SOC 100: Sections 730, 731
Introduction to Sociology

This class examines classical and contemporary theoretical perspectives, concepts and methods of sociological inquiry; how they relate to the development of society, and perspectives to help explain the shape of our social lives. As these concepts are examined special attention will be paid to overarching themes of societal transformation, social institutions and organizations, culture, diversity, socialization, and stratification. The course is designed to broaden understanding of society as it relates to everyday life, large global issues and the many concepts that lie within this spectrum. The material and content of the course will assist you in understanding society and each individual’s place within it by developing critical cognitive and analytical skills.

SOC 131: Section 730 Social Problems

This class examines social problems from a sociological perspective. Online discussion will consider the social problems of everyday life, including poverty and global violence. Starting with definitions of how sociologists define social problems and how community organizations address them, social problems will be seen as evolving in a global setting with people and communities both being impacted by social problems and attempting to solve them.

SOC 161: Section 730 International Development and Change

This class will explore international change and development, which is defined as the increasing interdependence and integration of nation-state economies, cultures, politics and social institutions. This course will explore the role of international organizations, actors and institutions in shaping current global communities and hierarchies. The effects of the global economy on global divisions of labor, transnationalism, global inequality, poverty, ethnic studies, gender relations, and other aspects of social organization and change will also be addressed. A major focus of our studies will be placing development in a context of the current era of globalization. Organization and change will also be addressed.

SOC 215: Section 730 and 731 Race and Ethnicity

This class explores the way society has formed racial and ethnic social categories and has used these to define statuses, identities, and social structures. As race and ethnicity assign status to peoples, sociologists analyze the resulting discrimination and loss. People, on their part, organize for freedom from discrimination and the assertion of identity. Students will learn the global and historical roots of race and ethnicity. The class will also explore the current social meanings of race and ethnicity. The class looks at structural and institutional analyses, like labor markets and exploitation based on race and ethnicity. The class also considers how historical dominance and stereotypes influence contemporary social life and identity.

SOC 216: Sections 730 and 731 Sex and Gender

This course will give you a broad introduction to the field of Sociology of Sex and Gender, specifically from an intersectional and global perspective. The material will emphasize gender’s intersections with race, class, sexuality, and nationality, as well as other measures of social location, with an eye to how gender operates across the globe. This class is about gender, not just women, so we will also address issues of men and masculinity.

SOC 310: Global Migration

This course introduces students to a critical comparative study of global migration. The migration experience differs based on the migrant’s race, ethnicity, religion, gender, family situation and social class. However, it is also shaped by social, political and economic forces at work on local, state and national scales, and at different times throughout history. This class seeks to enrich the student’s understanding related to the ways these different forces shape the motives for migration, the experiences of the migrant in adapting to life in a new society, and the way migration impacts the home and host societies.

SOC 315: Sections 730 and 731 Family and Society

The main focus of this course is to encourage students to think sociologically about family and society. It involves defining problems, questioning assumptions, recognizing biases and forming reasonable solutions to problems and challenges facing families. For instance, women and men may choose to remain single, to form heterosexual or same sex relationships outside of marriage. Therefore this course will encourage the student to analyze family life cycle stages, tasks, and difficulties that families may experience as they move through their developmental stages.
SOC 316: Sections 730 and 731 Youth and Society

This course will focus on youth and societal issues and how adolescents make the transition into adulthood. We will examine the interactions and behavioral changes that occur amongst youth during adolescent development in reference to biological, social, and cultural contexts, and how these contexts are vital in understanding the relationship between youth and society.

SOC 375: Urban Sociology

This online course focuses on visual representations of urban landscapes and investigates social-spatial transformations and inequalities in everyday city life. The course is divided into three sections. Section 1 introduces visual methodologies with key texts in urban and visual sociology. In Section 2, we will “read” urban landscapes and a variety of urban spaces will be examined. The class then proceeds to examine urban sprawls, theme parks, shopping malls, sidewalks, coffee houses, ghettos, and street art & graffiti, through photos, films, and texts. Section 3 compares urban landscapes across places, with a focus on urban ruins in postindustrial cities in decline, such as the Bronx in New York, Camden in New Jersey, and Detroit in Michigan. We compare these places with Shanghai, China where ultra-modern cityscapes have emerged out of the ruins of older city blocks.

SOC 412: Section 730 Animals, People & Nature

Animals, People and Nature introduces undergraduate students to a wide spectrum of animal issues from a variety of perspectives. The class is divided into themed weeks that tackle pertinent issues in animal studies through multimedia and interdisciplinary lenses. Interactive activities will encourage students to reflect on the animals they encounter in their own communities and bring their personal experiences to the discussion forums. The case studies and examples that accompany academic articles allow for a deep, applied understanding of the weekly themes. Because animals are often marginalized, we emphasize the link between humans and other animals, not simply focus on one group or another. Animals, People and Nature provides an academic experience that is interdisciplinary, applied, personal, and inclusive.

SOC 451: Section 730 Dynamics of Population

This course engages the topic of population studies from within the discipline of sociology. We will study demographic theories, perform some basic techniques of demographic analysis, and discuss the policy implication of population studies. You will also be asked to exercise critical thinking skills and to apply sociological concepts in order to evaluate major demographic theories, concepts, and policies. We will comprehensively explore and learn both the major analytic tools of formal demography but will emphasize the interaction of demographic phenomena with broad cultural, economic, and social phenomena.

SOC 490: Section 730 Special Topics: Gendered Violence and Intersections of Power

This course will review the sociological context for gendered violence, and how intersecting inequalities (such as those arising from oppression based on class, race, sexuality, and nationality) produce different experiences of gendered violence and different opportunities to respond effectively. In this course, you will learn how overlapping systems of oppression contribute to people’s vulnerability to gendered violence and may make reporting, escaping, or in other ways challenging that violence more difficult.

Department of Sociology
Michigan State University
509 E Circle Drive
Room 316 Berkley Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824-1111
(517) 355-6640

www.sociology.msu.edu