

SOCIOLOGY

Course Offerings Fall 2021

SOCIOLOGY 002

Introduction to Sociology

002-02 Nicole M. Brown T/TH 11:30-1:05

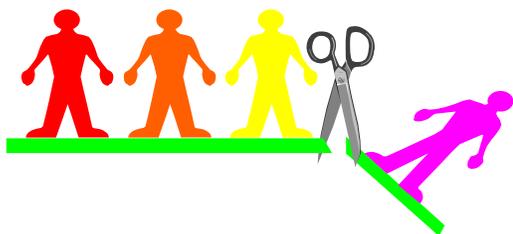
Take a new look at the social world that surrounds and influences you. How are you, as an individual, shaped by your society? How do your choices, in turn, shape society? Sociology offers a unique outlook on our rapidly changing modern society and culture. You will get a thorough overview in this class of important sociological concepts such as stratification, culture, socialization, status, deviance and institutions (e.g., marriage and family, education, work). You will learn how to study specific areas of society such as gender, class, race and ethnicity through reading insightful research by sociologists. Students also are challenged to explore controversial ideas relating to inequality and social justice. *This course fulfills the Social, Historical, and Cultural Understanding and American Diversity requirements of the Core Curriculum.*

SOCIOLOGY 004

Social Problems

John Ely MWF 10:30-11:35

The contemporary world has many social concerns that capture our attention. Talk show hosts and social critics popularize these issues which range from global problems, like the environment, to interpersonal problems, like divorce. Topics such as racism, sexism, heterosexism, classism, urban poverty, and the changing family are explored in this class. Sociology examines the factors at play in creating and solving these problems. *This course fulfills the Social, Historical, and Cultural Understanding, the American Diversity, and The Common Good requirements of the Core Curriculum.*



SOCIOLOGY 111

Sociology of Families

Ynez Wilson Hirst MWF 8:00-9:05

Families are the fundamental building block of society in at least two ways. First, families are "private institutions" that provide the primary social and physical contexts in which our lives unfold through birth, life, love, and death. Second, families can also be seen as "public institutions" that play a major role in generating and perpetuating social inequalities. In this course, we will begin by exploring common assumptions about the "traditional family", comparing this image with an overview of historical facts and trends about American family life over the past two centuries. We will then analyze a number of changes and transformations in contemporary American family life---the large-scale entrance of mothers into the paid labor force; increased immigration; welfare reform and its effects on poor families; divorce rates; the rise of reproductive technologies; multiracial families; and gay and lesbian families. We will explore the social and political implications of these changes for men, women, children, and for society; focusing primarily on patterns and historical trends within and between groups as defined by gender, race, sexual orientation, and class. *This course is cross-listed with Women's and Gender Studies and Ethnic Studies.*

SOCIOLOGY 123

Ethnic Groups in the U.S., Asian Americans

Ynez Wilson Hirst MWF 9:15-10:20

This course will focus on the social, cultural, and historical experiences and perspectives of Asian Americans. Readings and other class materials will be diverse and multidisciplinary - from academic research, to film, to autobiography and novel. We will examine the category of "Asian" through the processes of racial formation and social construction and analyze contemporary understandings of what it means to be "Asian". We will explore the social position of Asian Americans through a study of historical experiences and migration patterns, looking particularly at post-1965 Asian and Pacific Islander communities. *This course is cross-listed with Ethnic Studies.*

SOCIOLOGY 130

Sociological Theory

Nicole M. Brown T/TH 3:00-4:35

This capstone course is a survey of modern social theory, from its foundations in classical theory to contemporary theories of deconstruction. One of the larger aims of sociology is to identify wide-ranging patterns in the world around us, from great historical and cross-cultural changes to the forces that shape the most minute aspects of our day-to-day lives. You should consider "Social Theory" as a tool chest filled with implements used for making sense of this broad spectrum. This is a seminar style class, which will entail full participation on the part of the students. This course is required for majors and recommended for minors. It is limited to juniors and seniors. *Prerequisite: Sociology 002 & 101.*

SOCIOLOGY 135-01

Special Topics: Environment and Society

John Ely MWF 2:45-3:50

Following the sociological perspective, society defines our world and our place in it. From generation to generation, it provides the medium, the message and the meaning of our past, present and future. Yet beyond this socially constructed backdrop to our lives exists a world in which we, and our activities, are only a small part: the environment. This class will focus on the relationship between these two worlds. First we will assess the negative impacts that modern western society has had on the environment, with a focus on technological change, over-population and consumption. Next we will briefly look at how humans have historically, and cross-culturally, seen their relation to nature and the consequences of that relationship. In part three, we will look at the rise of the environmental movement over the last 100 years. Finally, we will look at possible utopias and dystopias for the future, with a special focus on the rising deep ecology and simple living movements. *This course is cross-listed with Environmental Studies (EES 135-01).*

SOCIOLOGY 135-02

Critical Race Theory

Loan Dao MF 1:00-2:40

This course discusses Critical Race Theory (CRT) as an analytical framework that is used across the Social Sciences, Law and Education. Specifically the course will engage CRT as an explanatory framework or set of basic perspectives, methods, and pedagogy that accounts for the role of race and racism across contexts (i.e., Education, Law, Policy, etc.) and social positions (gender, sexuality, etc.) and that works toward identifying and challenging racism within institutional contexts. *This course is cross-listed with Ethnic Studies and Women's and Gender Studies.*

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SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT FACULTY

SOCIOLOGY ENROLLMENT POLICIES

1. Students taking an upper division course (100-135) should have already taken at least one lower division course Soc 002 or 004 within the department.
2. Students must have completed Sociology 2 and Sociology 101 in order to take Theory and Methods courses.
3. Majors are given priority enrollment in upper division courses. Should you be waitlisted, you may be placed in the class after the pre-registration period. Declare your major or minor now.
4. A minimum acceptable grade of C- for coursework is required to count toward the major or minor.

SOCIOLOGY HONOR SOCIETY ALPHA KAPPA DELTA

Alpha Gamma is the California chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociological Honor Society. To be eligible for membership a student:

- **Must be an officially declared *sociology major or demonstrate a serious interest in sociology* within an official program of the host institution**
 - Sociology minors are eligible
- **Must be at least a *junior* (third year) by standards of the host institution**
- **Must have maintained the equivalent of a *3.0 GPA in sociology courses taken at the host institution prior to initiation* and the equivalent of an overall grade point average of at least *3.3*.**
- **Must have completed at least *four regular courses in sociology at the host institution prior to initiation* (exclusive of extension or courses graded pass/fail)**

The motto of AKD is "To investigate humanity for the purpose of service," a view in keeping with the Lasallian tradition. The society promotes an interest in the study of sociology, research of social problems, and other social and intellectual activities leading to improvement in the human condition.

AKD holds an undergraduate student competition with the first prize of \$5,000, a possible publication in *Sociological Inquiry*, \$500 in travel expenses to the American Sociological Association meeting, and a \$1,000 scholarship for a sociology graduate program.



Zeynep Atalay, Ph.D., Associate Professor

za4@stmarys-ca.edu Zeynep Atalay received her Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Maryland, College Park in 2012. Her research interests are in globalization, social movements, civil society, and political Islam. She teaches courses on globalization, global migration, global sociology and transnational social movements. Her dissertation examined transnational Islamist NGO coalitions and her current research projects are about the intersections of neoliberal economic policies with paternalist state traditions and pious women's social mobility in Islamist civil society organizations.

Nicole M. Brown, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

nmb22@stmarys-ca.edu Nicole M. Brown is a historical sociologist and black feminist scholar. Dr. Brown received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), a M.S.Ed. from Illinois State University, and a B.A. from Illinois Wesleyan University. Her research and intellectual curiosities relate to consumerism, social movements, methods and methodologies (specifically archival and computational analyses investigating intersections of race, class and gender), as well as knowledge production processes. Recent work focuses on computational research method of inquiry, black feminist interventions in computation, and autoethnography.

Robert C. Bulman, Ph.D., Professor

rbulman@stmarys-ca.edu Robert C. Bulman received his Ph.D. in sociology from U.C. Berkeley in 1999. He teaches Education, Culture, and Wealth and Poverty in the United States as well as special topics courses on the sociology of film. He is the author of the book *Hollywood Goes to High School: Cinema, Schools, and American Culture* and has published several articles on school choice, the politics of education, and the cultural popularity of ballroom dance.

John Ely, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Chair

jely@stmarys-ca.edu John Ely received his Ph.D. in sociology from U.C. Santa Barbara in 1996. His dissertation was in the area of prisons and criminology and he teaches in those areas. From 1992-1995 he taught, through the Soros Foundation, at the University of Bucharest and, since that time, has written a number of articles in the area of Romanian Studies. In 2002 he was the instigator and associate producer of PBS's *Frontline/World's "My Old Haunts"* with Andrei Codrescu. He is currently working with the inmate-run TRUST program at San Quentin Prison.

Ynez Wilson Hirst, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor

yhirst@stmarys-ca.edu Ynez Wilson Hirst received her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Southern California in 2005. Her primary interests relate to social inequalities, particularly race, class, and gender; and family. Ynez's dissertation was a historical analysis of the ways that family structure and race influence educational attainment. In her current ethnographic research project, Ynez is exploring identity and cultural constructions in multigenerational multiracial families.