

University of Ghana
Department of Sociology
Sample Fall Courses

SOCI 301 Foundations of Social Thought

The Nature and Scope of Social Theory: brief historical survey of the nature and development of social thought; Auguste Comte, social context and development of his basic ideas; Evaluation of Comte's contribution to Social theory; Karl Marx; the notion of dialectics; social classes and their transformation: vision of a new society, Marxist analyses of political economy; Critical analysis of the Marxist Legacy; Max Weber: definition of sociology; the Methodology of Social Science: categories of social action; patterns of authority and bureaucracy; the protestant ethic thesis and its critics; Emile Durkheim: definition of sociology and the positivist tradition: the notion of social fact and sociological methodology; Illustrative and critical study of selected Durkheim's monographs(The Division of Labor; The Rules of Sociological Method; Suicide and The Elementary Forms Of The Religious Life); Evaluation of Durkheim's contribution to social thought; Herbert Spencer, as an example of social evolutionist thinker; George Simmel- formal sociology and analysis of conflict; Sigmund Freud and the significance of his ideas in social analysis.

SOCI 303 Social Psychology

The field: definitional issues; Strategies of enquiry: problems with social psychological research; Social learning: the humanizing process; Social perception: impression formation, social attribution; Social motivation: the achievement motive and its practical implications; Social cognition: cognitive consistency theories; Interpersonal attraction; Social attitudes: attitude measurement: attitude formation and attitude change; communication: persuasive communication; Dissonance: concept, nature, effects: Prejudice its causes, consequences and cure or prevention; Aggression: frustration aggression hypothesis: modeling of aggressive behaviour; Prosocial behaviour: bystander intervention in emergencies: effects of altruism.

SOCI 305 Research Methods

Introduction; The Research Design/Plan; Sampling Design; Methods of Data Collection in the Field; Data Presentation and Analysis; Action Research; Practical Research Design.

SOCI 307 Rural Sociology

Rural sociology: a historical overview; conceptual problems in rural sociology; basic structure of rural societies in Ghana: settlement patterns; family arrangements; politics; religion; health; education; economy; Migration and rural communities; Social change and rural communities; Conducting research in rural communities.

SOCI 309 Urban Sociology

Definitions: concept of sociology as applied to the urban society; theoretical perspectives; basic structure of urban life in Africa: politics and religion; Economics and family; Education and health; Social changes: urban growth (rural-urban migrations); The development of the city; Industrialization and urbanization; Voluntary associations and their integrative functions; Social problems: crime; juvenile delinquency.

SOCI 311 Sociology of Tourism and Tourism Development in Ghana

Theory and Socio-Cultural Dimensions of Tourism; History of Tourism Development in Ghana; Socio-cultural impact of Tourism on Development - types of socio-cultural impacts, Social Carrying Capacity, Behavioural impacts, Impacts on values, Impacts on prices, Impact on arts and Crafts, Impact on sacred places, impact on crime, Tourism and prostitution, Domestic Tourism, Community Participation. Economic Impact of Tourism on Development; Physical and Environment Impact; Organizations for Developing and Managing Tourism-International and Regional Linkages, Public sector organizations for Tourism, private Sector organizations for Tourism, Private Sector Tourism Associations. Developing Tourism Resources; Functions and Dysfunctions of Tourism on Society; Problems Facing Tourism in Ghana; Socio-cultural policies and programmes.

SOCI 313 Sociology of Religion

Nature and field of the sociology of religion; sociological, anthropological and psychological perspectives in religious phenomena; mutual interaction of religion and social institutions; theoretical and substantive content of the sociology of religion. References will be made to theorists and theories of religious behaviour: Comte; Tylor; Frazer; Durkheim; Malinowski; Marx and Max Weber; Types of religious activity and modes of expression and organization in historical and comparative situations; religion in simple societies: exemplified by totemism; ancestral veneration, magic, sorcery and witchcraft, myths and rituals; Religion in complex societies; religious pluralism; sectarianism and patterns of conflict and accommodation; traditional religion; Islam; Christianity and Asiatic religions; Secularization; scientific and technological development and 'post modernity' religious expressions.

SOCI 315 Political Sociology

Introduction to Political Sociology: The conceptual tools and theoretical perspectives: the scope of political sociology and development of political sociology; the nature of power and domination, legitimacy, and authority patterns in society; theories of social stratification and political domination and recruitment and related perspectives: structural- functionalist, pluralist, Marxist, and Weberian Elitist Perspectives classes and neo-Marxist; Political socialization, participation and the mass media; Ideologies (liberalism, conservatism, revolutionary socialism/communism, fascism, etc.); Social and political conflict, citizenship, political parties, interest groups and civil society, social movements; Democracy and the socio-economic basis of democratic politics. Political Sociology and the African Context: African Traditional Political Institutions, Past and Present; The origin of the modern state in the European and African Context; Nationalism, Postcolonial politics, economic and power elites in Africa; Ethnicity and political behaviour, ethnic conflicts, civil wars and insecurity; The postcolonial African state and political development political authoritarianism, corruption, the military in politics, political and socioeconomic development; The contemporary economic and political transformations: economic liberalism, democratic governance, political accountability, and democratization in Africa

SOCI 317 Sociology of the Family

Kinship, marriage and the family: definitions of some key words and concepts; The importance of kinship; descent groups; descent systems; inheritance and succession; Marriage: processes and forms; Marital Stability: divorce and its implications; Types of extended family in comparative perspective with particular reference to sub-Saharan Africa; Family in theoretical perspective: functionalist and conflict perspectives; Some key studies of the family: fortes' development cycle of domestic groups; Some key studies of the family: the African family in the Diaspora (R.T. Smith: the Negro family in British Guyana); Social change and the family: the emergence of the nuclear family and its implications; Social change and the family: departure from the traditional set-up: structure and function; parental authority; mate selection; Authority structure and inter-personal relations within the contemporary family: power and decision-making; Alternative life-styles in contemporary societies: singled; unmarried cohabitation; single parenthood and gay couples.

SOCI 401 Social Anthropology

Anthropology as a field of knowledge; The nature, scope and methodology of social anthropology; An introduction to the study of kinship; An introduction to the study of economic anthropology; An introduction to the study of anthropology and religion; Contemporary social changes and applied anthropology.

SOCI 403 Theories of Social Development

Conceptualizing the Three Worlds: the First, Second and Third Worlds and their main characteristics, the concept and definition of poverty and socio-economic deprivations; measuring poverty; European Contact, Colonialism; the Post-World War II international context and the origins of development; The economic and social meanings of development, measuring development and inequality among nations, socioeconomic indicators, human development indicators, human poverty indicators, etc; Major development theories and sociological approaches to social change: evolutionism, neo-evolutionism, modernization theory, strengths and weaknesses; Major development theories: Marxist theories of underdevelopment, dependency theory, and their strengths and weaknesses; Political economy of international relations: ideologies of liberalism and neo-liberalism, economic nationalism, Marxism; capitalism and socialism.

SOCI 405 Industrial Sociology I

The nature and scope of Industrial Sociology; The nature of work and its centrality in the lives of human beings; History of Industrial Sociology, and the growth of formal organizations and bureaucracy. A review of some of the sociological theories of formal organization e.g. those of the classical and human relations schools; Management in formal organizations: Its various levels, functions, managerial philosophies and styles of management; Industry and society; Worker participation and self-management: Sociology of worker participation in management and worker self-management.

SOCI 407 Globalization and Society

Introduction; Defining Globalisation I; Defining Globalisation II; Globalisation and Culture; African Culture and Globalisation; Globalisation and Labour in General; Globalisation and Ghanaian Labour; Is Globalisation a Novelty; Globalisation as a Blessing; Globalisation as a Curse; Conclusion

SOCI 409 Gender Studies

Historical Perspectives on the Study of Gender Basic Concepts in Gender Analysis, Feminist – Theories and Movements. The status of men/women in Ghana; Legal provisions for women's rights in Ghana; Women and men in politics in Ghana; The media and women in Ghana; Gender issues in rural communities (households & rural production; Gender issues in rural development polities); Gender issues in urban communities (household & urban production); Gender issues in urban production and polities; Gender and reproductive health problems in Ghana; Gender issues and the environment; Gender Based Violence.

SOCI 411 Sociology of Law

Sociological approaches to the systematic analysis of Law. Significance of law in society. Law, social relations, social integration, social change. Conflict resolution and social control. Nature of legitimate authority, mechanisms of social control, issues of civil rights and Power arrangement. A focus on Ghanaian Legal systems and family law, contemporary Ghanaian legal systems and their social implications. Vulnerability, Protection and Human Rights.

SOCI 413 Advanced Quantitative Techniques

Modeling Society; Probability distributions; Point estimation; Confidence Intervals; Hypothesis Testing; ANOVA; Correlation Analysis; Simple Regression; Maximum Likelihood estimation of Simple Logistic Regression; Overview and students assessment of course.