, Ideology and Social Movements: 3 semester hours
This course explores how power and ideology operate in the advanced modern world. It investigates the historical and institutional contexts that help explain uprisings and discontent in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, such as the Occupy Wall Street movement, the political struggles in the Middle East, and the uprisings and social movements throughout Latin America. Topics include an overview of the key works of Marxist theory and major radical social thinkers. Among the issues examined is the potential for social movements to produce revolutionary action resulting in new social systems.

SOC 2338 Health and Society: 3 semester hours
Exploration of social dimensions and issues related to health and illness such as access to the health care delivery system; factors influencing prevention, utilization and compliance; changing relationships among health care providers and consumers; health care costs, trends, and cross-cultural variations.

SOC 2340 Research Methods: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: SOC 1010 and satisfaction of mathematics proficiency requirement or consent of instructor. Research planning and interpretation, principles of research design, measurement, and sampling. Techniques for the collection, analysis, and presentation of data. The course also includes an introduction to the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) and lab exercises.

SOC 2377 Contemporary Japanese Culture: 3 semester hours
Same as ANTHRO 2377. Prerequisites: Junior Level Standing. Through ethnographies, biographies, fiction, films, anime, manga, television, music, magazines, and other media, the course investigates a range of topics related to Japanese history, social diversity, subcultural identity, gender, demographic change, and media. The study of Japanese culture is ideal for understanding theoretical issues such as the construction of gender and sexuality, identity formation, nationalism, emerging youth cultures, and the processes of globalization and localization. Satisfies University cultural diversity requirements.
SOC 3250 Sociology of Victimization: 3 semester hours
Same as GS 3250. Prerequisite: SOC 1010. This course examines the role of social factors in a wide range of kinds of victimization—crime, violence, natural disasters, accidents, disease, etc. The topic of social reactions to various kinds of victimization is also covered. Sociological theories of victimization are emphasized.

SOC 3260 Social Interaction in Small Groups: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: SOC 2160 or PSYCH 2160 or consent of instructor. Analysis of human interaction with emphasis on group problem solving, group structure, and group process.

SOC 3268 The Sociology of Conflict: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: SOC 1010 or consent of instructor. The conditions under which social conflicts arise, develop, and are terminated (or in some cases resolved) are examined. The functions of different levels of conflict are studied to determine the potential effects and outcomes of planned intervention.

SOC 3280 The Networked Society: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: SOC 1010, ANTHRO 1011, or introductory course in another social science, or consent of instructor. Explores the effects of modern information technology on societies worldwide. Covers the ways in which new technologies of communication have created increasingly networked local and global societies, as well as to the ways in which they have created new social problems.

SOC 3291 Current Issues in Sociology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: SOC 1010 or ANTHRO 1011; or consent of instructor. Selected topics in sociology, with emphasis on current issues and trends in the field. May be repeated provided topic is different.

SOC 3300 The Social Construction of Aging and Ageism: 3 semester hours
Same as GERON 3300 and GS 3300. This course examines perspectives of age, aging, and ageism using several perspectives: the theory of social construction and the frameworks of essentialism and intersectionality. The materials, discussions, and assignments in this course will familiarize and provide students with tools to investigate age and ageism in a complex, multidimensional manner. The overarching focus of this course is located in the tension with the “nature versus nurture” debate, paralleling nature with essentialist ideas and nurture with social constructionism. Ideas, conceptions, attitudes, and understandings of age within the media, family, medical community, and other institutions will be investigated as biological and/or a development of society in effort to perpetuate social control, organization, and power dynamics. Through research, fiction and non-fiction work, creative assignments, and theoretical texts, students will approach the following questions: How do we value lived-experiences? How might situated knowledge affect social constructions of aging and ageism? What evidence is provided toward age and/or ageism as an essential or socially constructed outline within society? How are socially constructed ideas developed and perpetuated? How might one affect change in an essentialist and/or socially constructed society?

SOC 3344 Problems of Urban Community: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: SOC 1010, junior standing or consent of instructor. Issues of inequality and identity in cities, with emphasis on the consequences of urban growth; processes of class, racial, and ethnic group formation; and urban poverty. Also covers local community organization and politics, and the role of popular culture and religion in community identities.

SOC 3400 Environment, Society, and Aging: 3 semester hours
Same as GERON 3400. This course examines the intersection of the environment and human society with an emphasis on aging. Drawing from research in environmental sociology, medical sociology, and gerontology, this course will address the following topics: climate change, natural disasters, community development, food production and distribution, waste and pollution, illness and disease epidemiology, and health and well-being.

SOC 3600 Management and Organizational Behavior: 3 semester hours
Same as MGMT 3600. Prerequisites: Junior standing and a 2.0 campus GPA. This course involves the study of the behavior of individuals and groups in an organizational setting. Specific topics examined include: motivation, leadership, organizational design, and conflict resolution, as well as basic coverage of management principles. In covering these topics, both classic and current perspectives are provided.

SOC 4040 Survey Research Practicum for Sociology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Junior standing, SOC 3230, college-level statistics course, and consent of instructor. The execution of a sample survey, including establishing study objectives, sampling, questionnaire construction, interviewing, coding, data analysis, and presentation of results. May be repeated provided the course topic is different.

SOC 4050 Narrative Experiences in Aging and Health Care: 3 semester hours
Same as GERON 4050, COMM 4050, and GS 4050. Prerequisites: Junior, senior or graduate student status, or permission of the instructor. This course examines the experiences of older adults and their families in the navigation and receipt of primary and specialized health care services. Challenges associated with bias, ageism, ethical dilemmas, miscommunication, patient-provider dynamics, and family systems are addressed. Patient experiences are highlighted across the continuum of care with emphasis on improving current systems.

SOC 4100 Introduction to Feminist and Gender Theory: 3 semester hours
Same as GS 4100. Prerequisites: GS 2102. This class serves as an initial intellectual investigation into gendered ideologies (such as the effects of race, ethnicity, nationality, socioeconomic class, sexuality, and religion) and functions as a bridge to later advanced gender theory and methods courses. Topics include interdisciplinary feminist theories (with a focus on gender equality), including masculinity theory, queer theory, muted group theory, and other evolving frameworks.

SOC 4130 Interviewing Older Adults and Life Review: 3 semester hours
Same as GERON 4130. Prerequisites: Junior/senior undergraduate or graduate standing, or permission of the instructor or program director. This course combines training in interviewing techniques with video editing/production. Students will learn how to conduct life review interviews with older adults, and then take these skills into the community by interviewing older adults living in various settings. Students will learn how to use a digital video camera and edit video clips on the computer. Student-conducted interviews will be viewed by the instructor and classmates, issues associated with aging will be discussed, and constructive feedback provided. Some of the video clips developed in the course will become part of an educational video clip library.
SOC 4150 Feminist Theory and Social Research: 3 semester hours  
Same as GS 4150. Prerequisites: GS 2102 and Junior Standing or consent of instructor. This course provides an in-depth examination of feminist theoretical contributions to social science research. We begin by examining the 20th century roots of contemporary feminist theories. With these foundations in place, we then shift to an investigation of how feminist theory has informed sociological research by examining current feminist understandings of gender, race, class and sexual inequalities across a range of contemporary social problems. Fulfills WGS feminist theory requirement.

SOC 4160 Geographic Information Systems in Anthropology & Sociology: 4 semester hours  
Same as ANTHRO 4160. Prerequisites: ANTHRO 1005 or ANTHRO 1011 or ANTHRO 1019 or SOC 1010 or consent of instructor. Instruction in use of GIS software to record and analyze findings in archaeology, biological anthropology, cultural anthropology, and sociology. Emphasis is placed upon research design, development of data collection methodologies, and the use of GIS in describing and explaining human behavior and its relationship to the physical environment.

SOC 4280 Social Informatics: 3 semester hours  
Prerequisites: Junior standing or consent of instructor. This course reviews the key social issues related to information and communication technology (ICT) design, development, and use. It analyzes the way social forces and social practices interact with information and communication technologies (ICTs), focusing specifically on social, cultural, and organizational change. This course is for students interested in the way information and communication technologies (ICTs) relate to patterns of interaction in the human context, including cultural milieu, professional concerns, community dynamics, and social inequities.

SOC 4300 Communities and Crime: 3 semester hours  
Same as CRIMIN 4300. Prerequisites: CRIMIN 1110, CRIMIN 1120, CRIMIN 2130, CRIMIN 2210, CRIMIN 2220, ENGL 3100 or consent of instructor. Analysis of the sources, consequences, and control of crime within communities. Emphasis on social and ecological theories of crime, and on population instability, family structure, and the concentration of poverty as causes of crime.

SOC 4307 Community-Based Research in Sociology: 3 semester hours  
Prerequisites: Junior standing, SOC 3210, SOC 3230, and completion of junior-level writing requirement. An advanced course in qualitative/ethnographic modes of inquiry, building on research and analytical skills learned in previous courses. Some quantitative methods may supplement the research when appropriate. Students experience the process of discovery, representation, presentation, and justification based on fieldwork and/or archival research. The focus is on applying sociological knowledge to practical issues faced by communities and institutions in the St. Louis area. May be repeated provided the topic is different.

SOC 4312 Sociology of Wealth and Poverty: 3 semester hours  
Prerequisite: SOC 1010, junior standing or consent of instructor. Theory and research on social stratification and inequality in contemporary societies.

SOC 4320 Forms of Criminal Behavior: 3 semester hours  
Same as CRIMIN 4320. Prerequisites: CRIMIN 1110, CRIMIN 1120, CRIMIN 2130, CRIMIN 2210, CRIMIN 2220, ENGL 3100 or consent of instructor. Examination of major types of criminal behavior including violent, property, public order, and organizational offenses. Emphasis on theories of and responses to these crimes.

SOC 4325 Gender, Crime and Justice: 3 semester hours  
Same as CRIMIN 4325 and GS 4325. Prerequisites: CRIMIN 1110, CRIMIN 1120, CRIMIN 2130, CRIMIN 2210, CRIMIN 2220, ENGL 3100 or consent of instructor. Analysis of the role of gender in crime and in the justice system. Emphasis on gender differences in crime commission, criminal processing, and the employment of women in criminal justice agencies. Fulfills Criminology diversity requirement.

SOC 4331 Qualitative Methods in Social Research: 3 semester hours  
Prerequisites: SOC 3230, college-level statistics course, junior standing; or consent of instructor. This course is devoted to qualitative methods including participant observation, ethnographic fieldwork, intensive interview, content analysis, and oral history. Considers the place of these kinds of techniques in social research, as well as the issues raised by them. Involves participation in individual or group research projects using one or more of the methods learned.

SOC 4336 Sociology of Organizations: 3 semester hours  
Prerequisite: SOC 1010 and junior standing or consent of instructor. This course examines the internal and external forces that influence the structures, adaptive flexibility, and actions of public and private organizations and agencies. Specific foci include: organizational responses to opportunities, constraints, and contingencies in their surrounding environments; sources of conflict and impediments to organizational goal attainment; and strategies for increasing organizational effectiveness, efficiency, and chances for survival.

SOC 4340 Race, Crime, and Justice: 3 semester hours  
Same as CRIMIN 4340. Prerequisites: CRIMIN 1110, CRIMIN 1120, CRIMIN 2130, CRIMIN 2210, CRIMIN 2220, ENGL 3100 or consent of instructor. Analysis of the involvement of racial minorities in crime and the criminal justice system. Emphasis on group differences in offending, processing, victimization, and employment in criminal justice agencies. Fulfills CCJ diversity requirement.

SOC 4345 War Crimes, Genocide, and Justice in the 20th and 21st Centuries: 3 semester hours  
Same as CRIMIN 4345, POL SCI 4345, and MVS 4345. Prerequisite: ENGL 3100. This course provides advanced undergraduate and Master’s level students a comprehensive overview of the subject of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and legal responses to these crimes in the modern era. The goal of this course is to engage students in sustained, critical thought about these issues and to foster a deeper understanding of both the causes and consequences—legal, social and human—of these egregious crimes.

SOC 4350 Special Study: 1-10 semester hours  
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Independent study through readings, reports, and field work.

SOC 4354 Sociology of Business and Work Settings: 3 semester hours  
Prerequisite: SOC 1010, junior standing or consent of instructor. The sociology of work and occupations in America, Europe, and Asia; organization structures and worker participation; worker attitudes, behaviors, and commitment; the socialization of the worker; determinants of worker behavior; social problems of work and business; and the impact of community on the work place and business behavior.

SOC 4356 Sociology of Education: 3 semester hours  
Prerequisite: SOC 1010 and junior standing, or consent of instructor. Education as a social institution, its role as an agent of socialization, and its effect upon the processes of social change and social mobility. The relationship between the school and its community.
SOC 4360 Sociology of Minority Groups: 3 semester hours
Same as GS 4360. Prerequisites: SOC 1010 and junior standing or consent of instructor. The study of dominant-subordinate group relations. Religion, ethnicity, race, and gender as factors in the unequal distribution of power.

SOC 4361 Social Gerontology: 3 semester hours
Same as GERON 4361. Prerequisites: SOC 1010 and junior standing or consent of instructor. Topics include sociological theories of aging, technological and social change and its effects on the environment of older people, and prejudice and discrimination against the elderly.

SOC 4362 Sociology of Law: 3 semester hours
Same as CRIMIN 4360. Prerequisites: CRIMIN 1120, CRIMIN 2130, CRIMIN 2210, CRIMIN 2220, and ENGL 3100, or consent of instructor. The interaction of legal, political and social forces in the US is explored. Course examines historical developments in law and politics in the US, including law and economics, crime policy, socioeconomic inequality, race relations, and state sanctioned punishment. The course considers how America's federalist structure shapes law, politics and social relations. Examines how legal and political institutions establish and shape power relations between social groups.

SOC 4365 Sociological Writing: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: SOC 1010, ENGL 3100 and Junior standing, or consent of instructor. This course offers directed practice in the interpretation and reporting of sociological research in a wide range of styles, including those appropriate for research reports, journal articles, policy papers, non-technical magazines, books and monographs, as well as oral reports to diverse consumers.

SOC 4378 Selected Topics in Social Psychology: 1-3 semester hours
Prerequisite: PSYCH 2160 or SOC 2160 or consent of instructor. Focused examination of selected issues, concepts and methods in the study of social interaction. May be taken twice for credit.

SOC 4380 Advanced Topics in Sociology: 1-3 semester hours
Prerequisites: SOC 1010 and junior standing or consent of instructor. Examination of a specific sociological topic of current relevance in the community. May be repeated provided the topic is different.

SOC 4385 Internship in Sociology: 1-6 semester hours
Prerequisites: Junior standing and consent of instructor. Students participate in supervised placements in positions related to the profession of Sociology.

SOC 4430 Ethnicity, Dementia and Caregiving: 3 semester hours
Same as GERON 4430. Prerequisites: GERON 2170 or SOC 2170 or 3000 level GERON, SOC, PSYCH or ANTHRO course or consent of instructor. This course examines the interaction between sociocultural factors and the experience of dementia, both for the person who has dementia and their family caregivers. Students will focus on the importance of cultural competence in the provision of health and social services to dementia patients and family caregivers from diverse national and ethnic backgrounds.

SOC 4600 Masculinities: 3 semester hours
Same as GS 4600. Prerequisites: SOC 2102 or consent of instructor. This course examines men and masculinities through a critical lens, looking carefully at an institutionalized system of gender relations and practices that is assumed to be a natural phenomenon that is culturally universal. The course explores various masculine behaviors, myths, ideologies, and experiences so that students can consider the relationship between masculine practice and social power and delineate choices for future directions. The course is necessarily interdisciplinary and may utilize tools and methods from the social sciences and the humanities. Satisfies WGS gender theory requirement.

SOC 4720 Ageless Arts: Creativity in Later Life: 3 semester hours
Same as GERON 4720. Prerequisites: Junior/senior undergraduate or graduate standing, or permission of the instructor or program director. This course examines how the lives of older adults are enriched through engagement in artistic, creative activities. Key approaches to creative aging are explored, with emphasis on benefits to physical health, emotional well-being, and interpersonal connection. Influencing factors are examined, including ageism, generativity, family and personal networks, environmental resources, sensory and cognitive deficits, and other health and physical changes of aging. The works of historical and current artists — painters, novelists, filmmakers, playwrights, musicians and others — are surveyed with an emphasis on products from later in life course. Finally, the therapeutic benefits of creativity are examined through evidence-based research and the personal narratives of successful senior artists.