

SOCIOLOGY (SO)

SO 101 - Sociological Perspectives

Credits: 3

The basic concepts and principles of major sociological perspectives. Attention is given to how these perspectives have been developed and used by social scientists to explain social phenomena. Recommended as an introduction to the discipline.

Note(s): Fulfills Social Sciences requirement.

SO 101H - Hon:Soc Perspectives

Credits: 3

SO 201 - Social Issues

Credits: 3

Analysis of contemporary social issues such as racial and gender inequalities, environmental protection, and crime. Attention is given to the roots and dimensions of these issues by introducing core sociological theories and methods. The course also includes critical examination of current social policies that address these issues.

Prerequisites: SO 101.

Note(s): Fulfills Social Sciences requirement.

SO 201H - Hon: Social Issues

Credits: 3

Analysis of contemporary social issues such as racial and gender inequalities, environmental protection, and crime. Attention is given to the roots and dimensions of these issues by introducing core sociological theories and methods. The course also includes critical examination of current social policies that address these issues.

Note(s): Fulfills Social Sciences requirement.

SO 202 - The Individual in Society

Credits: 3

A variety of social psychological approaches to the experiences of individuals as they influence or are influenced by social interactions and structures. The course introduces a sociological orientation known as "symbolic interactionism," which assumes that among the key elements in the social environment are the symbols and understandings possessed by people in the group.

Prerequisites: SO 101.

Note(s): Fulfills Social Sciences requirement.

SO 203 - Femininities and Masculinities

Credits: 3

An analysis of gender in contemporary social life. By examining the intersections between race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and age, this course explores how differing types of femininities and masculinities are constructed, reinforced, and maintained in U.S. culture and society. Dating and relationships, body image and appearance, and institutional inequities are among the topics examined.

Prerequisites: SO 101.

Note(s): Fulfills Social Sciences requirement.

SO 204 - Introduction to Race, Class, and Gender

Credits: 3

An introduction to sociological analysis of race, class, and gender in contemporary social life. This course explores how race, class, and gender are constructed, reinforced, and maintained in U.S. society. Using readings (historical, theoretical, sociological, and autobiographical), films, class discussion, current issues/events, and exercises, we will critically examine questions such as: What is sociological imagination? How can it help us understand the intersections of race, class, and gender in social life? How do systems of power and inequality affect cultural norms, social interactions, and institutional structures? How can we move from social inequality to social change? By grappling with these questions, students will develop an appreciation for the multidimensional and complex nature of the issues underlying constructions of race, class, and gender in the United States.

Prerequisites: SO 101.

Note(s): Fulfills Social Sciences requirement.

SO 207C - Race and Education

Credits: 4

An analysis of racialized curricula within K-8 education. Students explore how race is constructed and reproduced within K-8 educational structures of power and privilege. They will explore the implicit and explicit messages children learn in school about race, power, and justice in the contemporary U.S. Students will also consider the skills and resources teachers need to better prepare all students to engage in these critical conversations. Finally, students will examine which pedagogical approaches might best prepare children to navigate a racially diverse world. Students will collaborate with a local school to implement a race-related change project.

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor and SSP 100.

Note(s): Fulfills Cultural Diversity requirement; fulfills Bridge Experience requirement.

SO 208 - Social Inequality

Credits: 3

Analysis of social classes, power, and status groups, and their origins and functions, within a historical, comparative, and contemporary framework.

Prerequisites: SO 101.

SO 211H - Sociological Imaginations

Credits: 4

A review of "great works" that have made an impact in the field of sociology. This course will examine a number of classic and contemporary social scientific books. Students will investigate the content and perspective of sociology, the defining questions of the discipline, and the "sociological imagination." This will entail exposure to important sociological ideas and arguments as well as some sense of the intellectual history of the field. This course will emphasize informed and engaged discourse about the big ideas of these great works.

Prerequisites: SO 101, and permission of instructor.

SO 212 - Work and Inequality in the United States

Credits: 3

An introduction to the sociology of work, focusing on the relationship between work and inequality. This course examines how inequality is produced and reproduced in the workplace, particularly how social identities, particularly gender and race, structure labor market outcomes and how labor market outcomes shape social identities. It explores issues of power and justice in the economy. Students examine a variety of policies and practices designed to reduce inequality in the labor market.

Prerequisites: SSP 100 and SO 101.

Note(s): Fulfills Bridge Experience requirement.

SO 213 - Crime and Victimization

Credits: 3

An introduction to the sociology of crime. This course examines contemporary crime trends and problems in the measurement of crime; major theories that explain criminal behavior; and topical foci on various types of crime such as homicide, sexual assault, organized crime, white collar crime, property crime, or juvenile delinquency.

Prerequisites: SO 101.

SO 215 - China and Globalization

Credits: 3

An exploration of changes in Chinese society since its market reforms in 1978 and its increasing involvement in the global economy. Specifically, students will learn the sociological theories on market transition and globalization, discuss the role of the Chinese state and social networks in its economic development, and analyze how the reforms and China's participation in globalization have affected Chinese culture, governance, migration, social classes, genders, ethnic minorities, the environment, and the global order.

Prerequisites: SO 101 or AS 101 or IA 101.

Note(s): Fulfills Global Cultural Perspectives requirement.

SO 216 - Food and Society

Credits: 4

Exploration of the sociology of food and agriculture. Students will reflect on how their individual food taste and preferences are socially constructed, explore how industrial agriculture has changed their relationship to food, and investigate the various controversies over alternative food systems such as organic food, local food, vegetarian and vegan food, and techno-food. Students will also explore how the global capitalist food system championed by the US has transformed food provision and consumption in other countries, creating the concurrent existence of hunger and obesity in the world today. At the end of the semester, students will develop actionable plans to address their selected issues of food justice.

Prerequisites: SO 101 or SO SO 201 or SO 202 or SO 203 or SO 204 and SSP 100.

Note(s): Fulfills Social Sciences requirement; fulfills Bridge Experience requirement.

SO 217 - Families in the United States

Credits: 3

An analysis of families as a social institution, sites of interaction, and sources of identity. The course examines changes that have altered families in the United States over time and created issues for public policy. The course will pay particular attention to diversity in family experiences by social status including generation, race, ethnicity, culture, class, sexuality, and gender. Marriage, divorce, fertility, parenthood, and the challenges of integrating work and family life today are among the topics examined.

Prerequisites: SO 101 or GW 101 and SSP 100.

Note(s): Fulfills Bridge Experience requirement.

SO 219 - Race, Power, and Dialogue

Credits: 4

A critical study of race, racism, and racial power in the United States, as connected to global and historical forces. This course combines social theory, reflexive analysis, peer-to-peer dialogue, and collaborative group work to examine how race is constructed, lived, reproduced, and contested within systems of domination and resistance. Topics include racial socialization, racial identity development, and intersectionality; the historical processes of racialization that mark bodies, spaces, and practices; systemic racism across institutional domains that include law, education, and media; and strategies for challenging racism and advancing racial justice in communities, organizations, and everyday life. Beyond content learning, students develop applied skills for self-examination, dialoguing across differences, working with conflict, and aligning values and practice.

Prerequisites: SSP 100, and either SO 101 or IG 201 or BST 101 or LA 201; and permission of instructor.

Note(s): Fulfills Bridge Experience requirement.

SO 221 - Media Sociology

Credits: 3

An exploration of social, political, and economic forces that influence contemporary mass media. Students will examine a range of social scientific methods that have been used to document the nature of media content and understand how it is produced. Topics include the consequences of concentration in media ownership, the dynamic relationship between producers and consumers of media, and the study of class, race, and gender inequalities in media content.

Prerequisites: SO 101, or MF 101.

SO 223 - Environmental Sociology

Credits: 3

An exploration of social-environment interactions. More than any other species, humans adapt their environments to suit their purposes. This course explores those purposes, including the roles that corporations, public policy, class, gender, and other social factors play in altering the environment and the resulting effects on people and places. Specific topics addressed include the environmental movement, environmental justice, and the political economy of the environment.

Prerequisites: SO 101, or ES 100.

SO 224H - Close Relationships

Credits: 4

Exploration of intimate relationships through a sociological lens. Examines personal interactions as public processes with implications for the organization of society. Students investigate attraction, sexuality, friendship, and love as relational experiences embedded in social structures and norms, and develop their abilities to ground social analysis with research.

Prerequisites: SO 101.

SO 225 - Quantifying Women

Credits: 3

An introduction to the empirical study of changes in women's experiences in areas such as work, family, health, religion, and politics. The diversity of women's attitudes, behaviors, and experiences in the United States are explored using the logic and mathematics of social research. Students use microcomputers and statistical software to analyze sociological data sets that investigate a series of issues related to women, such as the gender gap in politics, pay differences between men and women, and attitudes toward abortion rights.

Prerequisites: QR1.

Note(s): Fulfills QR2 requirement.

SO 227 - Social Research Methods

Credits: 3

Examination of methods employed in the investigation of sociological problems. This course analyzes the research process as an integral whole including political and ethical issues in conducting research. Topics include conceptualization, measurement approaches, design of surveys, and methods of interviewing and observation. Students design studies using various methodological techniques.

Prerequisites: SO 101 or by permission of instructor.

Note(s): Letter grade only.

SO 228 - Statistics for the Social Sciences

Credits: 4

Examination of quantitative analysis in the social research process. This course involves the study and application of statistics for solving problems in the social sciences. Students use computers as tools for social research as they analyze sociological data sets.

Prerequisites: QR1 or placement at the AQR level or completion of an FQR course and two courses in SO, EC, PS, PL, AN and/or SW, or permission of the instructor.

Note(s): Letter grade only. Fulfills Applied QR requirement.

SO 229 - Visual Sociology

Credits: 4

An introduction to visual sociology as both an analytical tool for more deeply understanding the visual in society and as a means of conveying the results of sociological research. Students will develop the theoretical and conceptual tools necessary to ask more critical questions of the visual world around them and, by producing a sociological documentary of their own, the technical skills to communicate in visual media. No prior experience with videography is required. Students are strongly encouraged to have taken at least one Sociology course beyond the gateway class.

Prerequisites: SO 101.

SO 230 - Sociology of Conflict Resolution

Credits: 3

An introduction to interpersonal and intergroup conflict analysis and conflict resolution practices. Students will develop basic conflict resolution skills while examining a variety of conflict scenarios such as family arguments, racial and ethnic tension, legal disputes, criminal violence, war, and genocide. Special focus will be placed on mediation, restorative justice, and peacebuilding.

Prerequisites: SO 101, or ID 141.

SO 232 - Studying Student Worlds

Credits: 3

An in-depth introduction to qualitative research methods as vehicles for exploring and describing social experiences, focusing in particular on the lives of students. Course topics include field research, qualitative interviewing, and the role of the researcher. Students examine ethnographic studies of academic settings and collect and analyze qualitative data about Skidmore's culture.

Prerequisites: SO 101.

SO 233 - Schools: The Problem or the Solution?

Credits: 3

To what extent do schools function as a "great equalizer" in American society? Students will read foundational and contemporary texts in the sociology of education to analyze whether schools function as engines of opportunity or institutions of social reproduction. Topics include school funding, segregation, and discipline; the relationships between schools and families; and student experiences in higher education. Students will connect sociological theory to contemporary debates about education in America and apply this knowledge through a community-engaged project.

Prerequisites: SSP 100 and SO101.

SO 235 - Black America Becoming: An Empirical Analysis of Social Change in Black America

Credits: 4

A survey of 20th century sociological research on Black communities to inform original analysis of African-American experiences and community dynamics in the contemporary U.S. Special attention will be paid to the scholarship and research program of W.E.B. Du Bois. Students will be instructed in basic statistical techniques to gauge changing patterns of segregation, education, occupation, incarceration, family formation, and general well-being among Black Americans through the 20th and 21st centuries. Students will be required to develop sociologically informed presentations suitable to deliver to campus and community audiences during Black History Month.

Prerequisites: SSP 100.

Note(s): Fulfills Bridge Experience and Fundamental QR requirements.

SO 251 - Special Topics in Sociology

Credits: 1-4

An examination at the intermediate level of special topics, methods, and areas in sociology, such as population dynamics, collective behavior, juvenile justice system, and social control. Specific topics to vary by instructor and semester.

Prerequisites: SO 101.

Note(s): The course, in a different subject area, may be repeated for credit.

SO 251H - Hon: Special Topics in Soc

Credits: 4

SO 299 - Professional Internship in Sociology

Credits: 1-4

Internship opportunity for students whose curricular foundations and cocurricular experience have prepared them for professional work related to sociology. With faculty sponsorship and department approval, students may extend their educational experience through internships in human service agencies, the criminal justice system, business, governmental, and other formal organizations, community groups, and related areas.

Prerequisites: SO 101. Not for liberal arts credit.

SO 304 - Sociology of Emotions

Credits: 3

Analysis of how human emotions influence and are influenced by the social and cultural environment. The course examines the physiological and social psychological components of human emotion, the cross-cultural and historical variability of emotions, emotional socialization, and the emotional aspects of social interaction, relationships, and institutions.

Prerequisites: SO 101, and one additional sociology course.

SO 305 - Sociology of Folklore

Credits: 3

Analysis of the social context of folklore, with special emphasis on contemporary American folklore. Social scientific theories of folklore, the social bases and dynamics of folk groups, folklore and processes of social change, and folklore research methods.

Prerequisites: *Two courses in the social sciences.*

SO 306 - Sociology of Religion

Credits: 3

An examination of the sources, meanings, and implications of religious phenomena. This course explores myth, ritual, and symbol in social contexts with special consideration for the contemporary American scene. Attention is given to religious evolution in the light of social modernization; how religious organizations are related to other social institutions will also be considered.

Prerequisites: *SO 101 and one additional sociology course.*

SO 307 - Video Ethnography

Credits: 4

Video can be used as a research tool to better understand social life. Students will explore key theoretical and empirical works in visual sociology and visual studies and will enhance their skills in ethnographic data gathering and analysis. Students will work on a semester-long research project to produce a sociologically-informed ethnographic documentary from start to finish, becoming conversant in methodological and filmmaking practices. Prior experience with video equipment and editing software is not a requirement

Prerequisites: *SO 227, SO 229, AN 201, or AM 221.*

Note(s): *Fulfills Social Sciences requirement.*

SO 310 - Medical Sociology

Credits: 3

SO 314 - Deviance and Social Control

Credits: 3

An introduction to the sociology of deviance. This course examines sociological theory and evidence that explain deviant and/or nonconforming behavior in society. Attention is given to forms of deviance that generate conflicts over values or between groups in society and to the mechanisms of social control that increase conformity to social norms.

Prerequisites: *SO 101 and one additional sociology course.*

SO 315 - Economy and Society

Credits: 3

A survey of the growing field of economic sociology. Students will compare the different approaches that sociologists and economists take in studying the economy and explore how social institutions, social networks, power, gender, race, class, and cultural values affect economic practices and behaviors. Students will also explore the social meanings of economic rationality, money, value, consumption, capitalism, and the market across different identities and cultural and historical contexts.

Prerequisites: *SO 101 and one additional course in sociology or permission of instructor.*

SO 316 - Women in Modern Society

Credits: 3

An examination of the effects of the social construction of gender on women in modern societies. The course analyzes the intersection of race, class, and gender in women's lives. The changing social status of women in the United States today is compared to that of women in other countries. Particular contemporary women's issues emphasized each year may vary, but typically include economic issues, such as occupational segregation and unequal pay, family issues, such as power relations and violence, and political issues, such as women's grassroots political activism and national policies.

Prerequisites: *SO 101 or SO 201 or SO 202 or SO 203 or SO 204 or GW 101 and one additional course in sociology or gender studies.*

SO 317 - Femininity, Beauty, and the Black Female Body

Credits: 3

An analysis of femininity, beauty, and the black female body; how black women are depicted within U.S. social structures; and how these images have changed over time. Students will explore these issues to develop an appreciation for the multi-dimensional and complex nature of the issues underlying constructions of black womanhood. Topics of examination include body politics, colorism, and sexual justice.

Prerequisites: *SO 101; SO 227; and one additional 200 or 300-level sociology or gender studies course.*

Note(s): *Fulfills Cultural Diversity requirement.*

SO 321 - American Social Changes

Credits: 3

An examination of the structure and process of social change by comparing several areas, such as economic structure and relations, race, gender, urban community, education, and the state. The specific historical periods covered in the course will vary according to the changes under consideration. American social changes will be addressed from a variety of theoretical perspectives within sociology, including Marxist and other conflict approaches, world-systems, functionalist, cultural, and social-psychological perspectives

Prerequisites: *SO 101 and two other social science courses or permission of instructor.*

SO 322 - Political Sociology

Credits: 3

How does "power" manifest itself in society? Students will explore the ways that power emerges in social movements, communities, nation states, and between international actors. A substantial portion of the course will also be devoted to sociological understandings of globalization. Readings will include classical formulations of power by Marx and Weber as well as modern and contemporary understandings of power found in pluralism, elite theory, systems theory, and other outlooks.

Prerequisites: *SO 101 and one additional sociology course.*

SO 324 - Classical Sociological Theory

Credits: 3

Analysis of the philosophical foundations, central principles, and historical development of sociological theory from its origins in late-nineteenth-century Europe to the present. The course critically examines the sociological theories of Marx, Durkheim, Weber, and Mead and their relationship to a number of more contemporary social theories.

Prerequisites: *SO 101 and one additional sociology course.*

Note(s): *Letter grade only.*

SO 325 - Contemporary Social Theory

Credits: 3

An examination of contemporary social theories such as functionalism, symbolic interactionism, conflict and social exchange theory. In addition, recent theoretical trends in sociology such as the feminist and environmental perspectives, and the biosocial and humanist approaches are discussed.

Prerequisites: SO 101 and one additional sociology course.

Note(s): Letter grade only.

SO 326 - Social Theories of the Environment

Credits: 3

How do we make sense of contemporary society's relationship with nature? Scholars have produced a rich array of responses to this question that often conflict with one another. These theorists are also concerned with how social thought can be used to guide solutions to environmental problems. Reading original work, we will consider the applicability, insight, and relevancy of a host of perspectives, including ecological Marxism, ecological anarchism, social constructivism, ecological realism, eco-modernization, and neo-Malthusianism.

Prerequisites: SO 101 or ES 100 and one additional sociology course.

SO 328 - Social Movements and Collective Action

Credits: 3

An exploration of the causes and consequences of social movements and episodes of collective action. Many people are dissatisfied with existing economic, political, or social arrangements, yet relatively few individuals attempt to bring about social change by participating in organized social protest. What is it that differentiates those who participate from those who do not? This course approaches this central question from a variety of theoretical perspectives. Movements as diverse as those for civil rights and the environment will be examined.

Prerequisites: SO 101 and one additional sociology course.

SO 329 - Criminal Justice

Credits: 3

Sociological analysis of the criminal justice system, including policing, the courts, and corrections. This course examines criminal justice responses to crime problems and alternative perspectives. Topics vary by semester and may include critical analysis of police use of force, racial disparities in sentencing, the death penalty, juvenile justice, the prison experience, or community justice.

Prerequisites: SO 101 and one additional sociology course.

SO 331 - Women in Global Economy

Credits: 3

A comparative analysis of women's roles in the global economy. The course examines how global economic transformations affect women as well as how women affect those processes. Topics include the effect of economic development on women's participation in various forms of economic activity, including agriculture, microenterprises, and manufacturing, as well as gender relations in families throughout the world, with particular emphasis on countries of the Southern Hemisphere. In addition, the course considers the environmental issues women face during the process of economic development, such as sustainable development, population policies, and women's environmental activism.

Prerequisites: SO 101 or GW 101 or IA 101 and one additional course in sociology or gender studies.

SO 332R - Studying Student Worlds

Credits: 4

An in-depth introduction to qualitative research methods as vehicles for exploring and describing social experiences, focusing in particular on the lives of students. Course topics include field research, qualitative interviewing, and the role of the researcher. Students examine ethnographic studies of academic settings and collect and analyze qualitative data about Skidmore's culture.

Prerequisites: SO 101 and one additional SO or GW course.

SO 333 - Sociology of the Body

Credits: 3

Analysis of the body in contemporary social life. What do bodies tell us about ourselves, about others? How do we feel in and about our bodies? Using sociological theory and qualitative research methodologies, students explore these questions by examining how the body is constructed and manipulated within social interactions and relationships. Bodily adornment practices (e.g., hairstyle choice, tattooing, exercise routines), bodily (dis)ability, and the medicalization of the body are among the topics examined.

Prerequisites: SO 101 and one additional sociology course.

SO 336 - Immigration, Race, and Shifting Color Lines in the U.S.

Credits: 3

A survey of immigration to the U.S. since 1880 paying special attention to theories and evidence of adaptation and incorporation among immigrants and their U.S. born children. Students will analyze interview and survey data to assess the extent and pace of incorporation within and across generations of immigrants who have arrived in recent decades—mostly from Asia, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Ultimately, students will draw conclusions about whether and how recent immigrant incorporation has shifted or reified existing racial boundaries in the U.S.

Prerequisites: SO 101 and one additional sociology course.

Note(s): Fulfills Bridge Experience requirement.

SO 351 - Advanced Special Topics in Sociology

Credits: 1-4

An examination at the advanced level of special topics, methods, and areas in sociology. Specific topics vary by instructor and semester.

Prerequisites: SO 101 and one additional sociology course.

Note(s): The course in a different subject area may be repeated for credit.

SO 361 - Social Justice Dialogue: Theory and Praxis

Credits: 4

An integration of social theory and praxis in a seminar that prepares students to facilitate intergroup and intragroup social justice dialogues exploring race and intersecting identities. How can we learn to engage more effectively about race, power, and privilege? What factors hinder meaningful engagement? What skills promote both interracial and intraracial communication on important social issues? Through readings in social identity theory, reflective and analytic writing, and experiential practice of dialogic communication skills, students learn to facilitate dialogues on provocative topics, such as cancel culture, immigration, and interracial relationships.

Prerequisites: Grade of B or better in one of the following courses: SO219 or IG 201 or IG 262 or IG 275 or IG 251 or IG 351; and permission of instructor.

Note(s): SO361 is identical to IG361 except that the former is taught by at least one Sociology faculty member.

SO 371 - Independent Study in Sociology

Credits: 1-4

Individual reading and/or research in sociology under the guidance of a member of the department. Open with the consent of the department to qualified students. Individual conferences to be arranged.

SO 374 - Senior Coda in Sociology

Credits: 2

A reflection on sociology as a discipline and how it can be used to illuminate social institutions, culture, power, and identity. Students will explore several questions. What is sociology? How is it different from other disciplines? What does being a sociologist mean for you? What does sociology say about inequality in the world? How can the tools of sociology be used to illuminate power dynamics and injustice, whether it is in the sociology major, Skidmore College, the discipline of sociology and/or society in general? What can the perspective of sociology and your experience in the major do for you after college? What do you hope it will mean in terms of your thinking, experience, identity and/or vocation?

Prerequisites: *Sociology majors who have completed at least 90 credit-hours of college course work.*

Note(s): Fulfills Senior Experience Coda requirement.

SO 375 - Senior Seminar in Sociology

Credits: 4

The capstone course for the sociology major. The course functions as a research practicum in which students share the process of conducting an original research project. To do the research, students must build upon previous work in sociology, especially theory, methods, and statistics. Therefore, students must have completed the required statistics, methods, and theory courses for the sociology major before enrolling in Senior Seminar. Students writing the Senior Thesis are encouraged to begin thesis research in the Seminar.

Prerequisites: *SO 227, SO 228, and SO 324 or SO 325.*

Note(s): Open only to sociology majors. Designated a writing-enhanced course. Fulfills the sociology program's writing in the major requirement.

SO 376 - Senior Thesis in Sociology

Credits: 3

Independent research leading to a thesis examining a sociological question in depth. Students work under the direction of a thesis advisor and a second reader.

Prerequisites: *SO 375 and permission of instructor.*

Note(s): Open only to sociology majors.

SO 377 - Presenting Sociological Research

Credits: 1

Visual and oral presentations of sociological research. Students revise empirical research projects and develop effective presentations of findings for both professional and nonprofessional audiences. Emphasis is on developing effective posters and oral presentations of social scientific research findings. Students present their research in public settings on or off campus. The course meets a total of 14 hours, with most sessions early in the semester.

Prerequisites: *SO 375.*

SO 399 - Professional Internship in Sociology

Credits: 1-4

Internship experience at the advanced level for juniors and seniors with substantial academic and cocurricular experience related to sociology. With faculty sponsorship and department approval, students may extend their educational experience through internships in human service agencies, the criminal justice system, business, governmental, and other formal organizations, community groups, and related areas.

Prerequisites: *Nine credit hours in sociology.*

Note(s): Not for liberal arts credit.