

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 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 2003 Careers in Health and Medicine: 1 semester hour

Same as ANTHRO 2003, GERON 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 WK 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

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 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 2203 *The City: 3 semester hours*

This course explores the central role of cities in the modern world. It covers processes of urbanization such as immigration, segregation and ghettoization, suburbanization, and sprawl. It explores the consequences of urban inequality and issues related to race and ethnicity, class, and gender in an urban context. The course also covers urban landscapes, demographics, lifestyles, and cities as centers of music and other forms of popular culture.

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 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 2801 *Veterans in American Society: 3 semester hours*

Same as MVS 2100. Prerequisite: ENGL 1100. This survey course will focus on the American veteran experience and explore basic concepts, ideas and research into veterans and veteran institutions. In a multidisciplinary manner, students will examine military culture, the unique status of veterans in our society, and veteran institutions. Students will also study the successes, challenges and obligations our society faces related to its veteran community.

SOC 2802 *Gender and the Military: 3 semester hours*

Same as MVS 2130 and GS 2130. This course investigates how the military treats gender difference, explores how military culture is defined, and how gender is a socially constructed concept. Topics may include military culture, gender construction, and how gender and sexuality issues affect military readiness and effectiveness.

SOC 3210 *Sociological Theory: 3 semester hours*

Prerequisite: SOC 1010 or consent of instructor. The nature of sociological theory. An investigation of theory from Comte through contemporary developments. Contributions made by theorists in related disciplines.

SOC 3212 *Medical Anthropology: 3 semester hours*

Same as ANTHRO 3212 and GERON 3212. Prerequisites: ANTHRO 1011 or GERON 2170 or PSYCH 1003 or SOC 1010 or consent of instructor or program director. An examination of the growing interaction between anthropology and medicine, and the increasing use of anthropologists in medical and health-care settings. In addition to teaching current theory in medical anthropology, the course focuses on anthropologically-based skills essential to those working in health-related fields.

SOC 3220 *Quantitative Data Analysis in Social Science Research: 3 semester hours*

Same as ANTHRO 3220. Prerequisites: SOC 1010 or ANTHRO 1011, and MATH 1030 (or higher). This course examines issues and techniques of statistical analysis relevant to quantitative sociological research, such as elementary probability, measurements of central tendency and dispersion, measures of relationships including linear regression and correlation, inferential and nonparametric statistics. The course includes an introduction to computer-based statistical analysis.

SOC 3221 *Qualitative Methods in Social Research: 3 semester hours*

Prerequisites: SOC 1010, SOC 3230, and 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. It considers the place of these kinds of techniques in social research, as well as the issues raised by them. It also involves participation in individual or group research projects using one or more of the methods learned.

SOC 3224 *Families in Global Perspective: 3 semester hours*

Same as GS 3224. Prerequisites: SOC 1010 or consent of instructor. This course presents research from the fields of demography, sociology, economics, and public policy in order to develop a broader understanding of the causes and consequences of population aging, one of the major demographic changes faced by social institutions worldwide. Attention to the global diversity of human experiences by age, gender, socioeconomic status, and health.

SOC 3230 *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 3243 *Marriage, Family, and Kinship: 3 semester hours*

Same as ANTHRO 3243 and GS 3243. Prerequisites: ANTHRO 1019, SOC 1010, or consent of the instructor. This course will examine will examine the construction of kinship systems, marriages, families and other forms of intimate relationships from anthropological and sociological perspectives. The cross-cultural structure of this class will incorporate global case studies, including U.S. and European marriage and family structures. Students will have the opportunity to explore topics including love, dating, cohabitation, kinship calculation, alternative lifestyles, and divorce.

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 3801 Military Sociology: 3 semester hours

Prerequisites: SOC 1010; SOC 2801 or MVS 2100. This course examines the sociological sub-field of Military Sociology. It examines issues such as military recruiting, race and gender representation in the military, combat, military families, military social organization, war and peace, and the military as welfare. Other topics may include basis of service, social representation, military organizations and bureaucracies, and the sociology of combat.

SOC 3802 Veteran Social Policy: 3 semester hours

Same as MVS 3300. Prerequisite: SOC 1010. This course provides an overview of American public policy towards military veterans. Students will research, design, and propose policy changes using various written products and presentations.

SOC 4015 Data Analytics in the Social Sciences: 3 semester hours

Same as ANTHRO 4015. Prerequisites: MATH 1020 or higher. This course integrates traditional statistical methods with new software and original datasets relevant to students of the social sciences. Students will learn to load, clean, and describe datasets using common software packages and programming languages employed in data science and data analytics. Students will also learn basic descriptive and inferential statistics as well as the visualization tools to successfully graph outputs and present findings. Students with no background in statistics, data analytics, or programming are welcome in the course.

SOC 4040 Survey Research Practicum for Sociology: 3 semester hours

Prerequisites: SOC 3210, SOC 3220, SOC 3230, junior standing. This course focuses on the execution of a sample survey, including establishing study objectives, sampling, constructing a questionnaire, interviewing, coding, data analysis, and presenting the results. It may be repeated provided the course topic is different.

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 4300 Communities and Crime: 3 semester hours

Same as CRIMIN 4300. Prerequisites: ENGL 3100 (may be taken concurrently) or consent of instructor. This course provides an analysis of the sources, consequences, and control of crime within communities. There is 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: SOC 3210, SOC 3221, SOC 3230, and completion of junior-level writing requirement. This course is an advanced examination of qualitative/ethnographic modes of inquiry and builds upon research and analytical skills learned in previous courses. Some quantitative methods may supplement the research when appropriate. Students will 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.

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: ENGL 3100 (may be taken concurrently) or consent of instructor. This course provides an examination of major types of criminal behavior including violent, property, public order, and organizational offenses. There is 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 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 Criminology 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 attitude, 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: Junior standing or consent of instructor. This course examines a variety of topics related to gerontology including 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 4378 Selected Topics in Social Psychology: 1-3 semester hours

Prerequisite: PSYCH 2250 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 4400 Social and Community Services for an Aging Population: 3 semester hours

Same as GERON 4400. Prerequisites: GERON 2170 / SOC 2170 or consent of the instructor. 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).

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 4485 Internship in Urban Studies: 1-6 semester hours

Prerequisites: Junior standing, consent of the instructor. Students will participate in supervised placements in positions related to the field of Urban Studies. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credit hours.

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 the life course. Finally, the therapeutic benefits of creativity are examined through evidence-based research and the personal narratives of successful senior artists.