

The course descriptions contained in this document are sourced from the 2016-2017 West Virginia State University Catalog. Students may need to consult their respective WVSU Catalog based on when they started their education at WVSU.

Sociology/Philosophy Course Descriptions

Note: All courses are three credit hours unless noted otherwise.

Sociology

SOC 101. Introduction to Sociology

A general survey of the discipline, its methods, basic concepts and area of study. The course examines man's organization and institutional life, the social process of socialization, conflict and its resolution and social change.

SOC 206. Social Problems

Nature and meaning of social problems; the incidence and characteristics of selected social problems of major public interest; analysis of proposed solutions.

SOC 208. Race and Ethnic Relations in American Society

A study of race and ethnic relations from a comparative perspective. The course includes a strong American component with emphasis on the experiences of such minorities as African-Americans, Hispanic Americans and Asian Americans.

SOC 212. Urban Sociology

A study of urban structure and ecology, particularly in light of the planning movement and urban populations, and the growth and development of urban communities. Emphasis is placed on conceptual frame of reference for the study of cities, types of social behavior in cities, influences of city life on personality, as well as urbanization from a world perspective.

SOC 220. Popular Culture and Society

This course will explore, among other things, the politics of popular culture; its ideological effects; the role of class, gender, history, media and mainstream culture in producing and perpetuating popular culture. Students will analyze how all of these factors, individually and collectively, offer insight into how popular culture becomes commodified, and why it is often considered the cause of social problems in the U.S. and in other parts of the world. This course is well-suited to students of any major since we are all consumers of popular culture and are impacted by it.

SOC 270. Cultural Anthropology

A comparative study of world cultures from the anthropological perspective including an emphasis on economic systems (from traditional to modern), social stratifications, gender roles, kinship relations, political organization and religious and cultural values.

SOC 303. Sociology of Family

The main focus of the course is to analyze family as a social system. It will involve studying the family life cycle stages, tasks and difficulties that families may experience as they move through their developmental stages. The course

content will involve defining problems, questioning assumptions, recognizing biases and forming reasonable solutions to problems about families. Prerequisite SOC 101 or by permission.

SOC 304. Social Gerontology

The course introduces students to the social processes and social aspects (e.g. family dynamics, health care, finances, work and retirement, widowhood, elder abuse, social isolation, minimization, care of the frail elderly, death and dying, etc.) associated with aging and the field of social gerontology. It creates opportunities for analysis, across disciplines, of processes inherent to aging and encourages consideration of how these processes shape the needs and experiences of the elderly. It offers insight into social parameters for providing care, autonomy, and dignity for the elderly. Prerequisite(s): SOC 101 or permission of instructor.

SOC 305. Birth-Death-Migration: A Cross-Cultural Study of Population

Birth, Death and Migration is a cross-cultural study of the world's population and those factors (social and biological) which create population growth and change over time. Prerequisite(s): SOC 101.

SOC 300. Social Inequality

This course will address the complicated and complex issues of wealth and power differences, which are linked in inextricable ways with class, gender and race/ethnicity. The course will focus on how these attributes when associated together create and reinforce inequalities in society. The course has a multidisciplinary perspective. Prerequisite SOC 101 or permission of the department chairperson and the instructor.

SOC 308. World Religions

An overview of the world's major religions including Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity and African and Native American. An examination of religious practices, historical development, doctrines and world views. Emphasis is placed upon human problems, community and ethical issues and relations to other religions and world affairs. Cross-listed with PHIL 308. Prerequisite(s): ENGL 102.

SOC 310. Sociological Theory

The sociological theories of the 19th and 20th centuries are presented in their chronological order in regard to the schools and important thinkers. Attention is given to contemporary concepts, micro/macro perspectives, the leading theories of functionalism, conflict theory and social-psychological theories (from behaviorism to ethnomethodology) and theory structuring in light of new empirical findings. Prerequisite(s): SOC 101

SOC 311. Methodology and Research

Introduction to the concepts and methods of social science research: the role of theory in research, forming hypotheses and questions, identifying variables and gathering and analyzing statistical data. Emphasis will be on developing good writing skills and using computers for basic statistical evaluation. This course meets the requirements of CJ 315 and POSC 311. Prerequisite(s): Junior classification and a C grade in ENGL 102 and PSYC 200.

SOC 316. Independent Studies in Sociology (2-4 credit hours)

Independent work on a special sociological program. May be taken for a maximum of eight hours. Prerequisite(s): Sociology major of junior standing and permission of the chairperson of the department and the instructor involved.

SOC 320. Sociology of Gender

This course is designed to explore how gender is constructed and how the pervasiveness of gender is a way of structuring social life. Sociology of gender involves both the study of femininities and masculinities, the cultural meaning associated with being women and men in our society, how gender influences the interaction between people, how the structures of our societal institutions, such as organization of work, and education create gendered meanings, and how the meaning of gender changes overtime. Prerequisite SOC 101 or permission of the instructor.

SOC 321. Sociology of Health and Medicine

An introduction to the sociology of health and medicine. Emphasis is on the relationships between social factors and health. The course will survey both the theory and practice of medicine in its social setting. Prerequisite(s): SOC 101 or permission of instructor.

SOC 322. Criminology

This course focuses on the theories of crime. These theories come from several fields, including biology, criminal justice, psychology and sociology. The theories will be examined from a historical perspective beginning with the Classical School in the 1700's and progressing to the newest integrated theories. The types and extent of crime in the United States and other countries will also be explored. Prerequisite(s): Junior classification and a C grade in ENGL 102 and PSYC 200.

SOC 323. Sociology of Globalization

This course is designed to explain how the process of globalization is shaping our personal and professional lives in the 21st century. With that in mind, the course will cover theories of globalism, global culture and ideology, transnational migration and the new labor market, and local and global linkages and resistance to globalization. The course will be taught from an interdisciplinary perspective. The course will be an eye opener for those who are willing to think critically from any Social Science discipline.

SOC 399. Special Topics (1-4 credit hours)

Regular courses or seminars on special topics of sociological interest for majors and non-majors as determined by need.

SOC 410. Sociology Field Experience (3-6 credit hours)

Placement of sociology students in various community agencies for the purpose of helping them to integrate and test theories advanced in the classroom. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing, approval of the department chairperson and supervising instructor, and nine hours in sociology, including SOC 101. (May be taken for a maximum of six hours.)

SOC 420. Senior Seminar

A systematic survey of sociological theory and a summary and analysis of sociology and its related fields with emphasis on their interrelationships. (Should be taken in last semester of coursework.) Prerequisite(s): 15 credit hours of elective sociology and six hours of required sociology courses including SOC 101.

Philosophy

PHIL 201. Introduction to Philosophy

Study of living issues in the field of philosophy.

PHIL 202. Ethics

A study of the principles of value and moral obligation.

PHIL 203. Ancient and Medieval Philosophy of the West

Historical consideration of ancient and medieval thinkers with special emphasis in Greek philosophy.

PHIL 204. Modern Philosophy

Representative thinkers of the modern period from Descartes to Kant. Prerequisite(s): PHIL 203.

PHIL 205. Existentialism

Existentialism in philosophy and literature and its meaning for contemporary society.

PHIL 220. Philosophy of Science

A survey of the major traditional and contemporary topics of science, its paradigms, assumptions, theories, laws, explanation, prediction, measurement, causality and limits, viewed from the perspectives of epistemology, metaphysics and ethics. Prerequisite(s): 30 credit hours.

PHIL 303. Contemporary Philosophy

Types and problems of contemporary philosophy with special reference to idealism, realism, logical empiricism and Marxism.

PHIL 308. World Religions

An overview of the world's major religions including Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity and African and Native American. An examination of religious practices, historical development, doctrines, and world view. Emphasis is placed upon human problems, community and ethical issues, and relations to other religions and world affairs. Prerequisite(s): ENGL 102.

PHIL 310. Logic

A study of the methods and principles of valid reasoning.

PHIL 316. Independent Study in Philosophy (1-3 credit hours)

Independent study on special topics in Philosophy as determined by need and faculty availability. Prerequisite(s): PHIL 201, 202 and 310.

PHIL 401. Classical Political Thinkers

A critical analysis and tracing of influences of major political theorists from earliest time to the early modern period: from Plato through Hobbes. Cross-listed with Political Science 401. Prerequisite(s): PHIL 201 and ENGL 102.

PHIL 402. Modern Political Thinkers

A critical analysis and tracing of influences of the major political theorists from Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau through Lenin. Cross-listed with Political Science 402. Prerequisite(s): PHIL 201 and ENGL 102.

Sociology/Philosophy Faculty

Mosby, Gail A. (2006), Professor and Program Coordinator of Sociology. B.A., West Virginia State College (now University); M.Ed., Texas Southern University; Ph.D., The University of Tennessee at Knoxville, 1995. Areas of research: Social Antecedents, Consequences, Reactions and Responses to Black on Black Crime; Reactions to the Demographic Browning of America; Ecosystem Distrust; Mundane Extreme Environmental Stress; Racial Dynamics.

Ray, Manashi (2011), Assistant Professor of Sociology. B.A. University of Poona, India; M.A. Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India; Ph.D. Michigan State University, 2010. Areas of research: Globalization, International Migration and Transnationalism, Race and Ethnic Relations, Gender.