Common Course Outline

Course Information

Description
Special Topics in Sociology is a course that is used to cover a specific sociological area that is not otherwise covered by the other sociology courses offered. This course will explore the basic principles, theories, methodologies, and contemporary research and issues of the topic indicated in the course title on the registration page. Students should expect this course to be a survey of topics in the given sociological sub-discipline.

(Prerequisites: Must have a score of 78 or higher on the reading portion of the Accuplacer test or completion of READ 0080 and READ 0090 with a grade of C or higher) (MNTC 5, & 9, History/Social & Behavioral Science, Ethical and Civic Responsibility)

Career Cluster
Liberal Arts & Sciences

Instructional Level
Associate Degree

Total Credits
3.00

Total Hours
48.00

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type Credits
Lecture 3

Pre/Corequisites

Prerequisite
Prerequisites: Must have a score of 78 or higher on the reading portion of the Accuplacer test or completion of READ 0080 and READ 0090 with a grade of C or higher

Institutional Core Competencies

1. Civic knowledge and engagement- local and global: Students will understand the richness and challenge of local and world cultures and the effects of globalization, and will develop the skills and attitudes to function as “global citizens.”

2. Ethical reasoning and action: Students will develop ethical and social responsibility to self and others, and will collaborate with others to address ethical and social issues in a sustainable manner.

3. Intercultural knowledge and competence: Students will recognize and understand the rich and complex ways that group and individual inequalities and interactions impact self and society.

External Standards
Target Standards
GOAL 5. HISTORY AND THE SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES To increase students’ knowledge of how historians and social and behavioral scientists discover, describe, and explain the behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, events, and ideas.

5.a Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.

5.b Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.

5.c Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.

5.d Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

GOAL 9. ETHICAL AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY To develop students’ capacity to identify, discuss, and reflect upon the ethical dimensions of political, social, and personal life and to understand the ways in which they can exercise responsible and productive citizenship.

9.a Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.

9.b Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.

9.c Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.

9.d Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.

9.e Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship

Course Competencies

1. Explain the topic as it relates to classical sociological theory (conflict theory)
   Learning Objectives
   Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to power dynamics across various global communities
   Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to contemporary stratification systems in the world
   Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to Marxist perspectives

2. Explain the topic as it relates to classical sociological theory (functionalist)
   Learning Objectives
   Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to unequal power distributions among various groups, but not social classes
   Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to global systems and body-part discourses
   Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to Weberian theory

3. Explain the topic as it relates to classical sociological theory (symbolic interactionist)
   Learning Objectives
   Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to symbolism and labeling of groups
   Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to self-fulfilling prophecies
   Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to interpersonal relations
   Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to Durkheimian perspectives

4. Evaluate the methodological approaches to studying the topic (quantitative)
   Learning Objectives
   Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to statistical analysis
   Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to research production based upon statistics
   Apply the method to real world situations
   Evaluate the method for its effectiveness and applicability to real world research
5 **Evaluate the methodological approaches to studying the topic (qualitative)**

Learning Objectives
- Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to discourse analysis
- Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to ethnography
- Analyze and evaluate the method as it relates to real world research

6 **Analyze the data collection approaches appropriate to the topic**

Learning Objectives
- Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to surveys
- Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to secondary data analysis
- Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to historical comparative data analysis
- Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to ethnography & interviews
- Synthesize the various methods to cover all dimensions of a given real world research topic

7 **Explain the findings of current research in the topic**

Learning Objectives
- Demonstrate ability to read and interpret the contemporary research in the topic
- Demonstrate ability to critique and correct shortcomings in contemporary research in the topic
- Demonstrate ability to situate contemporary research in the topic among other sociological research

8 **Discriminate between the various issues surrounding the current research on the topic**

Learning Objectives
- Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to current events
- Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to the big areas of sociological inquiry: race, gender, socioeconomic status, etc.
- Judge and justify the merits of the reviewed research

9 **Apply the topic to social problems**

Learning Objectives
- Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to ethical responsibility
- Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to real world policy
- Collect and/or propose real world, executable solutions

10 **Summarize the ethical issues surrounding the topic**

Learning Objectives
- Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to race
- Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to gender
- Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to socioeconomic status
- Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to ethics of inequality and public policy
- Evaluate the aforementioned dimensions for their positive and negative impact
- Argue and justify a position on the ethical dimensions of the social problems and their respective solutions associated with the topic

11 **Explain the global perspectives of the topic**

Learning Objectives
- Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to global worlds - first, second, and third
- Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to global region
- Demonstrate understanding of the topic as it relates to the global core, semi-periphery, and periphery.

**SCC Accessibility Statement**
If you have a disability and need accommodations to participate in the course activities, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. This information will be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print, or cassette tape, upon request. If you wish to contact the college ADA Coordinator, call that office at 507-389-7222.

Disabilities page [http://southcentral.edu/academic-policies/disability-rights.html](http://southcentral.edu/academic-policies/disability-rights.html)