Sociology Course Descriptions

SOC 1301 Introduction to Sociology (3 semester hours) An overview of the sociological perspective and its application to social research and social policy. (3-0) Y

SOC 2319 Race, Gender and Class (3 semester hours) The study of how race, gender, and class systems are interwoven. Explores how the multiple statuses of individuals (race, gender, and class) combine to produce packages of privileges and disadvantages. Topics include the social meanings of color, sex/gender systems in historical and contemporary perspectives, theories of power, stereotyping, affirmative action, and welfare debates. (3-0) Y

SOC 2V95 Individual Instruction in Sociology (1-6 semester hours) Individual study under a faculty member's direction. May be repeated for credit. Consent of instructor required. ([1-6]-0) R

SOC 3302 Social Inequality (3 semester hours) An examination of social stratification and the unequal distribution of rewards in societies. The functions and dysfunctions for society of inequality, typical characteristics of class members, and social mobility are discussed. (3-0) T

SOC 3303 Social Theory (3 semester hours) Survey of the main currents of social theory as developed by European and American theorists and applied in contemporary social thought. (3-0) Y

SOC 3304 Research Methods in Sociology (3 semester hours) Examines methods of sociological research. Topics include the nature of scientific inquiry, framing a research problem, choosing a research design, developing hypotheses, sampling designs, and measuring variables. Topics will be covered as students conduct their own study. Prerequisite: SOCS 3303 or STAT 1342. (3-0) Y

SOC 3314 Individual and Society (3 semester hours) The study of the relationship among the individual, social structure, and culture. Explores self-concept and personality, the process of socialization, role-taking and social interaction, norms, values, group membership, and group processes. (3-0) R

SOC 3320 Cities and Urban Analysis (3 semester hours) A study of the city both in the United States and elsewhere. Analysis includes the structural and demographic characteristics of urban areas as well as the social and psychological dynamics of urban life. (3-0) R

SOC 3321 Deviance (3 semester hours) Analysis of historical and contemporary perspectives which propose the causes, consequences, and cures for deviance. Description of theories, research, and public policy associated with efforts to control deviant behavior and deviant groups, and to establish normalcy. (3-0) R

SOC 3322 Social Problems (3 semester hours) An overview of how sociological concepts and approaches can be applied to the study of the causes and consequences of various social issues in contemporary society. Topics may include poverty, crime, violence, social isolation, social conflict, and failing social institutions. (3-0) T

SOC 3325 Race, Ethnicity, and Community (3 semester hours) Considers cultural and social behavior in multiracial and multiethnic societies. Issues include the formation and maintenance of individual and group identity, patterns of socioeconomic achievement, intergroup conflict, and the causes and consequences of public policy. (3-0) R

SOC 3332 Social Control (3 semester hours) Examines the means by which society attempts to control the deviant/criminal conduct of its members. Analysis of formal and informal means and a variety of institutions and social processes meant to deter, punish, and reform inappropriate conduct. (Same as CJS 3305.) (3-0) R

SOC 3333 Religion in Society (3 semester hours) An assessment of the origins and forms of religious movements, including the practices and beliefs through which the religious experience is channeled; the impact of religious movements and cults on social, economic, and political institutions; the societal response to religious movements; the personality and behavioral changes wrought by religions. (3-0) R

SOC 3340 Film and Politics (3 semester hours) This course examines the role of one form of media in shaping political discourse. It examines the role of documentaries, drama, and comedy in shaping, exposing, and reflecting public political sentiments of the day. (Same as GOVT 3340.) (3-0) T

SOC 3342 The Life Cycle (3 semester hours) An examination of the institutions that shape the course of people's lives from birth to death. Topics include primary socialization, family, schools, peer groups, occupations, retirement, and death. (3-0) R

SOC 3343 Family and Sex Roles (3 semester hours) Trends in family life are examined with special attention to how these
relate to changes in men's and women's roles. Topics include sex-role socialization, division of labor in the household, sexuality, emotional aspects of marriage, marital power and decision making, and divorce. (3-0) R

**SOC 3350 Gender: Theories and Methods** (3 semester hours) An introduction to foundational approaches for studying gender and the methodologies associated with them. Addresses sex and gender as analytic categories, gender as a social category that interacts with other categories, and essentialist versus social constructionist approaches; text-based and experimental methodologies. (Same as GST 3300) (3-0) T

**SOC 3352 Gender Roles** (3 semester hours) Examines female and male gender roles in nineteenth- and twentieth-century contexts. Considers the way gender status interacts with race and class status to produce different sets of experiences and constraints for women and men. Gender systems are analyzed as culturally and historically specific. Topics include socialization patterns, marital power, reproduction, sexuality, masculinity. (3-0) R

**SOC 3353 Law and Gender** (3 semester hours) Examines how laws and legal institutions reflect and reproduce cultural notions of gender. Focuses on how legal equality and sex discrimination have been defined and challenged. Topics include rape law, reproductive issues, marriage and divorce, pornography, workplace regulations, and, generally, how gender and race ideologies interact in legal decision making. (3-0) R

**SOC 3354 Gender, Society, and Politics** (3 semester hours) Addresses the influence of gender on the distribution of public goods and the way gender, interacting with race and class, shapes social, political, and economic institutions. Introduces students to traditional notions of rights and citizenship as conceptual underpinnings for contemporary political and legal debates (on welfare, reproductive rights, childcare, job segregation, women in the military, prostitution). (Same as GOVT 3354 and GST 3303.) (3-0) T

**SOC 3355 Gender Across Cultures** (3 semester hours) A study of the forms of gender difference in societies with widely varying cultural traditions and with differing levels of techno-economic complexity ranging from foraging bands to industrial states. (3-0) R

**SOC 3360 Criminology** (3 semester hours) This course provides students with an introduction to the study of crime, criminals, and the reaction of the criminal justice system to both. It explores the interrelationships among law, policy, and societal conditions. Because these relationships are dynamic, criminology is an interdisciplinary investigation that integrates a variety of perspectives and approaches to understand the origins of crime and the rationale for and effectiveness of society's response to such crime. (Same as CJS 3302.) (3-0) T

**SOC 3361 Crime and Public Policy** (3 semester hours) Study of the forms, meanings, measurements, costs, and explanations for crime. Analysis of criminal justice policy, including issues of social control, deterrence, punishment, rehabilitation, danger, and justice. (Same as CJS 3311.) (3-0) T

**SOC 3362 Juvenile Delinquency** (3 semester hours) Study of the social phenomenon of juvenile delinquency and state supervision of youths. The causes of delinquency and the social and legal agencies established to deal with it. (Same as CJS 3310.) (3-0) R

**SOC 4310 Contemporary Sociology** (3 semester hours) Concepts and issues in contemporary sociology, emphasizing the construction and application of sociological theory and its relevance for the practice of sociology. Prerequisites: SOC 3303 and 3304 or permission of instructor. (3-0) T

**SOC 4320 Urban Education Practicum** (3 semester hours) Urban education and its role in the socioeconomic attainment process are studied through participation in an ongoing tutoring/program evaluation project in the Dallas Independent School District. Issues include curriculum and the organization of instruction, effective delivery of tutoring services, bilingual education, family background and student basic skills, and ethnographic and statistical techniques for program evaluation. Permission of instructor required. May be repeated for up to six semester hours. (3-0) Y

**SOC 4333 Sex and Politics** (3 semester hours) This course examines the role of gender and sexuality in shaping our society. Topics include the biology, psychology and sociology of gender and sexuality in shaping the current debates about reproduction of equality. (Same as GOVT 4333.) (3-0) T

**SOC 4334 Gay and Lesbian Politics** (3 semester hours) This course examines the rise of the Gay Movement in the United States. It examines the origins of the movement, the shift towards militancy and the current issues facing gays and lesbians in the United States. Specific topics include Stonewall, gays in the military, AIDS, and the Gay Rights struggle in litigation. (Same as GOVT 4334.) (3-0) R

**SOC 4335 Immigrants, Immigration, and American Society** (3 semester hours) An examination of immigrants and immigration policy in relation to the U.S. labor market, industry, and economy, as well as American politics and political
culture. Also examined are the processes of occupational and settlement adaptation, becoming legal, and attaining citizenship. (Same as GOVT 4335.) (3-0) R

SOC 4338 Minority Politics (3 semester hours) Issues and politics affecting minority groups in the United States, with particular focus on blacks, Hispanics, women, and gays. (Same as GOVT 4338.) (3-0) R

SOC 4340 Organizations (3 semester hours) A survey of current ideas about the structures and dynamics of modern formal organizations. Considers such topics as technology, hierarchy, goals, information systems, control structures, power and politics, decision making, environments, and change. (Same as PA 4312.) (3-0) T

SOC 4341 Philanthropy and Nonprofit Organizations (3 semester hours) Examines the history of giving to charities and other causes by individuals and organizations. Explores how the motivations for, the extent of, and the organization of giving affect the role of nonprofit organizations in American society today. (3-0) R

SOC 4347 Social Organization (3 semester hours) This course surveys the main historical and modern forms of human organization from the family to international systems. Topics covered include kinship organizations from family to tribe, political organizations from city to nation-state, informal and voluntary associations, and productive organizations including guild, firm, and profession. (3-0) T

SOC 4350 Political Sociology (3 semester hours) The analysis of political behavior, political institution formation and change, and the state, from a sociological perspective; voting behavior, political attitude formation, and the interaction of the state with other social institutions. (Same as GOVT 4350.) (3-0) R

SOC 4355 Social Movements (3 semester hours) The structure, causes, and consequences of change-oriented social movements. Historical and contemporary case studies, including the American labor movement, the civil rights movement, and the feminist movement. (3-0) R

SOC 4356 Social Welfare Policy (3 semester hours) Explores the origins of social welfare institutions, programs, and services in American and European societies. Reviews critiques of social welfare policies from diverse ideological and political perspectives as well as recent studies of program implementation and effectiveness. Examines the politics of social welfare reform. (3-0) R

SOC 4361 Law and Society (3 semester hours) Analyzes laws and legal institutions as forms of regulation and social control. Explores the links between legal decision making, social structure, and cultural knowledge systems. Theoretical perspectives on law and society, law and ideology, the relation of law to public policy, and legal change as a strategy of social reform are explored. (3-0) R

SOC 4362 Police and Society (3 semester hours) Examination of the central issues of enforcing law in society with emphasis placed on both internal organizational issues of police administration and external enforcement operations. (Same as CJS 3313.) (3-0) R

SOC 4363 Affirmative Action Debate (3 semester hours) Examines the historical, social, political, and legal dimensions of debate over affirmative action in education and the workplace. Topics include the black-white test score gap, the evolution of legal doctrine, the efficacy of affirmative action, and political efforts to curb affirmative action. (Same as GOVT 4363.) (3-0) T

SOC 4364 Civil Rights Law and Society (3 semester hours) Examines the development of civil rights law, and how social ideologies are reflected and reproduced in race and sex discrimination law. Explores how power is exercised through law, and how legal change is pursued as a strategy for social reform. Topics include antislavery and the judicial process, the Reconstruction Amendments, the role of the Supreme Court in U.S. society, school segregation cases, and hate speech. (Same as GOVT 4364.) (3-0) Y

SOC 4365 Politics of Law Enforcement (3 semester hours) Examines issues related to the accountability of the police to the electorate through the political process. Focuses on the governmental setting for police work, police policies and practices, and current political issues in municipal police agencies. (Same as CJS 3314.) (3-0) R

SOC 4370 Poverty and Unemployment (3 semester hours) The historical, economic, political, and cultural context of poverty and unemployment in the United States. An overview of public and private programs dealing with income maintenance, ill health, disability, child welfare, nutrition needs, housing, and mental health. (3-0) R

SOC 4371 Mental Health and Illness (3 semester hours) Explores the diverse, disturbing, disruptive, and disabling phenomena of mental disorders. Topics to be covered include the classification of mental disorders, the etiology and epidemiology of mental illnesses, and the history of societal responses to the mentally ill, including public policies. (3-0) R

SOC 4372 Health and Illness (3 semester hours) An examination of the social conditions and correlates of diseases, the
social behavior of the sick, health institutions and professions, and the formulation and implementation of health policies and programs. (3-0) R

SOC 4375 Technology, Economy, and Society (3 semester hours) This course explores how technology and societal contexts shape one another. It examines how new technologies are drawn out from - and have their impacts shaped within-markets and underlying societal arrangements. Course readings/discussions draw on theoretical and research contributions from several social sciences, engineering, and management. For purposes of illustration, we examine the economic impacts of so-called "information-processing technologies" (IT) on U.S. employment and earnings, as well as on profits and productivity. In so doing, we illustrate how advanced technologies are transforming the work and the nature of work in U.S. industries, even as the distinctions among them blur. (3-0) T

SOC 4376 Health, Ethics, and Society (3 semester hours) A review of social, ethical, and policy issues posed by current choices and recent developments in medical technology, biomedical research, and the changing American health care system. Draws on concepts and analysis from sociology and other social sciences to examine bioethical dilemmas. (3-0) R

SOC 4377 Aging Society (3 semester hours) A study of the aging of society, including the biomedical, social, economic, and political forces shaping societal aging and public policies for the aged. (3-0) R

SOC 4396 Selected Topics in Sociology (3 semester hours) Subject matter will vary from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit (9 hours maximum). (3-0) R

SOC 4V97 Independent Study in Sociology (1-6 semester hours) Independent study under a faculty member's direction. May be repeated for credit (6 hours maximum). Consent of instructor required. ([1-6]-0) S

SOC 4V98 Internship (1-6 semester hours) May repeat for credit up to total of six semester credit hours. Consent of instructor required. ([1-6]-0) S

SOC 4V99 Senior Honors in Sociology (1-6 semester hours) For students conducting independent research for honors theses or projects. May be repeated for credit, but no more than six hours may be taken by a student under this number. ([1-6]-0) S

Interdisciplinary Studies Courses Applicable to the Major in Sociology

The following Interdisciplinary Studies courses are especially relevant to a major in sociology, and may be counted toward the 6 hours of advanced courses in sociology or related fields required of sociology majors.

ISGS 3331 Female and Male: Changing Roles
ISSS 3347 The New American Economy
ISSS 3350 Drugs and Crime
ISSS 3351 Criminal Justice and the Community