

SOC 101/Introduction to Sociology

1 course unit

(every semester)

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 205/Introduction to Social Work

1 course unit

(occasionally)

This course is an overview of social work and touches on inequality, substance abuse, alienation, crime, family violence, and divorce. It is designed to explore (a) the complexity of issues which create strain between society and individuals, (b) the relationship between social welfare and social work, and (c) to assess the unique qualities each possesses and the skills necessary for considering a career in human services. A field experience of at least thirty hours is required.

SOC 210/Social Deviance

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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 and Historical Sociology

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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 301/Development of Socio-Cultural Theory

1 course unit

(fall and spring)

Prerequisite: SOC 101 or HON 216

The response of social theorists to the consequences of the industrial revolution and the issues of capitalism, secularism, industrialism, 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

1 course unit

(fall and spring)

Prerequisites: STA 115 or STA 215, SOC 101 or HON 216

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).

SOC 303/Women in World Perspective

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: SOC 101 or HON 216

Interdisciplinary study of the roles of women in societies throughout the world. Their access to power and status in the context of each unique culture. Implications for the future of women in these societies.

SOC 310/Urban Youth Deviance

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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 315/Racism, Power, and Privilege

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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 Suburbs

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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/Urban Population Dynamics

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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

SOC 334/Gender and U.S. Society

1 course unit

(occasionally)

An examination of the significance of gender in different areas of contemporary American life. Covers basic concepts, germinal issues, and historical and current perspectives on gender. Topics include socialization, mass media, love and marriage, work, and religion. Particular attention is given to changing patterns in attitudes and behavior in interpersonal relations between women and men.

SOC 335/Courtship, Marriage, and Family

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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 clusters will occur as they relate to each other and the larger society in general.

SOC 341/Dynamics of Cultural Ecology

1 course unit

(occasionally)

This course reviews classic perspectives in cultural ecology, but focuses on the more recent scholarship, especially scholarship that addresses human ecology, political ecology and urban ethnography to give the student perspective on how the environment is experienced in multiple cultural contexts, and how the environment affects different cultures in various ways.

SOC 345/ Inequality, Pollution and the Environment

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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 and Professions

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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 365/ Poverty and Welfare in the U.S.

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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

SOC 371/Culture, Health, and Illness

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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

1 course unit

(occasionally)

This course introduces students to the field and disciplines of public health from a cross cultural perspective, looking at both local and global public health issues. Course material and assignments focus on public health initiatives in Western and non-western societies with particular attention to core concepts

of public health, responses to bio terrorism and war, prevention of infectious diseases, alternative medical and healing practices, health of school age children and public health personnel. The course emphasizes the impact of culture, social structure, economics and politics on the health and illness and public health policies in both the developing and developed world. War, genocide, terrorism, guerrilla insurgencies, the global economy and international travel are viewed as public health issues. Obesity, new diseases (such as SARS), the idea of being a stakeholder also included.

SOC 375/Religion and American Culture

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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 380/Education and American Culture

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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 385/Introduction to Applied Sociology

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisites: SOC 301 and SOC 302 are prerequisites; 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

variable course units

(every semester)

Prerequisite: Departmental Permission

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

variable course units

(every semester)

Prerequisite: Departmental Permission

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 at a regional sociology conference.

SOC 399/Internship in Sociology

variable course units

(every semester)

Prerequisite: Departmental Permission

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

2 course units

(every semester)

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

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisites: SOC 301 and 302 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

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisites: SOC 301 and 302 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 404/Tutorial: Qualitative Interviewing and Analysis

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisites: SOC 301 and 302 or by permission of instructor.

Building upon the foundations for analyzing social life laid in SOC 301 and SOC 302, this tutorial involves student sociology majors directly in qualitative interview research and analysis. Student teams in this tutorial will work directly with the professor to learn and use interviewing skills, to learn qualitative analysis skills using computer software, and to adapt research writing skills to qualitative questions/data. This course will develop the research skills of all student majors, but will be particularly valuable to students who plan graduate study in social science or applied research careers. Major project required.

SOC 405/Tutorial: Doing Theory in Sociology

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisites: SOC 301 and SOC 302 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 450/Senior Honors

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: Advanced standing in Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Individual and seminar participation. Selected topics. May be repeated for credit.

SOC 495/Senior Thesis in Sociology

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisites: SOC 301, 302, and departmental permission

An opportunity for exceptional students to pursue individual or collaborative research projects, with the guidance of the department faculty. Students must complete two semesters of SOC 495 to satisfy capstone requirement.

SOC 499/Senior Seminar in Sociology—Capstone

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisites: SOC 301, 302, or permission by department

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. Senior thesis or internship is a major required element of this seminar.