

# SOCIOLOGY USC, COLUMBIA

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### Summer I, II & III 2025

---

#### SUMMER I 2025

---

**SOCIOLOGY 101.1: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**      **Monday-Thursday**    **12:20pm-3:50pm**      **Professor Shane Thye**  
May 12 - May 30

---

**SOCIOLOGY 309.J10: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL INEQUALITY**    **ONLINE**    **TBA**    *Professor Jennifer Augustine*  
May 12-May 30

This is an asynchronous online class on social inequality, with a particular focus on poverty in the United States. As an initial step in the course, we will discuss formal and informal definitions of poverty and approaches to quantitatively measuring it. As part of this introduction, we will also discuss trends in poverty in the U.S. across recent history and various demographic groups, as well as rhetoric, assumptions, and outmoded theories as to why people are poor. Next, we will explore the factors that contribute to the likelihood of being poor, such as one's family, school, and neighborhood. We will also learn about the consequences of poverty for crime, physical and psychological health, and access to important social relationships. Building on this knowledge, we will explore the actual experience of poverty; for example, how families financially 'make ends meet, problems with housing instability, and challenges of finding work and accessing public services. We will conclude with a discussion of past, current, and proposed future U.S. policy approaches to remediating issues of poverty. Each topic will involve a brief introductory narrative Power Point presentation, a daily reading, an applied activity—such as a film or podcast—and a set of discussion questions where you can engage more deeply with the material. For your final project, you will develop a policy brief that tackles a specific issue related to poverty.

---

---

#### SUMMER II 2025

---

**SOCIOLOGY 101.J11: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**    **ONLINE**    **TBA**    **Paola Merchan Tamayo**  
June 2 – June 20

This Carolina Core course is 100% online. It is divided into 14 modules that will give you a broad introduction to the field of sociology. You will learn about topics such as cooperation and social order, happiness and well-being, and marriage and family in each module. These topics will be explored through short video lectures, news articles, chapters from a free online textbook, podcasts, and other videos. In each module, you will complete assessments such as class participation assignments, multiple-choice homework, and a timed quiz.

---

**SOCIOLOGY 360.J10: SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICINE & HEALTH**    **ONLINE**    **TBA**    *Valerie Barron*  
May 28 – June 14

In this accelerated online course, we will examine how determinants of health – both for individuals and for populations – are not just medical or biological but are shaped in large part by our social environments. The likelihood that we achieve good health and maintain it over the life course varies depending on our socioeconomic status, gender, race-ethnicity, and other social factors. We will describe how health status is influenced by these factors and why, discussing both theoretical perspectives and empirical research findings. In addition, we will discuss sociological perspectives on the field of medicine and health care delivery, particularly how power and status operate within this area.

---

---

**SUMMER III 2025**

---

**SOCIOLOGY 392.J10: ELEMENTARY STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS**      **ONLINE**      **Nicolas Harder**  
June 23-August 2

---

**SOCIOLOGY 393.J10: SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY**      **ONLINE**      **TBA**      ***Professor Mathieu Deflem***  
June 23– July 11

This course presents an introduction to the major developments in sociological theory. The approach is both chronological and perspective-oriented, including classical as well as modern and contemporary theories. The central focus is on the foundations of sociological theory and its more recent contrasting variations. The course is not only conceptual but also includes concrete applications to explore the fruitfulness of theory for the empirical analysis of various issues in society, such as law, deviance, family, and religion. The assignments include two tests, six short forum posts, and a final exam. This is a fully online distributed-learning course delivered through Blackboard (100% Web Asynchronous).

---

**SOCIOLOGY 507.J10: SOCIOLOGY OF SOCIAL CONTROL**      **ONLINE**      **TBA**      ***Professor Mathieu Deflem***  
June 23– July 11

This upper-level undergraduate course deals with the sociological study of social control, i.e., the definition of and response to crime and/or deviance. The course primarily discusses the official treatment of crime through formal systems of criminal justice. The specific themes of the course include: an overview of relevant theories; the history of the concept of social control; the perspective of discipline and its relevance for the study of surveillance; the role of police; and aspects of counterterrorism. The assignments include two tests, six short forum posts, and a final exam. This is a fully online distributed-learning course delivered through Blackboard (100% Web Asynchronous).

---